

**ED Report**

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**Action Items from May 1, 2018, Board Meeting**

- The CSF received confirmation of one scheduling conflict with the proposed Value Chain Round Table dates, as the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Forum will take place at the same time.
- The CSF returned the draft MOU to CCIA with proposed revisions.
- The Board was provided with a summary of the proposed Sheep Industry Health and Welfare Strategy Phase I project proposal.
- The CSF Chair joined the planning meeting for a livestock-meat industry meeting on FAD response.

**Canadian Sheep Identification Program / Traceability**

- The Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP) Working Group met in May, with agenda items including an update on efforts underway to manage Shearwell tag quality and exploratory discussions on additional CSIP tags. The WG plans to meet again in June to continue discussions.
- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency continues to work with industry representatives to ensure that national ID and traceability programs are operated on a cost recovery basis. From CSIP’s inception, the Canadian Sheep Federation has maintained its commitment to Canadian sheep farmers and ranchers to manage program costs on a cost-recovery basis. CSIP fees and costs are managed by way of an internally-restricted fund dedicated to the program’s activities and the fund is independently audited annually to ensure its management meets this commitment. To date, CSIP fees are a fraction of the cost of other national ID program fees. This has been made possible by way of the Canadian Sheep Federation’s responsible management of program funds and subsidization of CSIP activities and administrative costs.
- The May Regulatory Implementation Committee (RIC) meeting focused on communications planning; defining stakeholder communication roles, the development of traceability ambassador roles and plain language revisions to the regulation summary deck. RIC issued a revised copy of the regulation summary deck to ‘key influencers’ to be used for communicating traceability

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changes. The Canadian Cattle Identification Agency provided notice to provincial governments that it would implement a cost recovery fee to be charged to the provinces and territories on a per user basis for each temporary Premises Identification number (PID) that it has to allocate for stakeholders attempting to report regulated data without having an official PID, following new regulations.

### Scrapie Eradication Strategic Plan

- The Scrapie Working Group convened in May to discuss the outcome of the USDA's audit of the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program (VSFCP), with the goal of recognizing the VSFCP as providing equivalent risk reduction and as a result recognizing animals that have reached a certain status in the program as eligible to be exported to the US. The USDA identified areas where the two programs are not currently equivalent, and the Scrapie Working Group considered possible action to better align the programs:
  - Brain and lymph node testing is not required in the VSFCP, only brain samples are test. Proposed Action: Require the retropharyngeal lymph node (RPLN) to be tested along with the brain for all scrapie samples taken as part of the VSFCP. Practical consideration: Requires collecting and submitting two tissues per animal, and adds another test cost.
  - VSFCP Pathways 2 (live animal testing) and 3 (sheep only - genotyping) are not OIE or US recognized pathways and the VSFCP allows movement between these pathways and pathway 1. Proposed Action: Remove pathways 2 and 3 from VSFCP. Rationale: No flocks or herds are currently on either of these pathways and only 2 in past years. Pathway 3 (genotyping) for sheep is not needed if, according to US draft import rule, permits can be issued for male animals of AA QR and AA RR and females of AA RR genotype without being enrolled on the VSFCP.
  - A herd/flock may reach certified status after 5 years on the VSFCP. The OIE guidelines and the US program require 7 years to reach certified status. The US program has minimum sampling numbers that must be met in order to reach their 7-year certified status and the VSFCP does not. Proposed Action:
    - Add another level = Certified Plus that takes at least 7 years to reach
    - A minimum sampling requirement for this level of 30 animals scrapie tested or all genetically susceptible animals in flock or herd whichever is less. Also all genetically susceptible females acquired in last two years.
      - samples obtained according to the sampling requirements as the herd/flock advanced through the levels of the program (e.g. all deads sampled, humanely euthanized animals etc.) .
      - samples obtained from genetically susceptible animals over 14 months by live-animal testing or post-mortem testing (culled, slaughtered animals) when needed to make up the balance of the minimum sampling requirement.

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- samples are not required from
  - genetically susceptible animals with valid live-animal test results in the previous 24 months
  - genetically susceptible animals that have been live-animal tested 4 times with at least one valid result.
  - genetically resistant animals as evidenced by documented approved genotype testing. These animals are sheep with documented proof of 136AA 171QR or 171RR genotype.
    - In addition, any genetically susceptible female animals not acquired from certified plus flocks in the preceding two years must be sampled by live-animal or post-mortem testing before advancement.
    - Herds/flocks can choose to stay at the VSFCP's 5-year certified level if don't want to meet the extra sampling requirements They can move to certified plus level once ready and have interest (i.e. want to export).
- Scrapie Working Group member organizations will each consult on the proposed changes to the VSFCP, and their implications, providing feedback to the CFIA. With a finalized course of action, the CFIA will share proposed revisions with the USDA to ensure they address remaining concerns with program equivalency.
- If you would like to become involved with the VSFCP consultation, please contact the Canadian Sheep Federation by emailing [info@cansheep.ca](mailto:info@cansheep.ca).

## Canadian Verified Sheep Program

- The Canadian Sheep Federation is working with Government of British Columbia on a Canadian Verified Sheep Program awareness project. The goal of the project is to expand the CVSP's reach to BC farmers and ranchers, providing in-person training and certification opportunities. The project will also look at funding available to producers under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, for activities related to the CVSP practices.
- Looking for help developing a flock health plan? The Canadian Verified Sheep Program includes a "Healthy Sheep Canada" flock health plan that not only provides a template for managing your flock's health performance, it also includes some helpful tips for making improvements. And the best part is the program and the Healthy Sheep Canada flock health plan are FREE for our members!!!

## Other Updates

- Canadian agricultural trade negotiators continue to work with the US and Mexico counterparts on NAFTA renegotiations.
- Environment and Climate Change Canada's Output-Based Pricing System (OBPS) Food Processing Sector Working Group continues to work on the development of the standard. The OBPS is intended as a federal carbon pricing system for processing sectors including food processors located in backstop jurisdictions and having emitted 50 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e (reported to the GHG

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Reporting Program in any year after 2013). Most recently, the WG reviewed proposed GHG Emissions quantification methods and sampling, analysis and measurement requirements for the food processing sector. For more information about working group activities, contact the Canadian Sheep Federation [info@cansheep.ca](mailto:info@cansheep.ca).

- Livestock industry representatives met in May to discuss interest in convening a meeting of livestock and red meat processing industry leaders to seek alignment on elements for a new national, industry-government decision-making model and cost-sharing partnership for Animal Health Emergency Management (AHEM). Meeting goals to include determining potential for a unified industry request of fed-prov governments to advance this through a structured process in a given timeframe. There was willingness from sectors to participate in the meeting, with the expectation that such an initiative would require more consideration than possible in a single meeting. The meeting is proposed for this fall.
- Addressing changes coming to access to veterinary drugs, we launched a series of informative posts on the Canadian Sheep Federation facebook page. The posts discuss pending changes in vet drug access, the effects these changes have on purchasing medicated feeds, responsible antimicrobial stewardship and the like. To learn more, follow the Canadian Sheep Federation on facebook and share the posts with fellow sheep farmers and ranchers.
- The CgFARAD Board Advisory Committee met in May, attending to regular business. Following the meeting, CgFARAD released its 2018 Year in Review. The newsletter has been circulated to stakeholders, and here are some interesting statistics worth noting:
  - Sheep-specific requests accounted for 7% of CgFARAD's total requests in their 2017-18 fiscal year;
  - Treatment for respiratory disease complex saw the most sheep-specific requests; and
  - Small ruminant requests where vet drugs were used extra-label more than doubled compared to the previous year.
- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) have signaled their intent to seek feedback from the Canadian food industry on the anticipated economic impacts associated with proposed regulatory changes resulting from the Food Labelling Modernization (FLM) initiative. The FLM initiative would involve amendments to the Food and Drug Regulations and the proposed Safe Food for Canadians Regulations that address areas such as date marking, dealer name and address, origin of imported food, legibility, highlighted ingredients and streamlining commodity specific labelling.
- On Thursday, May 31, 2018, the Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Freeland announced that Canada intends to impose surtaxes or similar trade-restrictive countermeasures against up to C\$16.6 billion in imports of steel, aluminum, and other products from the U.S., representing the value of 2017 Canadian exports affected by the U.S. measures. The Government is also considering whether additional measures may be required. The products subject to countermeasures are listed here <https://www.fin.gc.ca/activty/consult/cacsap-cmpcaa-eng.asp> and includes products that will be of interest to agriculture stakeholders. These countermeasures will only apply to goods originating from the U.S. These countermeasures will take effect

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on July 1, 2018 and will remain in place until the U.S. eliminates its trade-restrictive measures against Canada. The countermeasures will not apply to U.S. goods that are in transit to Canada on the day on which these countermeasures come into force. The Canadian Sheep Federation, and its members, are considering submitting comments regarding proposed countermeasures prior to the June 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. If you would like to become involved in this, or any number of other ongoing consultations, please contact the Canadian Sheep Federation by emailing [info@cansheep.ca](mailto:info@cansheep.ca).

- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) have agreed to step up joint action to combat health threats associated with interactions between humans, animals and the environment. In a Memorandum of Understanding signed today, FAO, OIE and WHO agreed to strengthen their long-standing partnership, with a strong focus on tackling antimicrobial resistance (AMR). AMR is a high priority for the three organizations, who are working together to develop global systems for AMR surveillance and use of antimicrobials, a global antimicrobial stewardship programme, and a monitoring and evaluation framework for the global action plan. A current comprehensive framework of international standards on responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials is regularly adapted to keep up with the development of scientific knowledge. To learn more, visit <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1136645/icode/>
- Further to the October publication and subsequent consultation on the Fee Proposal for Drugs and Medical Devices, which closed on January 4<sup>th</sup>, the Revised Fee Proposal for Drugs and Medical Devices (Revised Fee Proposal) has now been published. In short, his second proposal sees revisions to costs related to veterinary drugs (decreased from initial proposal) but falls short of recognizing the additional strain these proposed changes will create on approval of products for minor-use species. Health Canada will accept feedback on the Revised Fee Proposal until June 14, 2018, and as in the first round the Canadian Sheep Federation will work with industry partners in providing a response from the sheep industry.

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

- CSF Board of Directors
- TDV Global
- Agricultural Trade Negotiation Consultative Group
- Environment and Climate Change Canada Output Based Standards Food Processing Sector Working Group
- CSIP Working Group
- Livestock industries FAD planning conference call
- Veterinary Drug Directorate
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Cost Recovery Working Group

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- Canadian Cattle Identification Agency
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency & Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada traceability teams
- Regulatory Implementation Committee
- Government of British Columbia Livestock Team Lead
- CSF Audit & Finance Committee
- Environment and Climate Change Canada Output Based Standards Food Processing Sector Working Group
- Canadian Cattle Identification Agency
- Scrapie Working Group
- Market Access Secretariat – MERCOSUR and Pacific Alliance
- Canadian Global Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database Advisory Board