



Responding to the call to increase our communication with the provinces and sheep industry stakeholders, the CSF is launching *From the Flock*. This monthly newsletter, distributed via email, will provide updates on what the CSF is currently working on, articles of interest and updates from board meetings. It is our hope that it will also be viewed as a vehicle through which provincial organizations can communicate with each other.

This issue will look at the BSE crisis, one year later, with an article by Randy Eros. In addition, six months since the launch of the Canadian Sheep Identification Program, Monica Séguin, our Administrative Assistant, will provide an update on the program and notes from the most recent meeting on the Development of the Canadian Livestock Identification Agency.

Ryan Van Loon, the On-Farm Food Safety Coordinator will also be providing an article on the new regulations surrounding the mixing of medicated feeds.

A brief note on the CSIP, it was recently decided that the CSF would work with Allflex to provide RFID tags to producers across Canada. A meeting will be held in Ottawa this coming week to finalize details surrounding distribution and logistics and, hopefully, by the end of the summer these tags will be available across Canada.

In addition to our continued work on the Canadian Sheep Identification program, and the *Food-Safe Farm Practices* program, the CSF has also made both an in-kind and financial commitment to the development and implementation of the National Scrapie Initiatives. More specifically, we have committed to providing the project adminis-

tration and being the liaison between producers, laboratories and the Nova Scotia Agricultural College for the Development Survey of Scrapie Genetics in Canadian Purebred Sheep. The CSBA is the lead on this project and has recently submitted the application.

A national summit, (aka sheep industry roundtable) is also being planned for the fall. We are currently working with AAFC to establish whether or not funding would be available to bring together representatives from all sectors of the Canadian sheep industry. "On the table" for discussion would be ways in which to ensure that the Canadian sheep industry is sustainable and profitable. In addition, we would be looking to develop a national communication plan, geared at promoting Canadian sheep and lamb and an emergency communication plan, should we be

faced with another Foreign Animal Disease outbreak.

Amongst all of this, we have also set the dates for our Annual General Meeting. The Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board has graciously offered to host this year's meeting in conjunction with Agribition. The dates for the meeting are set for Tuesday November 23<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday November 24<sup>th</sup> at the Temple Gardens Mineral Spa in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. The sheep shows at Agribition start on Thursday November 25<sup>th</sup> (for further details visit [www.agribition.com](http://www.agribition.com)). It is our hope that this year both directors and provincial staff members will be able to attend the meeting. In conjunction with the business meeting, we will be organizing a day-long workshop for the provincial staff to discuss provincial issues.

## *A Year Without the US Market*

*By Randy Eros, Chair*

We turned our flock out onto pasture yesterday and as I watched the ewes and lambs race up the lane to pasture I was doing what many of us do after a successful lambing; I was trying to figure what my lambs would be worth when they are ready for market. The answer to that question is of course tied to the opening of the US border.

For one full year now Canadian sheep and lambs have

been shut out of the US and Mexican markets. The result has been an oversupply of lambs with most of those being very heavy US style lamb never intended to be part of our domestic market.

The down turn in lamb

prices has wrecked havoc with our markets and our feedlot industry and taken millions of dollars out of the producer's pockets.

News that BSE had been discovered in a Canadian cow was surprise enough, that it

would have such an impact on our industry was an even greater surprise. The federal government had entered into a North American agreement that would affect all ruminants.

I have yet to speak to anyone from within our industry who knew that the discovery of this disease in a cow would close our export markets for sheep and lambs. With the surprise behind us we worked hard to address the problem and rectify the situation.



Industry volunteers, National and Provincial staff, independent producers and Federal and Provincial staff have all spent innumerable hours working on this issue. The next time you run into one of these folks you might want to thank them for their efforts. The fact that we have been unable to move this forward is certainly not from a lack of effort.

What started out as scientific debate moved quickly to

pseudo-science and finally to political-science. And quite frankly that is where we are stuck right now. The hard part to accept is that right now none of it is even our politics; it is all US politics at this point.

Now we are stuck watching the USDA review comments on the new proposed import rules. A court injunction by an American protectionist group has the USDA working under a microscope and this is not helping move the review

ahead. The American Sheep Industry Association, our CSF counter part in the US, is still projecting a July 1<sup>st</sup> date for the USDA to issue the rule.

They have however acknowledged that if it runs any longer then that the US Presidential election could get in the way of the rule being released.



So the optimists are saying that the rule will be issued this summer the pessimists are looking for the rule to be issued early in 2005. There is not much to take to the bank in that statement, but I will say this. If those lambs running up the lane are still mine when the border opens I should do okay on them.

## Medicated Feed Regulations Update

By Ryan Van Loon, Food Safety Coordinator

**O**n March 25<sup>th</sup> the CFIA hosted a meeting with industry stakeholders to discuss the decisions and action plans put forward on the making of medicated feeds. The proposed regulations and licensing for production of medicated feed will be introduced through a phased-in approach over three years.

**January 2006** – commercial sector

**January 2007** – non-commercial manufacturers who use concentrated DIN drug sources

**January 2008** – non-commercial manufacturers who use diluted medication sources

These regulations will be applied to the use of **all** medicating ingredients in food producing animals regardless of whether withdrawal is required or not.

Testing to validate scales, mixing and clean out procedures will be a necessary component of these regulations. Documentation and record keeping will be an equally involved and necessary component of the new regulations to validate all

actions and corrective procedures during the mixing and cleaning of medicated feeds. End Product Testing must also be completed as the final indicator of a sound process.

The target completion for the inspector training program is January 2005. Completion of the Laboratory Accreditation Program will have to be advanced to ensure that there are sufficient accredited labs to accommodate the commercial feed manufacturers by January 2005. Within three years, there will be enough accredited labs to service both commercial and farm-based operations.

The CFIA will coordinate the licensing of Canadian facilities that manufacture medicated livestock at a centralized licensing office in Ottawa.

Producers are to be reminded that there is **no cost recovery** in the proposed regulations and no change in this approach is anticipated.

## Everything you need to know about sheep identification

By Monica Séguin, Administrative Assistant

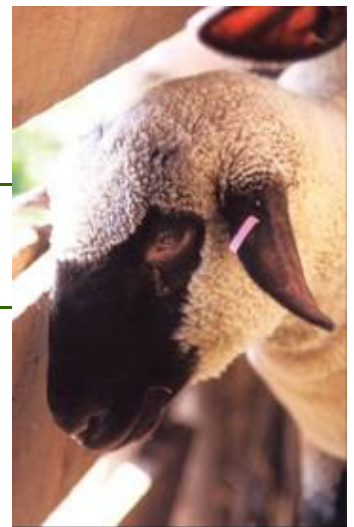
**T**here are many new and exciting developments in the area of national identification. It has been six months since the implementation of the sheep identification program (CSIP). As of June 1<sup>st</sup> 2004, the number of tags sold nationally has surpassed 1 million tags. This is positive news, as it indicates that producers are aware of the na-

tional requirements. The CSIP will be an integral part of the *Food-Safe Farm Practices* program. The CSF is working diligently to provide RFID tags (radio-frequency tags) for all producers, by the fall.

In addition, a new national identification agency, CLIA (Canadian Livestock Identification Agency) is currently being created, to replace the duties of the CCIA (Canadian

Cattle Identification Agency) who currently manages cattle, sheep and bison identification data. The CLIA will not only act as the national database manager for all commodities, but will also be involved in governmental affairs relating to identification.

If you want more information about the CLIA or our programs please contact Monica Séguin at [monica@cansheep.ca](mailto:monica@cansheep.ca)



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