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SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE D'ENREGISTREMENT DES ANIMAUX



## C.L.R.C. WORKSHOP REPORT - 2009

The Annual Workshop presented by CLRC was held on April 25, 2009 at the Westin Bristol Place Toronto Airport Hotel in Toronto, Ontario. Again this year, the Workshop was a half-day event in the morning, followed by the CLRC Annual Meeting in the afternoon. Approximately 15 representatives of various breed associations were on hand for this very informative morning. While the attendance was small, those who were there were showed great interest in the presentations.

After an enjoyable breakfast sponsored by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, CLRC Chairman Bob Airth welcomed all of those present and all present introduced themselves.

Following is a brief summary of each of the two presentations:

### **1. Jennifer MacTavish, Executive Director, Canadian Sheep Federation, Guelph ON: “Working Together for a Stronger Sheep Industry”**

Jennifer provided an overview of the functions of the Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF), which is a producer-funded organization comprised of eight member provinces along with the Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association and the Canadian Cooperative Wool Growers. The mission of CSF is to further the viability, growth and prosperity of the entire Canadian sheep industry, both purebred and commercial. CSF seeks to bring together government and industry stakeholders to carry out this mission.

Jennifer noted that the market for lamb in Canada is growing, largely driven by the ever-growing immigrant population that is accustomed to lamb. At the same time, the number of lambs being produced and slaughtered in Canada is decreasing. Between 2005 and 2007, per capita consumption of lamb in Canada increased by 9.7% to 1.24 kg., while production decreased by 8%. Statistics show a steady decrease in the Canadian ewe flock since 2004. This means that lamb imports have increased dramatically to satisfy the demand. The result is that there is an opportunity for the taking for Canadian producers.

Some of the programs offered by CSF to assist sheep and lamb producers include:

- a) Bluetongue Insurance Program, a voluntary program to provide affordable insurance to producers against losses due to Bluetongue
- b) Value Chain Round Table, a forum to bring industry stakeholders together to share their challenges and work to identify solutions, all aimed at increasing the supply of Canadian lamb to the marketplace
- c) Two publications: *From the Flock* and *Points of View*, which provide opportunities for communication within the sheep industry
- d) Support for a traceability program. Along with the Canadian National Goat Federation, CSF is supporting the implementation of a traceability program for small ruminants.
- e) Food-Safe Farm Practices Program, a voluntary program providing training in on-farm food safety

- f) Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program. Genotyping of purebred animals to identify animals genetically resistant to scrapie, in order to increase resistance in the entire national flock.

More information can be found on the CSF website [www.cansheep.ca](http://www.cansheep.ca)

## 2. **Dr. Norman Willis, “National Farmed Animal Health Strategy”**

Dr. Willis, a noted scientist, has been the leader of the working group from government and industry tasked to develop a National Farmed Animal Health Strategy.

The problems this strategy seeks to solve include inadequate disease forewarning, an uncoordinated farmed animal health system at present, with no place to discuss animal health policy, and a need to maintain and enhance market access and prevent massive industry financial shocks.

We are trying to improve animal health in order to protect animal, human and ecosystem health and protect the safety and security of the food supply. There is a need to foster economic stability and sustainability for the farmed animal industry and its contribution to Canadian economics.

The strategic outcomes the strategy is to provide include:

- Improved capacity to avoid threats – avoidance, forewarning and prevention
- Improved capacity to respond to threats –preparation, response
- Improved capacity to protect ecosystem health through an environmentally sustainable system for raising farmed animals
- Improved public confidence in Canada’s farmed animal health system
- Improved market access
- Improved capacity to protect public health
- Improved farmed animal care and welfare
- Improved industry viability

The strategy will involve 18 components in its infrastructure, including research, disease detection and management, education, communication, surveillance, and a laboratory diagnostic network.

In summary, the mission of the strategy is to improve and protect animal health and welfare, and food safety and human health.

Both presenters answered a number of questions from the floor.

Prepared by Ron Black, General Manager, from the Powerpoint slides used by the presenters.  
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