



For Immediate Release

Canadian Sheep Federation Approved to Move Forward as National Traceability Program Administrator

Williamsburg, Ontario – May 27, 2025] – The Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF) is pleased to announce that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has confirmed CSF's eligibility to serve as the **Responsible Administrator (RA)** for national traceability of ovine animals under Part XV of the *Health of Animals Regulations*.

This milestone marks a pivotal step in a process that began over 20 years ago. Since national identification regulations were introduced in 2004, the Canadian sheep industry has advocated for a traceability system designed specifically for sheep producers—by those who understand the sector's unique needs.

"This moment is the result of decades of vision and persistence," said Fred Baker, Chair of the Canadian Sheep Federation. ***"We are excited to work with government and industry to implement a traceability system that protects the national flock and supports the long-term viability of our producers."***

A Sector-Led Future for Traceability

With this new responsibility, CSF will be empowered to develop and manage a traceability system that enhances the industry's ability to:

- Provide accurate, timely data to industry and government.
- Respond quickly and effectively in the event of a disease outbreak.
- Address production-limiting diseases with greater precision.
- Improve carcass and eating quality through better information-sharing and system feedback.

The CSF's traceability platform will be supported by its made-in-Canada digital solution, **AgroLedger™**. Built to exceed national requirements, AgroLedger provides a secure and scalable infrastructure that ensures data integrity, supports real-time access, and facilitates continuous improvement in on-farm practices and supply chain coordination.



What's Next

Work now begins on finalizing a formal agreement with the CFIA—a necessary step before assuming full responsibilities as Responsible Administrator. While this process will take several months, the CSF is committed to keeping producers, provincial and commodity organizations, stakeholders, and the public informed throughout the transition.

“This is the beginning of a new chapter,” said Corlena Patterson, Executive Director of CSF. ***“By tailoring traceability to the realities of sheep production in Canada, we can safeguard our sector, open doors for new innovations, and deliver lasting benefits for producers, consumers, and public trust.”***

With Gratitude

The Canadian Sheep Federation extends its sincere thanks to the **Canadian Food Inspection Agency** for its collaboration and confidence in this initiative. We also acknowledge the **Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA)** for its service as the Responsible Administrator for sheep since 2014. CCIA will continue in this role until a formal agreement is signed, and an **AgroLedger™** launch date is announced.

We further thank **Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada** for their forward-looking approach to innovation in agriculture—supporting progress toward modernization and the adoption of new technologies within the Canadian sheep sector.

Finally, we offer heartfelt appreciation to CSF Chair **Fred Baker**, former Chair **Allan Ribbink**, our Board of Directors, and our members across the country. Their enduring commitment to a sector-led traceability system made this milestone possible and positions the industry for a stronger future.

For media inquiries, contact:

Corlena Patterson

Executive Director, Canadian Sheep Federation

Email: corlena@cansheep.ca