

ALP Producer Town Hall Meeting Package – Update to Producers

1. Research Project Update
 - a. Agriprofits, Cost of Production Pilot Project
**written update in meeting package*
 - b. Rangeland Sustainability Project
**written update in meeting package*
 - c. Pregnancy Detection Handheld Pen Side Kit Project
**written update in meeting package*
 - d. Pneumonia Vaccine Project
**written update in meeting package*
 - e. Olds College Sheep Parasite and Feed Efficiency Project with Dr. Yaogeng Lei
**written update in meeting package*
2. Advocacy Update
3. What is pathology anyways? And why does it matter to lamb producers? How the DSU (University of Calgary's Diagnostic Service Unit) supports Alberta livestock with Lindsay Rogers and Jennifer Davies.
4. ALP 2023 AGM

Project Updates

Agriprofits, Cost of Production Pilot Project

Pilot background: Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI) - Economics Section developed a new version of the AgriProfit\$ tool to help Alberta farmers/producers make better decisions and get valuable business information. To fully customize this new tool for different agricultural sectors and enterprises — field and greenhouse crops, cow-calf, beef feeders, lamb, hog and others, the AgriProfit\$ team launched a series of pilot projects (5-7 producers) with different farmers associations and organizations group. The project aims to provide cost of production information for producers, test the new tool and seek feedback. After the pilot stage, this new tool can be used on a larger scale and will be able to accommodate more participants.

Benefits to producers: By joining the Agri-Profit\$ Lamb COP Pilot Project, the producers will receive a detailed cost-of-production summary, physical performance and (on demand) GHG emission reports of their sheep and lamb enterprises. The collected data will be used to establish sample provincial benchmarks which will be shared with the participants. At the next stage, the interested producers will be able to receive also the whole-farms financial reports, such as budget sheets, farm income statement, cash flow statement, and grazing reports. The reports can be used for farm level decision making like improving feeding rations, selecting optimal crop mix, for communications with financial institutions for money borrowing and investment purposes.

Type of reporting and results

1. Cost-of-production summary — shows the revenue, costs, and profitability of the sheep lambing enterprise.
2. Physical performance report — inventory flow, utilization of feed rations and incurred costs.
3. (On demand) GHG emission report — CO₂ emissions from different forms of activities (feeding, manure management, forage production).

The AgriProfit\$ team will organize the workshop with the Pilot participants to explain and discuss the received results.

Other important notes:

1. The personal data will be handled and protected under section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act.
2. Data collection will be virtual (online) and will take from 2 to 3 hours depending on the specifics of the farm and the data availability.

Should there be any questions, please contact:

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Senior Livestock Economist

Intergovernmental and Trade Relations Branch

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

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Welcome to the 2022 Lamb Pilot Project (Pilot) — the first step in receiving a detailed business analysis information of your farm

By joining the Pilot, the producers will receive a detailed cost-of-production summary and physical performance reports of your sheep and lamb enterprise — in other words farm activities associated with raising and selling feeder/market lambs and wool. The collected data will be used to establish sample provincial benchmarks which will be shared with the participants. All the information will be used with strict compliance with the section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act and managed and protected in accordance with the Act (see Notice of Collection).

How does it work?

1. **Scheduling an online meeting.** Our staff will contact you to schedule a meeting for an online data collection. The meeting will take about two hours on average depending on the data availability. Please review the data check list and prepare all necessary data to speed up the process.
2. **Receiving the data collection tables.** Before the meeting we will send you, an Excel data tables (see Appendix). You will need to familiarize yourself with the tables and start entering the data. Do not worry if you have some questions, during the meeting you will get all necessary help.
3. **Online data collection meeting.** During the meeting, our staff will coach you how to enter the data into the tables and to run a preliminary cost-of-production report.
4. **Receiving the reports.** After data collection is complete you will receive on your e-mail address two reports — Sheep & Lamb Cost-of-Production Summary and Physical Performance Report. The sample benchmarks will send as well after all the participants submit the data.
5. **Next steps.** The participants staying with the AgriProfit\$ program for more than one year will be getting the historical performance reports that will show your progress during the participation in the program. Producers interested in getting cash crop, forage, and pasture reports, whole-farm financial statements and environmental assessments can enter the corresponding projects after completing the Pilot.

For more information, or to register for the Pilot, contact the Economics Section of Alberta Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation at 780-427-5220 (ML Manglai)

Appendix

Notice of Collection

Personal information is collected for the purpose of conducting research on the costs and returns of agricultural production in Alberta. Only aggregated, non-identifying information will be published and made available to the general public and organizations for research purposes. The contact information you provide may be used to notify you electronically of AgriProfit\$ program updates or to ask for feedback to evaluate and enhance program effectiveness. The collection is authorized under section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act and managed and protected in accordance with the Act.

If you have any questions about the collection, please contact the Director, Economics Section, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, #300, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, AB, T6H 5T6 or Telephone: 780-422-3771

Figure 1. Sheep & Lamb Cost-of-Production Summary

Products	Your Report		Province	Top 1/3
	Total [\$]	\$/Ewes	\$/Ewes	\$/Ewes
Rams				
Net Sale (+, -)	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Inventory Change	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ewes				
Net Sale (+, -)	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Inventory Change	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ewe Lambs				
Net Sale (+, -)	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Inventory Change	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Finishers				
Net Sale (+, -)	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Inventory Change	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Receipts	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Government Programs	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
(A) VALUE OF PRODUCTION	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Winter Feed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bedding	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grazing	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Veterinary & Medicine	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Trucking & Marketing Cost	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fuel & Lubrication	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Repairs - Buildings	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Repairs - Machine	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Utilities: Heating Fuel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Electricity	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Small Tools & Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Custom Work & Specialized	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Operating Interest Paid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paid Labour & Benefits	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Unpaid Labour & Benefits	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
(B) VARIABLE COSTS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Figure 2. Sheep & Lamb Physical Performance Report

	<i>Your Report</i>	<i>Province</i>	<i>Top 1/3</i>
SUMMARY			
Breeding Stock Inventory			
Average Inventory [head]	0	0	0
Total Head-Days	0	0	0
Market Stock Inventory			
Average Inventory [head]	0	0	0
Placement Heads	0	0	0
Close-Out Heads	0	0	0
FEEDING (DRYLOT)			
Winter Feed Use [AF]	Pound/Head-Day	Pound/Head-Day	Pound/Head-Day
1. Roughage			
a) Hay	0.0	0.0	0.0
b) Silage/Hylage	0.0	0.0	0.0
c) Greenfeed	0.0	0.0	0.0
d) Straw (feed)	0.0	0.0	0.0
2. Concentrates	0.0	0.0	0.0
a) Barley	0.0	0.0	0.0
b) Wheat	0.0	0.0	0.0
c) Corn	0.0	0.0	0.0
d) Oth. Grain/Rations	0.0	0.0	0.0
3. By-Products/High Energy Meals	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0
DMI (% BW)	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Feed Use Efficiency</i>			
FCE-DM [Pound/Pound Gain]	37.8	37.8	37.8
<i>Bedding</i>			
	Quantity	Quantity	Quantity
Physical Use [Pound/AUD]	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cost [\$/AUD]	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRAZING (GRASSER)			
	<i>Your Report</i>	<i>Province</i>	<i>Top 1/3</i>
Breeding Stock			
Breeding Stock [head]	0	0	0
Head-Days	0	0	0
AUD	0	0	0

Sample information sources for required for completing the Pilot

The main information sources for the Pilot include but not limited to varies types hard copy production records, sales and purchase information, AgriStability schedules and other third party information as given below.

<i>Type of Information</i>	<i>Sources (any of the following)</i>	<i>Check</i>
Financial information	Farming income form (T2042E)	✓
	General ledger, manual farm books	
	Trial balance, detailed income statement	
Production records	Hard copy records of herd management, Herd Books, Cattle Max, Herdrax, Feeder Production Records, etc.	✓
Livestock inventory	Hard copy records, AgriStability Schedule 3, Opening and Closing Inventory Report	✓
Livestock sales	Cattle Sales General Ledger, Sales Ticket (Receipt)	✓
Livestock purchases	Cattle Purchase General Ledger, Cattle Purchase Invoice (Bill of Sale)	✓
Veterinary and medicine Cost	Veterinary/medicine bills and contracts	✓
Labour cost	Farm labour production records (paid, operator, family > 16, family < 16)	✓

Figure 3. Excerpt of farm income form (T2042)

Statement of Farming Activities (T2042)	Code	Total Expenses (year-end balance) [\$]	Allocated to [%]			Total [%]
			Sheep Breed to Feeder/Finish	Sheep Feeder to Finish	Non-Farm/Personal	
Expenses (enter only the business part)						
Containers and twine	9661					
Fertilizers and lime	9662					
Pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides)	9663					
Seeds and plants	9664					
Feed, supplements, straw, and bedding	9711					

Figure 4. Excerpt of required production information

Pen / Cattle Group ID				Opening Inventory				Purchases/Transfer-in						
Pen ID / Cattle Group ID	Enterprise	Livestock Sub-Type/Product	Unit of Measurement	Year Start # Heads/Units (if applic.)	Pounds (Units)	Total/Per Head/Per Hive	Year Start Value [\$]	Value (Total/Per Head/Per Pound)	# Heads/Units (if applic.)	Pounds (Units)	Total/Per Head/Per Hive	Value [\$]	Value (Total/Per Head/Per Pound)	In-Shrink (if applicable) [%]
1	Sheep Breed to Feeder/Finish	Rams	Head	4	198	Per Head	\$1.00	Per Pound	1	198	Per Head	\$1.00	Per Pound	0.0%
2	Sheep Breed to Feeder/Finish	Ewes	Head	100	169	Per Head	\$1.00	Per Pound	19	169	Per Head	\$1.00	Per Pound	0.0%
3	Sheep Breed to Feeder/Finish	Ewe Lambs	Head	15	135	Per Head	\$1.00	Per Pound	3	135	Per Head	\$1.00	Per Pound	0.0%
4	Sheep Breed to Feeder/Finish	Finishers	Head	0	0	Per Head	\$2.20	Per Pound	200	79	Per Head	\$2.20	Per Pound	3.0%
5	Sheep Breed to Feeder/Finish	Wool	Pound	0	0	Per Head	\$0.75	Per Pound	0	0	Per Head	\$0.75	Per Pound	0.0%
6	Sheep Feeder to Finish	Finishers	Head	0	0	Per Head	\$2.20	Per Pound	100	79	Per Head	\$2.20	Per Pound	3.0%
7	Sheep Feeder to Finish	Wool	Head	0	0	Per Head	\$0.75	Per Pound	0	0	Per Head	\$0.75	Per Pound	0.0%

Figure 5. Excerpt of required veterinary and medicine information

Pen / Cattle Group ID				Veterinary/Medicine		Marketing/Trucking Expenses	
Pen ID / Cattle Group ID	Enterprise	Livestock Sub-Type/Product	Unit of Measurement	Expense [\$]	\$ UoM [Total/Per Head]	Expense [\$]	\$ UoM [Total/Per Head]
1	Sheep Breed to Feeder/Finish	Rams	Head	\$0.00		\$0.00	
2	Sheep Breed to Feeder/Finish	Ewes	Head	\$14.00	Per Head	\$23.00	Per Head
3	Sheep Breed to Feeder/Finish	Ewe Lambs	Head	\$0.00		\$0.00	
4	Sheep Breed to Feeder/Finish	Finishers	Head	\$0.00		\$0.00	
5	Sheep Breed to Feeder/Finish	Wool	Pound	\$0.00		\$0.00	

Figure 5. Excerpt of required feeding/grazing information

Livestock Enterprise	Group/Pen ID	Livestock Inventory [head]	Bodyweight [Pound/Head]	Feed(ing) Information							Feed Market Value (Cost)			Alternative Feeding Data Options		
				Feeds Type	Homegrown/Purchased	Unit Type (AUM for grazing)	Pound/Bale or Unit (if appl.)	Grazing AUMs Support		Total = of Units Used by Pen (waste included)	Mkt Value [\$]	Total/Per Unit (Bale, Pound, etc.)	Pound/Bale or Unit (if appl.)	As Fed Daily Intake		
								Livestock Simulation [AUM]	Grazing DM Adj. Factor					Pound/Hd/Day	Days on Feed (Model)	Days on Feed (User)
Sheep Breed to Feeder/Finish	1-Rams-Drylot	4	198	HAY-Alfalfa/Grass Hay	Homegrown						453.59	Bale	1000	2.2	180	
Sheep Breed to Feeder/Finish	1-Rams-Drylot	4	198	SILAG-Greenfeed	Homegrown						907.18	US Ton	0	0.0	180	
Sheep Breed to Feeder/Finish	1-Rams-Drylot	4	198	SILAG-Grain Silage	Homegrown						907.18	US Ton	0	10.4	180	
Sheep Breed to Feeder/Finish	1-Rams-Drylot	4	198	STRAW-Grain Straw - Fed	Homegrown						907.18	US Ton	0	0.0	180	
Sheep Breed to Feeder/Finish	1-Rams-Drylot	4	198	STRAW-Grain Straw - General	Homegrown						317.51	Bale	1000	2.2	180	
Sheep Breed to Feeder/Finish	1-Rams-Drylot	4	198	GRN-Feed Barley	Homegrown						907.18	US Ton	0	0.0	180	
Sheep Breed to Feeder/Finish	1-Rams-Drylot	4	198	GRN-Corn	Homegrown						907.18	US Ton	0	0.0	180	
Sheep Breed to Feeder/Finish	1-Rams-Drylot	4	198	MEAL-Canola Meal	Homegrown						907.18	US Ton	0	0.0	180	
Sheep Breed to Feeder/Finish	1-Rams-Drylot	4	198	MEAL-Vitamins, Minerals & Sal	Homegrown						0.45	Pound	0	0.0	180	

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation - Alberta Lamb Producers Cost-of-Production Pilot Project

The purpose of the project: To provide cost-of-production (COP) information for selected lamb producers by applying the new AgriProfit\$ COP and policy analysis platform.

Project organizational framework

- Type of pilot reporting: standard (COP, physical performance, and on-demand CO₂ emission reports)
- Production period: 2022 calendar year
- Producer participation: 5-6 participants
- Data collection method: online with coaching
- Alberta Lamb responsibility: select a pool of prospective producers, help with organizing training, and arranging the data collection meetings
- Alberta Agriculture (AgriProfit\$ Team) responsibility: coaching, processing and delivering the individual reports and sample benchmarks to participating producers.

COP reporting and methodology

The economic performance will be evaluated in terms of revenues and production costs associated with producing lambs and wool till market for following types of enterprises – breeding to wean/finish and feeder-finish (feedlot). The resulting economic efficiency will be represented by net returns, gross margins, and returns to unpaid labor for each enterprise (see the table below). The participating producers can choose an option to provide the data and receive COP reports for other crop and livestock enterprises (forage crops, pastures, swine, etc.) that can be a part of their operations. Please see the Annex (tables 1-2) for screenshots (templates) of the COP and physical performance reports.

Table Aggregated structure of the COP report

<i>Economic Measures</i>	<i>Treatment 1</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>Treatment 6</i>
Revenue/Sales			
Variable Cost (i.e. seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, labour, utility, etc.)			
Fixed Costs (i.e. machinery depreciation, property insurance, etc.)			
Economic Efficiency (i.e. net return, gross margin, and return on labour)			

The economic evaluation will be provided on accrual basis with direct costs like inventory flow, purchases, sales, and labour entered directly to AgriProfit\$ Livestock Module and overheads like office expenses, utilities, small tools and miscellaneous will be allocated to enterprises based on provided financial information. Please see the Annex (tables 3-5) for screenshots of financial and production tables data of which will be used for generating COP and physical performance reports.

Table 1. Template of the standard COP report

Sheep Breed to Feeder/Finish Economic Report

Products	Your Report		Province	Top 1/3
	Total [\$]	\$/Ewes	\$/Ewes	\$/Ewes
Rams				
Net Sale (+, -)	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Inventory Change	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ewes				
Net Sale (+, -)	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Inventory Change	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ewe Lambs				
Net Sale (+, -)	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Inventory Change	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Finishers				
Net Sale (+, -)	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Inventory Change	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Receipts	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Government Programs	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
(A) VALUE OF PRODUCTION	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Winter Feed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bedding	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grazing	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Veterinary & Medicine	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Trucking & Marketing Cost	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fuel & Lubrication	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Repairs - Buildings	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Repairs - Machine	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Utilities: Heating Fuel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Electricity	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Small Tools & Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Custom Work & Specialized	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Operating Interest Paid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paid Labour & Benefits	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Unpaid Labour & Benefits	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
(B) VARIABLE COSTS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Table 2. Template of the standard physical performance report

Sheep Breed to Feeder/Finish Physical Performance

	<i>Your Report</i>	<i>Province</i>	<i>Top 1/3</i>
SUMMARY			
Breeding Stock Inventory			
Average Inventory [head]	0	0	0
Total Head-Days	0	0	0
Market Stock Inventory			
Average Inventory [head]	0	0	0
Placement Heads	0	0	0
Close-Out Heads	0	0	0
FEEDING (DRYLOT)			
Winter Feed Use [AF]	Pound/Head-Day	Pound/Head-Day	Pound/Head-Day
1. Roughage			
a) Hay	0.0	0.0	0.0
b) Silage/Hylage	0.0	0.0	0.0
c) Greenfeed	0.0	0.0	0.0
d) Straw (feed)	0.0	0.0	0.0
2. Concentrates	0.0	0.0	0.0
a) Barley	0.0	0.0	0.0
b) Wheat	0.0	0.0	0.0
c) Corn	0.0	0.0	0.0
d) Oth. Grain/Rations	0.0	0.0	0.0
3. By-Products/High Energy Meals	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0
DMI (% BW)	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Feed Use Efficiency</i>			
FCE-DM [Pound/Pound Gain]	37.8	37.8	37.8
<i>Bedding</i>			
	Quantity	Quantity	Quantity
Physical Use [Pound/AUD]	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cost [\$/AUD]	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRAZING (GRASSER)			
	<i>Your Report</i>	<i>Province</i>	<i>Top 1/3</i>
Breeding Stock			
Breeding Stock [head]	0	0	0
Head-Days	0	0	0
AUD	0	0	0

Table 3. Financial information required to produce the standard COP report

Enter an amount of (business part) expenses from your Farming Income form (T2042E) or from the general ledger

Statement of Farming Activities (T2042)	Code	Total Expenses (year-end balance) [\$]	Allocated to [%]			Total [%]
			Sheep Breed to Feeder/Finish	Sheep Feeder to Finish	Non-Farm/Personal	
Expenses (enter only the business part)						
Containers and twine	9661					
Fertilizers and lime	9662					
Pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides)	9663					
Seeds and plants	9664					
Feed, supplements, straw, and bedding	9711					
Livestock purchases	9712					
Veterinary fees, medicine, and breeding fees	9713					
Machinery expenses						
Repairs, licences and insurance	9760					
Gasoline, diesel fuel, and oil	9764					
Building repairs and maintenance (includes fence repairs)	9795					
Clearing, levelling, and draining land	9796					
Crop insurance, Revenue Protection Program, and stabilization program	9797					
Custom or contract work (includes machine rentals)	9798					
Electricity	9799					
Irrigation fuel & electricity (irrigation crops)	993850					
Heating fuel and curing fuel	9802					
Water charges	993849					
Insurance program overpayment recapture	9803					
Insurance	9804					
Interest and bank charges	9805					
Office expenses	9808					
Professional fees (includes legal and accounting fees)	9809					

Table 4. Production information required to produce the standard COP report

Pen / Cattle Group ID				Opening Inventory					Purchases/Transfer-in					In-Shrink (if applicable) [%]
Pen ID / Cattle Group ID	Enterprise ▼	Livestock Sub-Type/Product ▼	Unit of Measurement ▼	Year Start # Heads/Units (if applic.)	Pounds (Units)	Total/Per Head/Per Hive	Year Start Value [\$]	Value (Total/Per Head/Per Pound)	# Heads/Units (if applic.)	Pounds (Units)	Total/Per Head/Per Hive	Value [\$]	Value (Total/Per Head/Per Pound)	
1	Sheep Breed to Feeder/Finish	Rams	Head	4	198	Per Head	\$1.00	Per Pound	1	198	Per Head	\$1.00	Per Pound	0.0%
2	Sheep Breed to Feeder/Finish	Ewes	Head	100	169	Per Head	\$1.00	Per Pound	19	169	Per Head	\$1.00	Per Pound	0.0%
3	Sheep Breed to Feeder/Finish	Ewe Lambs	Head	15	135	Per Head	\$1.00	Per Pound	3	135	Per Head	\$1.00	Per Pound	0.0%
4	Sheep Breed to Feeder/Finish	Finishers	Head	0	0	Per Head	\$2.20	Per Pound	200	79	Per Head	\$2.20	Per Pound	3.0%
5	Sheep Breed to Feeder/Finish	Wool	Pound	0	0	Per Head	\$0.75	Per Pound	0	0	Per Head	\$0.75	Per Pound	0.0%
6	Sheep Feeder to Finish	Finishers	Head	0	0	Per Head	\$2.20	Per Pound	100	79	Per Head	\$2.20	Per Pound	3.0%
7	Sheep Feeder to Finish	Wool	Head	0	0	Per Head	\$0.75	Per Pound	0	0	Per Head	\$0.75	Per Pound	0.0%

Table 5. Feeding/grazing information required to produce the standard COP report

Livestock Enterprise	Group/Pen ID €	Livestock Inventory [head]	Bodyweight [Pound/Head]	Feed(ing) Information						Feed Market Value (Cost)			Alternative Feeding Data Options			
				Feeds Type €	Homegrown/Purchased €	Unit Type (AUM for grazing)	Pound/Bale or Unit (if appl.)	Grazing AUMs Support		Total = of Units Used by Pen (waste included)	Mkt Value [\$]	Total/Per Unit (Bale, Pound, etc.)	Pound/Bale or Unit (if appl.)	As Fed Daily Intake		
								Livestock Simulation [AUM]	Grazing DM Adj. Factor					Pound/Hd/Day	Days on Feed (Model)	Days on Feed (User)
Sheep Breed to Feeder/Fi	1-Rams-Drylot	4	198	HAY-Alfalfa/Grass Hay	Homegrown					453.59	Bale	1000	2.2	180		
Sheep Breed to Feeder/Fi	1-Rams-Drylot	4	198	SILAG-Greenfeed	Homegrown					907.18	US Ton	0	0.0	180		
Sheep Breed to Feeder/Fi	1-Rams-Drylot	4	198	SILAG-Grain Silage	Homegrown					907.18	US Ton	0	10.4	180		
Sheep Breed to Feeder/Fi	1-Rams-Drylot	4	198	STRAW-Grain Straw - Fed	Homegrown					907.18	US Ton	0	0.0	180		
Sheep Breed to Feeder/Fi	1-Rams-Drylot	4	198	STRAW-Grain Straw - General	Homegrown					317.51	Bale	1000	2.2	180		
Sheep Breed to Feeder/Fi	1-Rams-Drylot	4	198	GRN-Feed Barley	Homegrown					907.18	US Ton	0	0.0	180		
Sheep Breed to Feeder/Fi	1-Rams-Drylot	4	198	GRN-Corn	Homegrown					907.18	US Ton	0	0.0	180		
Sheep Breed to Feeder/Fi	1-Rams-Drylot	4	198	MEAL-Canola Meal	Homegrown					907.18	US Ton	0	0.0	180		
Sheep Breed to Feeder/Fi	1-Rams-Drylot	4	198	MEAL-Vitamins, Minerals & Sal	Homegrown					0.45	Pound	0	0.0	180		
Sheep Breed to Feeder/Fi	2-Ewes-Drylot	100	169	HAY-Alfalfa/Grass Hay	Homegrown					453.59	Bale	1000	1.9	180		
Sheep Breed to Feeder/Fi	2-Ewes-Drylot	100	169	SILAG-Greenfeed	Homegrown					907.18	US Ton	0	0.0	180		
Sheep Breed to Feeder/Fi	2-Ewes-Drylot	100	169	SILAG-Grain Silage	Homegrown					907.18	US Ton	0	8.8	180		
Sheep Breed to Feeder/Fi	2-Ewes-Drylot	100	169	STRAW-Grain Straw - Fed	Homegrown					907.18	US Ton	0	0.0	180		
Sheep Breed to Feeder/Fi	2-Ewes-Drylot	100	169	STRAW-Grain Straw - General	Homegrown					317.51	Bale	1000	1.9	180		
Sheep Breed to Feeder/Fi	2-Ewes-Drylot	100	169	GRN-Feed Barley	Homegrown					907.18	US Ton	0	0.0	180		
Sheep Breed to Feeder/Fi	2-Ewes-Drylot	100	169	GRN-Corn	Homegrown					907.18	US Ton	0	0.0	180		
Sheep Breed to Feeder/Fi	2-Ewes-Drylot	100	169	MEAL-Canola Meal	Homegrown					907.18	US Ton	0	0.0	180		
Sheep Breed to Feeder/Fi	2-Ewes-Drylot	100	169	MEAL-Vitamins, Minerals & Sal	Homegrown					0.45	Pound	0	0.0	180		
Sheep Breed to Feeder/Fi	3-Ewe Lambs-Drylot	15	135	HAY-Alfalfa/Grass Hay	Homegrown					453.59	Bale	1000	1.5	180		
Sheep Breed to Feeder/Fi	3-Ewe Lambs-Drylot	15	135	SILAG-Greenfeed	Homegrown					907.18	US Ton	0	0.0	180		

Rangeland Sustainability Project Update:

Project Title: Sheep/Goat Vegetation Management Accreditation Program

In partnership with Lakeland College, the Alberta Lamb Producers, and the Alberta Goat Association successfully obtained an Alberta Environment and Parks grant through their Rangeland Sustainability Program to develop a Sheep/Goat Vegetation Management Accreditation Program.

A series of vegetation management modules are being developed for Alberta sheep and goat producers to learn best practices for grazing forages under typical and unique situations. The modules will form a vegetation management accreditation program. Stakeholders requiring or offering vegetation management services using livestock would benefit from these resources for contract and partnership development purposes.

By the end of summer 2022, summer student Samuel Reive had researched and developed most of the unique grazing content. Samuel's focus for the 2023 summer is to research and develop the remaining modules, which include grazing principles, grazing tame and native forages, stockmanship, and building a business case. Katrina Gallan, a summer student of Dr. Susan Markus with Lakeland College, is tasked with transferring the information into a format that will become an online accreditation program.

Sheep and goats present land stewards with a unique opportunity to graze areas that cattle cannot access and by consuming plants that cattle find unpalatable. While Alberta has a thriving sheep industry and ranks third in Canadian sheep and lamb inventories, producers continue to seek new opportunities to improve land stewardship and better understand grazing animal management. Resources are limited for flock managers that provide the details necessary to successfully graze sheep or goats and maintain forage health under typical and novel circumstances. Some of these typical and uncommon grazing situations include invasive weeds, solar farms, low-quality marginal lands, forests, inner city vegetation control, and powerline cut blocks.

The modules will be used to educate flock owners and serve as a go-to resource for comprehensive grazing and sheep/goat management under specific situations. The project will engage land and animal stakeholders to balance and show both perspectives and needs related to vegetation management. The modules will include:

1. Grazing Principle
2. Grazing Forages
 - a. Tame and native forages
3. Stockmanship and Animal Welfare
4. Unique Grazing
 - a. Grazing under solar panels
 - b. Grazing powerline cut blocks
 - c. Grazing to meet landscape goals and control invasive species

- d. Grazing a forested area
- e. Grazing in an urban area

*Case studies and an FAQ page will be added after each chapter.

5. Building a Business Case



Pregnancy Detection Handheld Pen side Kit project Update

Project Title: Smart handheld device for automatic blood analysis: Innovative prediction of sheep pregnancy and litter size

Update to April 30, 2023

The first on farm test of the sheep pregnancy and litter detection device was carried out at Olds College in March 2023. Promising concepts and preliminary prototypes of device components have now both been tested in the laboratory and during a field test (Figure 2.1). The field test has given the team the opportunity to see which components functioned as expected, required further improvements, and to know which future steps needed to be undertaken for the development of the device. Assay reaction rates were slow due to the cool temperatures in the barn. This was solved by the inclusion of a heating chamber within the colour sensor box. The new sensor design utilizes the heater to maintain a temperature for the samples and 100 μ L cuvettes that increase the optical length giving more accuracy to the sensor.

Cartridges embedded with dried assays will hold the serum from the individual ewes and be inserted into the colour sensor box for the diagnosis. All assays are working within 10-12 minutes. While this is not yet ideal for the intended final prototype, it is a huge improvement compared to the lengthy procedures required under the laboratory environment.

Since the last report, we found an alternative method to separate the serum from red blood cells without requiring a centrifuge, and another method to replace the vortex required for deproteinization. The method was tested on-site, which led to promising preliminary results that can be improved with automation. The device is currently divided in five separate steps (Figure 2.2). However, since the device uses tubing and individually packaged syringes and syringe filters, the eventual goal is to combine all these steps into one device entirely made of disposable materials. A number of modifications to optimize the device will be on-going.

The portable sensor device that delivers the final diagnosis consists of: a 3D printed light-tight case, a main printed circuit board (PCB) to control the sensor and lights, and a heating system controlled with an Arduino (Figure 2.3). The LEDs are placed on one side of the cuvette with the sensor on the other side. Each LED is illuminated for 2 seconds after the sense command is received, and data is read by the corresponding sensor immediately. The sensor measures data

through the exposure of photodiodes to photons, and then current proportional to the incident power of the photon is generated in an external circuit, this current output can be measured and further used to quantify alpha, red, green, and blue (ARGB) light as a numerical data, the numerical ARGB data was then stored in 64-bit hex string and sent off by the microcontroller ATmega328p-u through Bluetooth to the Android device running the accompanying application.

Unfortunately, serious issues exist with the use of the blood collection devices (ex. Tasso, “plastic leech” devices) that will need additional testing (Figure 2.4). As this was an unforeseen issue and a late added objective to our research, we question if it can be solved with the time and funds remaining. Thus, blood collection may need to be done using traditional jugular venipuncture methods with needles and syringes if alternate, novel methods cannot be found by December 2023.



Figure 2.1: Various members of the project tried their laboratory procedures and initial preliminary prototypes in a field test. This opportunity allowed the team to identify imperfections and to plan improvements of the current methodologies.

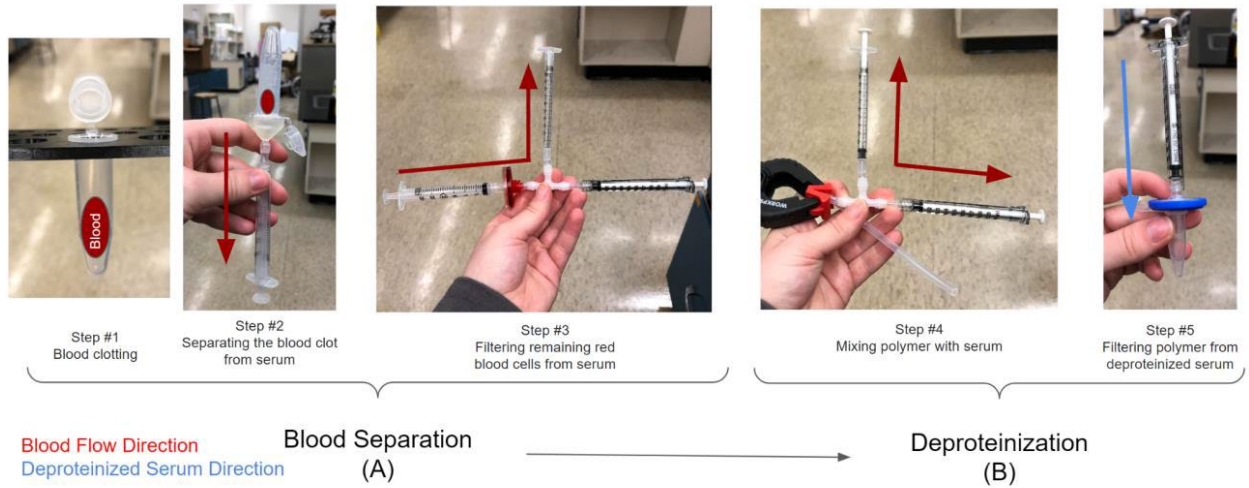


Figure 2.2: Current device procedure from whole blood to deproteinized serum. The steps of the device include (A) the blood separation procedure and (B) the deproteinization procedure. The device is promising with hand manipulation and is currently being automated in the laboratory.

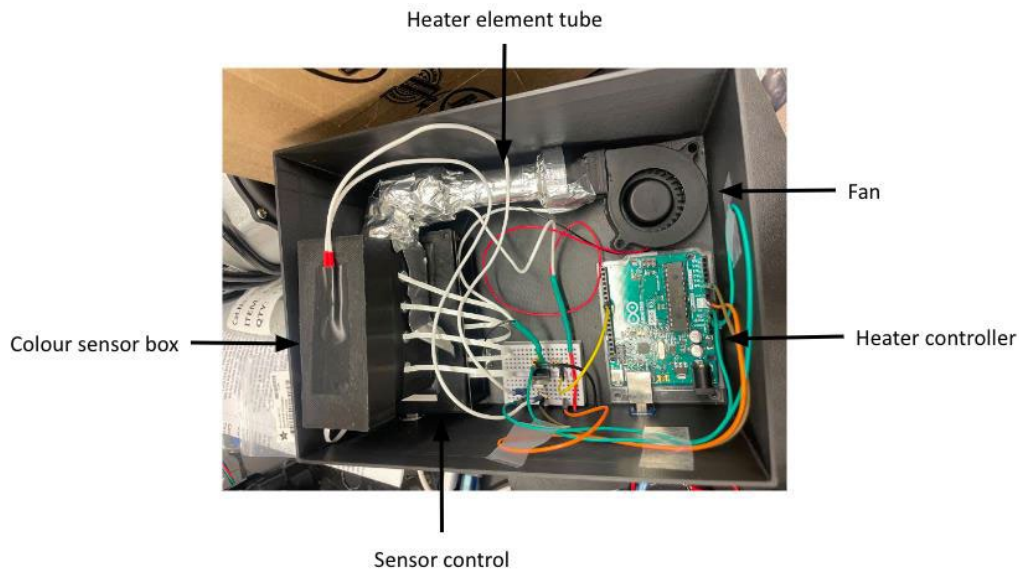


Figure 2.3: Colour Sensor components



Figure 2.4: Tasso device tested on ear with clip. The picture on the right shows the blood flowing from the ear after the clip was removed. Vacuum and suction of blood into the tube is a problem. Ear and tail locations were tested with issues at both sites.

Pneumonia Vaccine Project Update Ovipast Plus® Vaccine Clinical Trial

By Megan Gardner and Dr. Joyce Van Donkersgoed

This report is an addendum to previous interim reports and contains the finalized results from both the pre-weaning and post-weaning phases of the Ovipast Plus® bacterin trial.

Ovipast Plus® - Trial Enrollment and Mortality Rates

A total of 5054 lambs (2543 unvaccinated and 2511 vaccinated) were enrolled into the trial between January 6th, 2022, and April 26th, 2022. Between two days of age and weaning, 711 lambs died (14.1% crude mortality rate; 350 unvaccinated, 361 vaccinated), and there was no difference in mortality rates between unvaccinated and vaccinated lambs ($P = 0.56$). Of those that died, the leading causes of death were: 1) starvation (23.9%), 2) enteritis (16.9%), and 3) diarrhea (16.5%). The pneumonia specific mortality rate in the pre-weaning phase was 1.4% (36 unvaccinated, 33 vaccinated) and there being no difference between unvaccinated and vaccinated lambs ($P = 0.85$). A total of 4214 lambs (2118 unvaccinated and 2096 vaccinated) were weaned, with the last trial lambs weaned on June 1st, 2022. Of the weaned lambs, 3928 lambs (1976 unvaccinated and 1952 vaccinated) were sent to slaughter. Between weaning and slaughter, 245 lambs died (5.8% crude mortality rate; 123 unvaccinated, 122 vaccinated) and there was no difference in mortality rates between unvaccinated and vaccinated lambs ($P = 1.00$). The leading cause of death during the post-weaning phase was pneumonia at 35% of total deaths (86/245). The pneumonia specific mortality rate during the post-weaning phase was 2.0% (44 unvaccinated, 42 vaccinated) and there was no difference in this rate between unvaccinated and vaccinated lambs ($P = 0.95$).

Ovipast Plus® - Pre-weaning Results

Overall mortality, pneumonia mortality, and pneumonia morbidity were not statistically different between vaccine groups. There was a statistically significant difference in weight gain

from birth to weaning based on vaccine status, which was modified by (1) lamb birth weight and (2) if the lamb received additional antimicrobials to treat pneumonia. Overall, as birth weight increased, overall weight gain increased but vaccinated lambs born at a higher weight gained more than their unvaccinated counterparts i.e., for every 1 kg increase in birth weight, lambs that were vaccinated gained 0.25 kg more from birth to weaning than unvaccinated lambs of equal birth weight ($P = 0.01$). Lambs treated with antimicrobials gained overall less weight gain in the pre-weaning period than those not treated; however, vaccinated lambs had less of an impairment to their weight gain if treated with antimicrobials than unvaccinated lambs. This improvement in weight gain in the vaccinated group may suggest that, while vaccination does not prevent clinical disease, i.e., pneumonia treatment rates and mortality rates, it may reduce the severity of subclinical disease (not observed by the human eye), resulting in less of a detriment to weight gain between birth and weaning.

Ovipast Plus® - Post-weaning Results

There were no differences in overall mortality, pneumonia mortality, pneumonia morbidity, or overall weight gain during the growing phase. There were no differences in overall mortality during the finishing phase, pneumonia morbidity, or days spent in the finishing phase (days on feed) between vaccinated and unvaccinated lambs.

Vaccinated lambs had a significantly increased odds of dying from pneumonia. This relationship was modified by lamb wean weight. Overall, an increase in weaning weight was associated with a decreased odds of dying from pneumonia but lambs that received the Ovipast Plus® vaccine had an increased odds of dying from pneumonia compared to their unvaccinated counterparts i.e., for the unvaccinated group, as weaning weight increased from ~11 kg to ~20 kg, the odds of dying from pneumonia decreased from ~1.8% to ~0.3% whereas for Ovipast Plus® lambs, the same change in weaning weight conversely increased the probability of dying from pneumonia from ~1.4% to ~1.5%. This relationship indicates that lambs that have a low weaning weight are at increased risk for pneumonia mortality in both vaccinated and unvaccinated groups, and vaccinated lambs are at higher risk of death due to pneumonia in general. Vaccinated lambs had 1.34 times, increased odds of being scored a YG1 carcass versus any other YG ($P = 0.01$). This relationship may suggest that vaccination reduced subclinical disease, as suggested above, which improved yield grades. Alternatively, this may indicate that lambs that received the Ovipast Plus® bacterin grew at a slightly slower rate, as YG directly correlated to carcass size (tissue depth), YG1 being the smallest range of 4-11 mm. This is further supported by the fact that average days spent in the finishing phase were not different between vaccine groups ($P = 0.80$). There was no difference in hot carcass weight between vaccine groups ($P = 0.14$: unvaccinated = 26.55 kg, vaccinated = 26.49 kg), but there was a difference in average fat cover at slaughter ($P < 0.001$: unvaccinated = 15.69 mm, vaccinated = 15.06 mm), with vaccinated lambs having less fat cover.

Ovipast Plus® Conclusions

Based on the results from both phases of the trial, there is no significant welfare or economic benefits to vaccinating ewes or lambs with the Ovipast Plus® bacterin.

Olds College Sheep Parasite and Feed Efficiency Project

Improving sheep production efficiency by genomics and metabolomics blood biomarkers of feed efficiency and subclinical parasite infection.

Sheep parasite infections are production-limiting diseases that adversely affect sheep through reduced weight gain, lower immunity, and increased susceptibility to miscarriage at preclinical stages. The current diagnosis methods rely on passive observation of clinical symptoms to detect the infection, even though the infection does not typically respond to treatment by that point. Production losses at the subclinical stage and the expense of diagnosis and treatment at the clinical stage both contribute to the increased cost of production.

Another major component that influences profitability of sheep production is the cost of animal feed, accounting for 45-80% of the expenses. There are different ways to mitigate this cost, including selecting for feed-efficient animals. Current practice for measuring feed efficiency in ruminants is costly and requires a lengthy trial (40-90 days) to measure individual daily feed intake and weight of the animals. Research results from beef studies suggest that selecting feed-efficient animals could result in 10-12% decline in feed intake, 25-30% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and 15-17% reduction in nutrient loss. Despite the promising results in cattle, research on sheep feed efficiency is lacking.

The Olds College Technology Access Centre for Livestock Production (TACLP) is currently conducting a research project aimed at identifying and quantifying a panel of predictive blood biomarkers for feed efficiency and sheep parasite infection using genomics and metabolomics technologies. Two feeding trials with 80 lambs will be conducted in sequence from June to October, 2023. Lambs will be tested for feed efficiency with the GrowSafe feeding systems from June to August, and then will be randomly assigned to different parasitic (barber's pole worm) treatments from August to October. Hamza Jawad and Olufemi Osonowo, both students from Dalhousie University, are working with the TACLP on this project and will utilize the results to fulfill their graduate study requirements.

The approach outlined in this study aims to revolutionize the detection of parasitic infection in sheep by focusing on early detection through the use of blood biomarkers. By identifying sheep that test positive for these biomarkers, we can selectively administer anthelmintic drugs to specifically targeted individuals, regardless of their infection levels. This shift towards targeted treatment is expected to significantly reduce the development of parasite resistance, in addition to minimizing the costs associated with anthelmintic purchases. Furthermore, the TACLP intends to develop and optimize standard operating procedures required for measuring feed efficiency in sheep, something that does not currently exist for the industry. Finally, genomic and metabolomic analysis of sheep feed efficiency may open the door to future testing options for identifying more efficient animals without requiring lengthy, expensive trials at a testing facility.

Eighty ewe lambs began the animal trial at Olds College in mid-June 2023, with the expected completion date later this year in October. Trial results and preliminary findings are anticipated

by spring of 2024. Any questions or inquiries can be directed to Dr. Yaogeng Lei, Research Associate with the TACLP (ylei@oldscollge.ca).

Advocacy Updates

NEW parasite prevention compound, Ivermectin-Levamisole drench is available through your veterinarian.

The Alberta Lamb Producers (ALP) is aware that producers have been struggling with having timely access to dewormers for their flocks, with options like Startect becoming unavailable in Canada. We are pleased to share that ALP was able to work with a Canadian Company whereby they were able to create a new compound that producers across Canada will have access to. Sheep that are maintained on pasture commonly become infected with nematodes (roundworms) that live in their gastrointestinal tract. The three most important gastrointestinal nematodes (GINs) infecting sheep are Haemonchus (barber's pole worm), Teladorsagia (brown stomach worm) and Trichostrongylus (stomach hairworm). The barber pole worm has been shown to be resistant to ivermectin in some Canadian flocks but has been shown to be sensitive to the anti-parasitic drug levamisole. To address this concern an ivermectin-levamisole drench formulation has been developed which is available through most large animal veterinary clinics through a prescription. This formulation should provide protection for both internal and external parasites.

If producers or veterinarians have questions, please contact Holden Guillory at: Holden.guillory@bvrvet.ca or (403) 483-1700.

Concerns with solutions for resistant parasites

Along with ALP working directly with a Canadian Company and advocating for a new parasite prevention compound being created and readily available to our producers, ALP also collaborated with Canadian parasitologists, with the support of the Veterinary Drugs Directorate, to have a second option, which is Health Canada approved, available to Canadian Veterinarians, along with the creation of the resistance management guidelines.

As this drug is only approved under emergency use, we can't provide information direct to producers. Drugs in general cannot be promoted direct to producers beyond the name, price and quantity per the Food and Drugs Act and associated regulations. This information, however, has been shared with veterinarians. Veterinarians are now able to bring the information to their clients as they see appropriate.

There are strong recommendations for responsible use being provided to veterinarians when use is granted so that the emergence of resistance can be minimized as much as possible. More information is available to veterinarians and producers can always ask their veterinarian for more direction. ALP encourages our producers to speak with their veterinarians about options for resistant Haemonchus if needed.

Proposed amendments to livestock traceability regulations now in Canada Gazette I for consultation

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has been working on updating the traceability regulations for the past few years. On March 18, 2023 CFIA published the proposed traceability regulation changes in the Canada Gazette, Part 1, Volume 157, Number 11. CFIA informed ALP and Canadian producers' mid- March 2023, about the proposed changes to Part XV of the Health of Animals Regulations that are now in Canada Gazette I and that the 90-day consultation period was from March 18 to June 16, 2023.

Below you will find the link to CFIA's main consultation webpage as well as the direct link to the proposed regulations in Canada Gazette I.

- [Share your thoughts: Consultation on proposed changes to Part XV of the Health of Animals Regulations \(Identification and Traceability\) - Canadian Food Inspection Agency \(canada.ca\)](#)
- [Canada Gazette, Part 1, Volume 157, Number 11: Regulations Amending the Health of Animals Regulations \(Identification and Traceability\)](#)

Further to the release regarding the launch of consultations on proposed amendments to livestock traceability regulations, CFIA hosted a sheep producer webinar on March 31, 2023, which ALP board members attended.

There was also a copy of the sheep-specific guidance document (located on the next page in this package) provided by the CFIA for the consultation meeting that took place for Sheep producers. The document narrows down the regulation to requirements for sheep producers. The consultation link also provides guidance documents for operators of livestock sites (abattoirs, assembly points, feedlots, etc.), exporters and importers, and distributors of approved indicators. If there are any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to CFIA directly.

ALP stressed how crucial it was to have as many sheep producers as possible participate in the consultation period to provide feedback, as once the consultation period closes, that is it for producers to suggest potential amendments for consideration. This will impact every producer and sheep business across the country.

Further to the above-mentioned meetings, the Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF) hosted roundtable discussion with Canadian producers over the Zoom platform. They shared the same information that CFIA did during their webinar, however this did offer producers more than one opportunity to hear about the changes. ALP also had our Chair and other Directors attend these meetings to ensure that our producers were represented, and we could hear about any concerns that were brought forward.

This guide for livestock producers and owners provides an overview of the proposed federal livestock identification and traceability requirements. It is to help regulated parties understand the proposed amendments to the Part XV *Health of Animals Regulations* (Identification and Traceability). It is not a substitute for the law. Provincial and territorial requirements may also apply.

This guide supports the objective of the national Livestock Identification and Traceability Program, which is to provide accurate and up-to-date livestock identity, movement and location information in order to mitigate the impact of disease outbreaks, food safety issues and natural disasters.

■ = New proposed regulatory requirements

PREMISES IDENTIFICATION

WHAT TO DO?		TIME LIMIT
Obtain a premises identification number.	<p>Obtain a premises identification number from your provincial or territorial premises program authority. Refer to the Premises Identification Website for instructions.</p> <p>Premises identification information must be kept up to date with your provincial or territorial premises program authority.</p>	-
Report the premises identification number.	When you purchase approved indicators and/or report information related to livestock identification or movements, you must report the premises identification number of your site.	-
Site does not have a premises identification number.	<p>If you are required to report the premises identification number of your site and you do not have one, you must report to the responsible administrator the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The legal description of the site • Your name and telephone number • A list of the animal species present at the site • The type of agriculture operation <p>You must report any changes to the premises identification information to the responsible administrator.</p>	-
		Within 7 days of the change.

ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION

WHAT TO DO?		TIME LIMIT
Identify the sheep.	<p>Approved indicators must be applied to animals as described on the list of approved indicators. Refer to the Proposed document to be incorporated by reference - Approved animal indicators for all details.</p> <p>Sheep must be identified with an approved indicator before they leave their farm of origin.</p> <p>The exceptions are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheep or sheep carcasses that have been seized by an authority or have been abandoned • Sheep that must be urgently evacuated from a site • When the morphology of sheep or sheep carcasses does not allow for the application of an approved indicator 	Before sheep leave the farm of origin.

ARRIVAL OF SHEEP AT YOUR SITE

WHAT TO DO?		TIME LIMIT
Report the arrival of sheep.	<p>When sheep arrive at your site, you must report the following information to the responsible administrator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The premises identification number of the departure site* • The premises identification number of your site • The date and time the sheep left the departure site* • The date and time the sheep arrived at your site • The identification number on the approved indicators¹ • The license plate number or conveyance identification* <p>*this information will be provided to you by the transporter of the animals</p> <p>You are not required to report the departure of sheep from your site, unless you are sending them to a community pasture.</p>	Within 7 days of arrival.
Movement of sheep to and from a leased pasture.	You are not required to report the arrival of sheep at a leased pasture and their return to your farm if all the sheep kept at the leased pasture were from that same farm.	-
Movement of sheep within the same farm.	You are not required to report the movement of sheep if they are moved within the same farm.	-

For **import** and **export** requirements, refer to the Importers and Exporters guidance documents

LOSS OF APPROVED INDICATORS

WHAT TO DO?		TIME LIMIT
Arrival without an approved indicator.	You must apply an approved indicator to sheep that arrive at your site without one. The new approved indicator must be assigned to your site.	As soon as it arrives at your site.
Loss of an approved indicator on site.	You must apply a new approved indicator to sheep that have lost their approved indicators at your site.	As soon as the loss of the approved indicator is noted.
Report the application of the approved indicator.	<p>When applying an approved indicator to sheep, you must report the following information to the responsible administrator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The identification number of the new approved indicator • If known, the identification number of the approved indicators¹ previously applied • The premises identification number of your site • If known, the premises identification number of the departure site • If applicable, the license plate number or conveyance identification <p>You are not required to report the application of the approved indicators if the sheep have not been moved from their farm of origin.</p>	Within 7 days of application of the new indicator.

DISPOSAL OF SHEEP CARCASSES

WHAT TO DO?		TIME LIMIT
Identify the sheep carcasses.	Sheep carcasses must be identified with an approved indicator if you move them off site for disposal.	Before the carcass leaves the site.
Report the on site disposal of the carcasses.	When disposing of sheep carcasses on site, you must report the following information to the responsible administrator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The premises identification number of the site where the carcass was disposed of • The date on which the carcass was disposed of • The identification number on the approved indicators¹ 	Within 7 days of disposing of the carcass.
If you dispose of a sheep carcass on its farm of origin that has not had an approved indicator applied to it, you are not required to apply an approved indicator to it or report its disposal.		

PROHIBITIONS

IT IS PROHIBITED TO

- Remove or cause the removal of sheep or sheep carcasses from a site unless they bear an approved indicator, with the exceptions listed in the “Animal identification” section above.
- Apply an approved indicator to sheep or sheep carcasses that are not at the site for which the indicator was assigned.
- Apply an approved indicator for sheep to animals that are not sheep or to carcasses that are not sheep carcasses.
- Transfer approved indicators from sheep or their carcasses to other animals or carcasses, or reuse an approved indicator.
- Apply, make, sell, or provide a means of identifying sheep or carcasses that is likely to be mistaken for an approved indicator.
- Remove² an approved or revoked indicator from sheep or their carcasses, except at the time and place of disposal of the carcass.
- Alter an approved indicator in any manner.
- Give, sell or distribute approved indicators assigned for your site.

DEFINITIONS

Approved indicator: refers to indicators approved under the Livestock Identification and Traceability Program. In most cases approved indicators are approved ear tags.

Revoked indicator: refers to indicators that are no longer approved under the Livestock Identification and Traceability Program.

Carcass: refers to any part of the carcass of a ruminant or pig that exceeds 50% of its weight and, as a general rule, it refers to dead stock.

Farm: refers to land, and all building and other structures on that land, that is used under one management for breeding or raising animals, but does not include an artificial insemination unit.

Farm of origin: refers to the farm on which an animal is born, or if an animal is not born on a farm, the first farm to which it is moved after its birth.

Site: refers to premises where ruminants or pigs or the carcasses of ruminants or pigs are kept or collected, but does not include a conveyance.

¹ When you are required to report to the responsible administrator an identification number on an approved indicator of a sheep or sheep carcass that bears a revoked indicator instead, you must report the identification number on the revoked indicator.

² The removal of an animal's approved or revoked indicator could be authorized if an inspector determines, based on information provided (whether before, at the time of or within 7 days of the removal of the indicator), that the indicator is causing the animal to suffer.

Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) Summer Meeting and Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers (FPT) Meeting

As agriculture is a shared federal-provincial-territorial responsibility in Canada, agriculture ministers from across the country typically meet face-to-face at least once each year to talk about issues facing the agriculture and agri-food sector, and to make decisions on how to address these issues. These meetings include a two-day annual conference, usually held in July, as well as one-day meetings as necessary.

Each year, the co-chair duties rotate between the provinces and territories. The provincial co-chair hosts the annual conference in their own province or territory, and co-chairs the other meetings that year with the federal minister of agriculture and agri-food. Ministers receive presentations from officials, discuss policy options, and make decisions that help build a stronger future for agriculture in Canada.

The annual conference usually concludes with a news conference or media availability. Ministers also issue a communiqué following each meeting that provides an overview of the topics they discussed and the key decisions they reached at the meeting.

The CFA and its members, including the National Sheep Network (NSN), is hosting an Industry-Government Roundtable session in conjunction with the upcoming Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Agriculture Ministers' meetings on Wednesday July 19, 2023, immediately preceding the FPT meeting. In the past, this forum has proven to be very successful in promoting industry-government cooperation and ensuring all stakeholders in Canadian agriculture build consensus on key issues.

Canadian agriculture has been identified as a sector with enormous potential for growth by both the federal government in publications such as the Barton Report, and leading financial institutions such as the Royal Bank of Canada. The development of the Sustainable Agriculture Strategy (SAS) will be crucial in creating growth in the agriculture sector that is environmentally, financially, and socially sustainable.

This year's Roundtable will provide an opportunity for producers and FPT Ministers to articulate what they deem to be critical for the successful development and implementation of a Sustainable Agriculture Strategy for Canada. This will provide valuable insights into how the SAS can ultimately achieve successful implementation with buy-in from all key stakeholders.

We are pleased to share that ALP's Executive Director, Ashley Scott, is the NSN's representative for their CFA membership and she will be in attendance representing producers in Alberta and across Canada, ensuring both our producers and industry voice is heard and represented during these important meetings.

University of Calgary's Diagnostic Service Unit

Briefing information

The Diagnostic Services Unit (DSU) is a fee-for-service veterinary diagnostic laboratory at the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM) and provides necropsy, histology, cytology, and bacteriology services for all veterinary species with submissions from licensed veterinarians. The DSU is in a phase of active expansion to bring a comprehensive veterinary diagnostic lab back to Alberta.

In the 1990s, the Alberta government reconfigured its provincial veterinary diagnostic labs to focus on reportable and notifiable diseases. This left Alberta without a veterinary diagnostic lab akin to labs in other provinces and resulted in routine livestock diagnostic samples either being sent out of province for testing or testing not being done at all. Lack of routine testing left a gap in the knowledge of livestock disease in Alberta.

With the opening of UCVM the DSU was established in 2011 to support teaching and research at UCVM with necropsy and histology services. Over time, the DSU grew organically, accepting cases from Alberta veterinarians. As the DSU only offered necropsy and histology, all ancillary testing was sent to out of province laboratories. This generally resulted in longer turnaround times for results (due to the need to ship samples) and increased cost as compared with in-province diagnostics (as provincial labs charge extra for samples not from their province).

In 2020, the DSU received a \$3.44 million, 4-year grant from RDAR (Results Driven Agricultural Research) and Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) for a pilot project for Enhanced Livestock Diagnostics at the DSU. This supported the opening of a bacteriology lab at the DSU, Alberta-supported pricing for livestock diagnostics, and funding support for livestock outbreak investigations. Additional lab sections (parasitology, serology, and molecular diagnostics) are in the planning phase with support from this grant, a service agreement with the Alberta poultry producer boards, and additional funding from the Government of Alberta. For Alberta's producers, the grant resulted in more accessible and affordable diagnostics for their herds and decreased turnaround times on bacteriology tests. The DSU-Livestock Stakeholders Advisory Committee was also established to provide Alberta's livestock industries a voice to share the diagnostic needs of each industry.

With the pilot project ending in 2024, the DSU is actively working with partners to secure longer term funding for a comprehensive veterinary diagnostic lab in Alberta that continues to support Alberta livestock diagnostics.

Alberta Lamb Producers Annual General Meeting & Conference

ALP is pleased to announce that we are hosting our 2023 Annual General Meeting in conjunction with an educational conference for producers at the Reed Deer Resort and Casino on Saturday, November 18, 2023.

ALP's 2023 educational conference is a **paid** event, has **no** eligibility requirements and is open to anyone to register for and attend. **Only eligible Alberta Lamb Producers can register to attend ALP's Annual General Meeting.** To be an eligible Alberta Lamb Producer, you need to have purchased CSIP tags within the last 2 years from our fiscal year end (Aug 31).

There is no registration cost to attend ALP's Networking event (Friday evening) and AGM for our eligible producers, however registration is required. To confirm your eligibility or to register, please email: info@ablamb.ca by November 1, 2023.

Please find the DRAFT conference and AGM agenda's below.

[DRAFT ALP AGM Conference Agenda](#)

[DRAFT ALP AGM Agenda](#)

*AGM Meeting Package will be uploaded here when it is available.

ALP is also offering **EARLY BIRD** pricing for those who wish to register for and attend the educational conference component. Below you will find the early bird registration form to download, fill out and send into the ALP office!

[Early Bird Pricing Registration Form](#)