



Moving Forward

By Lorraine Stevenson-Hall, August 2017

Over the last number of weeks, CNGF has continued to make steady progress on a number of areas of national importance to the goat sector.

We are in the final fiscal year of our Goat Traceability and Identification Project funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. After conducting field trials of goat tags and leg bands, gathering data through interviews with producers, and completing laboratory testing, CNGF has received pre-approval from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) for specific goat indicators. Pre-approval means that if proposed regulations for goat traceability come into effect, these indicators will be considered official by the CFIA. Producers who apply these indicators voluntarily prior to expected regulations would not have to reapply if regulations come into effect. CNGF has worked closely with the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA), and we expect that pre-approved indicators will be available for purchase from the CCIA this fall. Purchase and application of pre-approved goat indicators will be entirely voluntary, since at this time there are no requirements in place nationally for goat identification.

CNGF continues to work on developing the tactics in our Communications Plan for Traceability, to prepare and inform the goat sector about expected regulations. Over the last several months, CNGF has developed ads that will be placed in goat publications and general farm publications across the country. The ads will aim to reach a broad audience and increase awareness among goat producers of the expected regulations. Keep an eye out for these this fall!

CNGF contacted all goat associations in the country as well as provincial governments to provide them with quantities of our new brochure titled "Goat Producers – Tag You're It!". We will be distributing this brochure in the fall to goat associations and provincial governments, and it will also be available directly from CNGF and on our website. The brochure includes photos of pre-approved goat indicators and outlines steps producers can take now to prepare for expected regulations.

We have developed Program-at-a-Glance postcards that will be distributed to all large veterinary clinics this fall. Also stay tuned for our upcoming Social Media campaign about traceability by liking CNGF on Facebook.

CNGF is active in a number of other areas outside of traceability, including consultations on the 2021 Census. We will be actively involved in the consultation process with the goal of having goats included for the first time in the national census. Having accurate national goat numbers will assist our sector in sustainability planning to name just one use for this valuable information.

At its recent Annual General Meeting, representatives from the Veterinary Drugs Directorate of Health Canada provided CNGF with a presentation on upcoming regulatory changes related to the use of



veterinary antimicrobials. We also have two representatives that participate in the Scrapie Working Group.

To receive notification when pre-approved goat indicators are available for voluntary purchase and to receive other updates about our activities, please sign up for our email distribution list. Go to the CNGF website and scroll to the bottom of the homepage where there is a form to fill in your information. For additional information, please contact CNGF at info@cangoats.com or 1-888-839-4271 or visit our website: www.cangoats.com.

The Goat Traceability and Identification project has been funded through the Assurance stream of AgriMarketing program under Growing Forward 2, a federal-provincial-territorial agreement.