

APHIS Proposes New Rules for the Importation of Sheep and Goats

For Immediate Release

July 18, 2016 – Ottawa, Ontario – The US Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) publishes proposed rule changes for the importation of sheep, goats, and certain other ruminants into the US from Canada.

“The US Border has been closed to (small ruminant) breeding stock for over a decade” says Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF) Chairman Phil Kolodychuk, “and this proposed rule marks the first steps in re-establishing access to the US market”.

The proposed rule does not completely alleviate import restrictions however, but does recommend:

- “the importer would have to provide documentation showing that the animals have reached and maintained *certified status* in a scrapie flock certification program that has been evaluated and approved by the Administrator”.

Where *Certified Status* is defined as:

- “a flock that has met the requirements equivalent to the Export Certified status of the U.S. Scrapie Flock Certification Program while participating in a program under the supervision of the national veterinary authority of the region of origin”.

The Canadian Sheep Federation, in consultation with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, maintains the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program (VSFCP) for Canadian producers. By definition and design, the VSFCP allows producers to achieve APHIS’s definition of *Certified Status*. The CSF has worked tirelessly at keeping the VSFCP in place for producers knowing that one day it would deliver on the market access capabilities that it was built for.

For a more detailed look at the proposed rule, visit the US Federal Registrar at

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/07/18/2016-16816/importation-of-sheep-goats-and-certain-other-ruminants#h-8>

The closing date for comments on the proposed rule is September 16, 2016.

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