

Increase in cost of Canadian Sheep Identification Fees

For immediate release

July 17, 2015 (Guelph, ON) – The Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF) has recently announced an increase in the cost of the Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP) administration fees by \$0.05/tag effective September 1, 2015.

“We acknowledge that there has been some frustration given the lack of forward movement on the traceability file,” says Dennis Fischer, Chairman of OSMA “however, with the recent traceability consultations and a clear directive from the federal government that the regulatory changes are expected in the fall of 2016, there is a need for the industry to be prepared. This increase in fees is part of that preparation.” As the industry starts to implement traceability, including movement and tag retirement information, there will be an increase in the costs for maintaining the program’s database.

“Maintaining the database is not the only administrative costs associated with CSIP” says Rob Scott, OSMA’s Board representative to the CSF. “Money is also required for the CSF’s ongoing lobbying efforts to ensure that the federal government continues to provide funding for traceability. There is also the need to ensure that elected agricultural leaders are aware of the higher cost of traceability for the sheep industry.” Other administrative costs include the costs of dealing with compliance issues, tag quality issues, and resolving producer issues.

Industry organizations have been successful at advocating for the industry for draft regulations that meet the needs of producers. Additionally, preliminary movement reporting schemes have been conceptualized during work with intermediate sites to facilitate their capacity to report movements.

The Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency (OSMA) is a producer organization representing all aspects of the sheep industry in Ontario. Established in 1985 under the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Act, OSMA’s mission is to enhance producer returns and provide consumers with premium lamb and sheep products by encouraging Ontario sheep producers to provide quality, year-round product through advocacy, industry capacity, research and development and market development.