



# Saskatchewan Assurance Systems Rebate Program For Sheep Producers

## **What is the Saskatchewan Assurance Systems Producer Rebate Program?**

The Assurance Systems Producer Rebate Program provides support to increase participation in biosecurity, animal welfare and on-farm food safety initiatives. The program will assist sheep/lamb producers to meet and confirm observance to national standards or codes.

## **What does this mean to producers?**

The program will assist lamb producers to adopt new practices through education and awareness, veterinarian/technical expert assessments and equipment funding.

Saskatchewan lamb producers are able to receive assistance through the Canadian Agriculture Partnership (CAP) funding to assist in off-setting the cost of implementing good production practices to address animal welfare, biosecurity and on-farm food safety risks. To qualify for assistance a producer must:

- be a Saskatchewan producer 18 years of age or older
- demonstrate a minimum of \$15,000 gross farm income from all farm sources in Saskatchewan.
- have a Saskatchewan Premises Identification number
- complete industry initiated Canadian Verified Sheep Program Training.
- have a biosecurity/animal welfare assessment completed by a licensed Saskatchewan veterinarian.
- receive a recommendation based on assessment findings from the Saskatchewan licensed veterinarian for the equipment
- purchase and install the eligible equipment as identified in the assessment
- submit an application form along with a copy of the assessment and paid invoices to the Ministry of Agriculture

## **What is, and how do I get a Premise Identification Number?**

A PID number is a unique identifier made up of nine alpha numeric characters assigned to a premise. A premise is an area of land where animals are bred, kept, raised, displayed, assembled or disposed of. There is no cost associated with getting a PID number. Producers can apply online or by submitting a paper application.

Visit <http://premisesid.saskatchewan.ca> to enroll online, or phone the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377 for further information.

## **What is the Canadian Verified Sheep Program?**

The Canadian Verified Sheep Program (CVSP) is a voluntary program that was developed through a partnership between producer, industry and government personnel

from across Canada. The program addresses and anticipates potential food safety, animal welfare and biosecurity challenges facing the sheep industry. The program examines all areas of production and outlines good production practices (GPP's) designed to minimize food safety risks, maximize animal care, reduce biosecurity risks therefore producing a safe high quality food product.

### **Canadian Verified Sheep Program Training**

The Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board offers training workshops for sheep producers. The training session consists of a presentation on the Canadian Verified Sheep Program designed to familiarize the producers with the program manual and requirements. The risks and hazards that can occur on a sheep farm are presented and the good production practices that can be used to address these potential challenges.

There is no registration fee for the training if completed on-line, however if a producer chooses to take the training through a classroom workshop a fee of \$25 will be required to assist in covering the cost of printing manuals and room rental.

On-line training is available through the Canadian Sheep Federation website, [Canadian Verified Sheep Program](http://www.cansheep.ca/cms/en/Programs/FoodSafeFarmPractices/FoodSafetyFarmPractices.aspx) ( <http://www.cansheep.ca/cms/en/Programs/FoodSafeFarmPractices/FoodSafetyFarmPractices.aspx>)

### **Farm Assessment**

Assessment of current biosecurity and animal welfare practices must be completed by a licensed Saskatchewan veterinarian. Assessments can be completed for biosecurity and animal welfare by the same veterinarian or by two separate veterinarians. A recommendation from the veterinarian for the required equipment to assist in improving biosecurity and animal welfare management is required to receive equipment funding.

### **Application Form**

Application forms are available on the Ministry of Agriculture website at:

<http://www.saskatchewan.ca/business/agriculture-natural-resources-and-industry/agribusiness-farmers-and-ranchers/canadian-agricultural-partnership-cap/risk-management/assurance-systems-programs/producer-rebate>. or by calling for a hard copy to

306-787-8079

### **What is Available To Producers?**

Producers who have a certificate of completion of training for the Canadian Verified Sheep Program and a completed Assessment by a licensed veterinarian in Saskatchewan may receive:

- A equipment rebate funded at 50% to a maximum rebate of \$15,000.
- A assessment rebate funded at 50% to a maximum of \$1000 for a biosecurity and animal welfare assessment, this can include more than one assessment or follow-up assessment.

## **Equipment available for rebate funding**

The equipment rebate funding is for the purposes of purchasing specialized equipment used to address animal welfare and biosecurity challenges facing the sheep industry. The following list of items as recommended in the veterinarian assessment would be eligible.

### **Biosecurity**

- Segregation pen (Maximum rebate \$5,000)
  - ◊ Metal panels, gate(s)
  - ◊ Metal feed bunk
- Deadstock Site (Maximum rebate \$750)
  - ◊ Fencing: posts (metal or wood), wire, material (staples)
- Fencing to Prevent Access to Feed and Standing Water (Maximum rebate \$2,500)
  - ◊ Posts (metal or wood), wire, material (staples)
- Signage for Controlled and Restricted Zones
  - ◊ Gate and Visitor signs specifying biosecurity
- Cleaning and Disinfection station(s)
  - ◊ Hand wash and boot wash stations

### **Animal Welfare Improvements**

- Loading chutes (Maximum rebate \$3,000)
  - ◊ Metal, adjustable floor
- Headgate and chute
  - ◊ Metal
- Working chute
  - ◊ Metal
  - ◊ Metal tube frame, thick polyplastic sides
- Crowding tub
  - ◊ Metal, sliding swing gate
- Spin Trim Chute
  - ◊ Metal, adjustable
- Sorter
  - ◊ Metal, 2 or 3 way
- Maternity/lambing pen
  - ◊ Metal or welded mesh panels, metal tubing/posts and fasteners
- Sheep weigh scale (Maximum rebate \$2,500)
  - ◊ Metal weigh scale 440 lb. capacity
  - ◊ Basic weigh indicator
- Feed scale (Maximum Rebate \$1,500)
  - ◊ Scale to be used in conjunction with mixing or feed wagon
- Automatic milk feeders for lambs
  - ◊ Auto feeders, unit and components
- Remote surveillance for lambing
  - ◊ All equipment, antennas and cables to support the following: up to four indoor cameras and up to four outdoor cameras (20xPTZ), repeater and recording unit with hard drive.
- Pain control administration training by veterinarian
  - ◊ Training costs and mileage
- Vaccine cooler
  - ◊ Vaccination/medication organization system including vaccine tubing, holsters and medicine administration guns.

If you have any questions and wish to participate in the Saskatchewan Assurance Systems Rebate Program For Sheep Producers and/or the Canadian Verified Sheep Program in Saskatchewan please contact:



*Saskatchewan*  
**Sheep Development Board**

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