

# Food Safety is a Shared Responsibility



## How Do I Participate?

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Growing Forward 2 

A federal-provincial-territorial initiative



# Canadian Verified Sheep Program In Saskatchewan

## It Starts with You, the Producer



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# What is the Canadian Verified Sheep Program?

This voluntary program was developed through a partnership between producer, industry and government personnel from across Canada. The food safety chapter has been available since 1997 with the animal care and biosecurity chapters added in March 2017.

The program outlines **good production practices (GPP's)** designed to minimize food safety risks, maximize animal care, reduce biosecurity risks therefore producing a safe and high-quality food product.



## CSF Approved!

The Canadian Sheep Federation created this program for Canadian lamb producers to meet food safety challenges facing the sheep industry now and in the future. The Canadian Verified Sheep Program provides **GPP's** that can be used on your farm to reduce the risk of those challenges and hazards.



## HAACP Approved!

The food safety chapter was created based on a **HACCP** (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points) approach, a management system recognized nationally and internationally in the Agriculture and Agri-food industries.



## CFIA Approved!

The program has met the requirements of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

The Biosecurity chapter is based on the CFIA's National Sheep Biosecurity Standard.



## NFACC Approved!

The animal care chapter was developed based on the NFACC Sheep Code of Practice and includes a flock health plan to maximize health care within your operation.

## Why Participate?

- ◇ Enhanced consumer confidence in the safety, quality and consistency of Canadian sheep and lamb products;
- ◇ Increased market share for Canadian sheep and lamb products, both domestically and internationally;
- ◇ Enhanced detection and prevention of food safety concerns;
- ◇ Increased market access due to expansion of market alliances within the agriculture and processing sectors;
- ◇ Enhanced opportunity for producers to meet buyer demands and for involvement in the

marketing of a branded product or other accreditation processes; and

- ◇ The opportunity to improve flock management as a result of systematic record keeping.

## How to Implement?

The steps to implementing the Canadian Verified Sheep Program are simple:

- ◇ Participate in a Producer Training Session
- ◇ Review the Canadian Verified Sheep Program Manual;
- ◇ Adapt the material in the manual to suit the particular needs and conditions of your production system;
- ◇ Utilize the good production practices and record keeping system on your farm;
- ◇ Train yourself and your workers about Canadian Verified Sheep Program;
- ◇ Record when mistakes happen;
- ◇ Apply for an audit after one full production cycle;
- ◇ Maintain your certification

Call Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board for more information at (306) 933-5200