



# CANADIAN Verified Sheep Program in **SASKATCHEWAN**

## **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 management options that are designed to minimize food safety risks. It is based on “must do” good production practices (GPPs). In identifying food safety hazards, animal welfare concerns and the biosecurity risks, the Canadian Verified Sheep Program provides good production practices (GPP) that can be used on any farm to reduce the risk of those hazards.

## **Why Should I Consider Implementation?**

**“Lamb Producers are Food Producers.”** Food safety is a shared responsibility; it starts with you the producer. We raise lamb for food; it could be your family’s food. Safe food; consumers expect it, retailers need it and processors need to supply it. Food Integrity, building trust in the entire food production system so consumers are confident in their food being safe, livestock being treated well and disease not entering the food chain.

## **Why Saskatchewan On-Farm Food Safety Implementation Program for the Canadian Verified Sheep Program?**

Under the Saskatchewan On-Farm Food Safety (OFFS) Implementation Program provincial commodity groups, or their designates are invited to apply for funding to assist them in provincial level implementation efforts of their nationally recognized system. This includes delivery of training and promotional activities as well as delivery of funding for producer level implementation.

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

Saskatchewan lamb producers are able to receive implementation funding through the Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board to assist in off-setting the cost of implementing the Canadian Verified Sheep Program.

## **What Is Available To Producers?**

Assistance totalling \$4,250 is available per farm unit.

Producers must have a certificate of completion of the training for the Canadian Verified Sheep Program in order to receive: \$750 for specialized equipment; \$1000 for a first certification audit; \$500 for technical assistance.

In order to be eligible to receive reimbursement for goods and/or services, producers must also complete a Producer Declaration. The declaration should be sent to the SSDB office along with a copy of the receipts and course certificate.

Producers must achieve registered status through completion of a successful audit under the Canadian Verified Sheep Program in order to receive an additional \$1000 in specialized equipment funding that is available. Producers will provide the SSDB office with copy of certificate of registered status and specialized equipment receipts prior to receipt of additional funding.

Producers can only access funding for services received and equipment purchased from January 21, 2013 through to January 21, 2018. Producers cannot exceed the financial maximums between all Saskatchewan OFFS funding (Growing Forward 1 and 2)

### **1. Workshops/Training**

The Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board will be offering training workshops for producers. The training session consists of a presentation on the Canadian Verified Sheep Program, and exercises 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 are presented.

There is no registration fee and the manuals are provided at no cost.

Producers will not receive direct financial support to attend a workshop, that is, producers will not be paid to attend.

Online training is also 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>)

**By participating in a training workshop, producers become eligible for funding.**



A federal-provincial-territorial initiative



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## 2. Specialized Equipment

This funding includes reimbursement of 50% (or to a maximum of \$750) of the cost of purchasing specialized equipment used to implement on-farm food safety practices.

Please review notes under [What is Available to Producers](#)

### **SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING**

The list of equipment includes items for both sheep meat and sheep dairy operations.

- scale for weighing or measuring feed and water additives
- record keeping software
- plastic bins with secure lids for feed additive storage to prevent contamination
- label maker
- sharp's container
- animal scale/load bars/ weigh indicators
- chemical storage cabinet
- OFFS compliant light fixtures /light bulb covers/shatter proof light bulbs  
( bulbs first time purchase only )
- head gate
- bulk dog feeder

## 3. Technical Assistance

The Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board may provide a producer with the services of a designated specialist chosen by the SSDB. The specialist will provide one-on-one technical advice to help plan and implement the Canadian Verified Sheep Program. The specialist may also review producer files for pre-audit purposes.

Funding includes reimbursement of 50% of the cost for specialist's fees and expenses (or to a maximum of \$500).



## 4. First Certification Audit

In order to achieve registered status under the Canadian Verified Sheep Program, producers must successfully complete an audit. A producer must have one complete production cycle year of records prior to being eligible for the first audit.

The Canadian Verified Sheep Program audit cycle is: Year 1 Full audit, Year 2 Self declaration of conformity by producer, Year 3 Records assessment, Year 4 Self Declaration of conformity by producer.

The audit examines several areas of good production practices covered by the Canadian Verified Sheep Program: Food Safety; Animal Welfare and Biosecurity. The records pertaining to these practices are also reviewed.

Funding to complete on-farm first certification audits is available. This funding includes reimbursement of 50% (or to a maximum of \$1000) of the cost of auditor fees and auditor expenses.

Once registered status is achieved an additional \$2000 is available for specialized equipment funding.



**All sheep & lamb producers interested in participating are welcome.** If you have attended a workshop in the past you are welcome to attend again. However, producers will not be allowed to receive duplicate funding for components previously funded, example equipment, nor will they be allowed to exceed the overall cap.

**Funding provided through Growing Forward 2, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.**

**If you have any questions and wish to participate in the Canadian Verified Sheep Program in Saskatchewan contact:**



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