



Update on the Sheep Industry's Progress Towards Mandatory RFID Tags

In preparation for mandatory traceability in the livestock sector, the Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF), government and industry have been working together to add RFID (radio frequency identification) tags to the list of approved Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP) identifiers.

Recent adjustments to the RFID implementation plan will allow sheep producers to transport sheep and lambs bearing Ketchum Kurl-lock tags past December 31, 2012. Here are the details:

- Producers are encouraged to apply RFID tags to lambs born during 2012, however, sheep producers may use up their existing stocks of pink Ketchum Kurl-lock tags until a future date is established when the tags will be revoked from the official CSIP list and no longer accepted at auctions or abattoirs.
- Producers may ship culled breeding stock that already bear a Ketchum Kurl-lock tag until the revocation date is established.
- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) will conduct audits to determine the numbers of sheep and lambs appearing at auctions, slaughter plants and collection points with pink Ketchum Kurl-lock tags.
- The tag revocation date will be established when CFIA audits show that less than 10% of the sheep and lambs on offer on a consistent basis bear Ketchum Kurl-lock tags.
- The Ketchum tag revocation date will be communicated to sheep producers and industry partners in a timely manner.

Mandatory traceability remains a work in progress; the CSF and its partners continue look after the interests of Canadian sheep producers.