

THE CANADIAN SHEEP FEDERATION



meets with FEDERAL MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

Monday, February 16th, 2004, [Ottawa] Representatives of the Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF) met with Agriculture Minister Robert Speller in Ottawa on Friday to discuss the challenges facing the nation's lamb producers. Randy Eros, Chair of the CSF and Jonathan Wort, President of the Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association briefed the Minister on a number of issues.

"The border closure and its devastating effects on the Canadian lamb markets was our primary message for the Minister." said Eros. *"We are asking the Minister's office to show more active support in our attempts to have sheep and lambs removed from the US import ban. Mr. Speller is new to his position and it is important for him to understand the depth of the injury caused to our producers,"* said Eros. *"The loss of our American market has really pushed the lamb market down. Prices have fallen by 50% from last year."*

The CSF is also asking Mr. Speller to support the Canadian sheep and lamb industry by providing funding for a Scrapie surveillance and genotyping strategy. *"The Minister has announced considerable support for TSE surveillance and research for beef in Canada. It is equally important to deal with this concern in our industry"* said Wort. *"We have had a Scrapie control program in Canada since 1945. With new research tools available to us and increasing import/export requirements it is time to move from scrapie control to eradication."*

"We are encouraged by Mr. Speller's interest," commented Jennifer Fleming, CSF National Co-ordinator for on-farm food safety, who also attended the briefing. *"Our meeting provided an excellent opportunity to highlight the importance of the sheep and lamb industry in Canada and was an important step in gaining increased government support and recognition for our initiatives."*

The Canadian Sheep Federation is a national, non-profit organization that represents all Canadian sheep producers. Its mission is to work with all levels of government and industry related organizations, to further the viability, expansion and prosperity of the Canadian sheep and wool industry.

For more information please contact the Canadian Sheep Federation at (613) 248-8084

COUNTRYSIDE CANADA RECOGNIZES AGRICULTURE'S BEST LAND STEWARDS

Calgary, February 28, 2004 – Nineteen individuals and organizations from across Canada have received the 2004 Countryside Canada stewardship award. The presentations were made at the 7th Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference in Calgary.

"Countryside Canada winners are leading the way – demonstrating to other producers what can be done to make our agriculture sector sustainable," says Jean Cinq-Mars, president of Wildlife Habitat Canada. "This is important for wildlife and our environment and to enhance Canada's reputation as an environmentally responsible producer of food and agricultural products."

John and Eadie Steele, Norwood, Ontario Environmental stewardship

John and Eadie Steele emigrated from England in 1990, purchasing a farm near Norwood in eastern Ontario. In the past decade, the Steeles have transformed their century farm into one of Canada's leading sheep operations, advanced both technically and in management practices. The Steeles have achieved this success while maintaining an environmentally friendly and profitable farming operation. They have focused on soil improvement, erosion control, water conservation and management, woodland improvement and energy conservation.



Photo Courtesy of Ontario Farmer

John and Eadie Steele, Norwood, Ontario

WA Disease-Free Status Threatened

Western Australia's (WA) farming community is set to lose its disease-free status in relation to ovine Johne's disease (OJD), according to Australian Broadcasting Corp.

Farmers and the Department of Agriculture have met to discuss the outbreak, which has now affected more than 80,000 sheep in the state's south. Mike Norton, president of WA Farmers Federation meat section says, "WA needs to accept that the disease is here and get on with trying to eradicate it."

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