

## **National Sheep Network**

**June 9, 2022**

LEOQ communicated that their Agneau-info project is now underway and they are looking to receive data from 30 producers. Mme. Bibeau will be hosting a press conference on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022, to announce the funding LEOQ will be receiving for Agneau-info project. LEOQ also shared that their supply is currently meeting the demand for the first time in many years. For the first 6 months of the year except for 2 weeks, they have had enough lambs to supply the abattoir and the buyers in Quebec.

OSF shared that the Yield More Financing program with Scotiabank has become available to Ontario Producers. Ontario producers can receive up to 50k and would have the money for 18 months until they need to begin to re-pay the loan back. This loan program has worked in the crop sector for a long time and OSF are the first livestock group to have the program available for their producers to access.

ALP was approved for the lidocaine castration and tail docking bands research project with Chinook Research Group. This project has recently started and will wrap up at the end of 2022.

The Verified Sheep Program was discussed at an ALP board meeting. Following the meeting, ALP connected with OSF to gather more information on the program (background and where we are today). ALP wanted to connect with the NSN to see if there is any interest in picking the program back up. The NSN will draft a letter to the CSF to receive an update on this program, to find out if it is still available and how it works now.

There will be a virtual meeting with Ag Canada where they will be discussing the Next Policy Framework with a focus on agriculture and the environment. The NSN board reviewed the feedback form that came from AG Canada, discussed the points and will be able to provide their feedback.

NSN staff continue to work on creating communication pieces including an NSN illustration that will show the NSN work and expenses (pie chart), to provide more transparency to producers.

ALP designated representatives to sit on both the Animal Health Canada Group (Vice Chair) and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (Executive Director) and sent one Director to attend the CFA July Meeting in Saskatoon.

There was a letter drafted and sent to Ministers about the measures to mitigate price hike for inputs in agriculture and private forestry. The NSN will draft letter that it is more sheep specific that will address concerns with feed, grains etc., food security component and how we need to keep our livestock producers able to produce food as the original letter was very general for all commodities.