

National Sheep Network

August 9, 2023

The board was introduced to the new Executive Director at LEOQ, Olga Tcherniewski. Ms. Tcherniewski has 10 years of industry experience as a manager and account director in manufacturing and 5 years of food industry experience in sales, team management and manufacturing.

The discussion on national sheep traceability from the last meeting continued with a conversation on whether the NSN should request a seat at the board table at the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA). ALP will reach out to CCIA and report back at the next meeting.

ALP staff attended the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) summer meeting in New Brunswick that was also scheduled to coincide with the Federal/Provincial/Territorial (FPT) Agriculture Ministers' meetings.

LEOQ continues to deal with their grading issue from April as they work with their insurance company. Prices have dropped significantly at auction since July and are not expected to go up until mid October. Prices in Ontario are slightly higher than Quebec. The LEOQ purebred sale is scheduled for August 19th as a live online auction.

The OSF board voted to increase license fees from \$1.80 to \$2.20 on all live animal sales as of October 1, 2023. The money will increase the budget to fund initiatives in the strategic plan including two new marketing projects. The first is a wool project in partnership with Campaign for Wool and the second is a lamb market research project. The market research project will capture international market trends for flavours and cuts of lamb and how they relate to the demographics of lamb consumers in the GTA.

Farmers in Alberta have been experiencing weather issues. A large producer meeting has been scheduled for August 11 and staff are preparing for the ALP Annual Meeting in November.