

2009 News & Events

Russian market opens for Canadian small ruminant genetics

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The Canadian small ruminant industry applauds today's announcement from the Government of Canada indicating that the industry now has access to the Russian market. The reaching of an agreement on the export certificate for live sheep and goats into Russia is a clear indication of the growing demand for Canadian small ruminant genetics on the international stage.

"Russia has committed to doubling its small ruminant production, and has identified Canadian genetics as an integral part of this expansion", says Brian Atkinson, of the Canadian Sheep Breeders Association. "Recognizing the quality of Canadian small ruminant genetics, Canadian breeding stock will be used as the base from which the Russian industry can expand. Over the next three years it is anticipated that the Russian market could be worth over \$8 million for the Canadian small ruminant industry"

"For almost two years, CLGA has been working with the Government of Canada and industry representatives in Russia to reach agreement on the animal health conditions that would allow Canadian small ruminant genetics access to the Russian market, explains Rick McDonald with the Canadian Livestock Genetics Association. He goes on to say that CLGA members have established strong relationships with counterparts in Russia and are very pleased to know that trade can now get underway. Russia has been and remains a key market in our Small Ruminant Marketing Strategy and we appreciate the assistance received via the CAFI and now AMP programs of AAFC. We are confident that Canadian sheep and goat genetics and know-how will contribute positively to the advancement of the sector in Russia. Our thanks are extended to all for their perseverance and commitment and we wish the Canadian and Russian partners every success."