

## Alberta Lamb Producers Fall Round Up Resolutions 2010

*Proposed responses are provided in italics. Further suggestions welcome.*

### Zone 1

1. Motion that ALP/CSF investigate tariff on off shore lamb to level playing field. Rick Neville moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> Gerrit Van Hierden. Carried.

*Response: tariffs are the responsibility of the federal government. Currently Canada produces less than 50% of the market demand; we need consumers to be able to purchase lamb so we can increase our market share when supply increases. If there is no lamb available to them, they will choose alternative meats and the market will be lost. Canadian lamb already enjoys higher prices than imported product.*

*If the question refers to check off, rather than tariff, it is not possible to collect check off on imported product until all provinces have a check-off. This position will continue to be monitored by CSF.*

### Zone 2

1. That ALP continues to lobby to return to non-refundable check-off. Andy Pittman. 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan Willem Van Garderen. Carried.

*Response: It is extremely unlikely Bill 43 will be revoked but Alberta Lamb Producers will continue to lobby for a non-refundable levy and other matters relating to Regulations and check off. A form letter is available on [www.ablamb.ca](http://www.ablamb.ca) or from the office for producers to personalise and submit to the government.*

2. ALP office staff and directors pursue with the government that we get a fair or proportional share of the community pastures and grazing options. Everett Tanis, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jack Braat. Carried.

*Response: several discussions have taken place with John Knapp and ARD Community Pastures ED. Further approaches will be made. There are also issues to be overcome relating to fencing, predation and pasture shepherds. Producers are encouraged to approach their local community pasture board to request access for sheep. A form letter is available on [www.ablamb.ca](http://www.ablamb.ca) or from the office for producers to complete and return to Alberta Lamb Producers by May 31<sup>st</sup>. Alberta Lamb Producers will then send them all to the Minister responsible for grazing areas.*

### Zone 3

None

### Zone 4

1. Form letter on website for all producers to sign requesting check off dollars to be non-refundable. Moved James Nibourg, 2<sup>nd</sup> Darrel Ashbacker. Carried

*Response: It is extremely unlikely Bill 43 will be revoked but Alberta Lamb Producers will continue to lobby for a non-refundable levy and other matters relating to Regulations and check off. A form letter is available on [www.ablamb.ca](http://www.ablamb.ca) or from the office for producers to personalise and submit to the government.*

## **Zone 5**

1. Review the retirement of the pink tags; the timeline and the issue of paying and applying double CSIP tags and check off. Shirley Everest, 2<sup>nd</sup> J.P. Theriault. Carried.

*Response: CSIP is a national program and the timeline has been determined by CSF. Federally mandated traceability cannot be achieved without RFID tags and the AB pilot project has identified significant management benefits available with RFID systems. Producers were advised of the transition timeline in June 2010 to enable them to manage and use up their stocks of pink Ketchum tags before they were discontinued. All tags applied after Jan 1, 2012 must be RFID but animals already bearing CSIP non-RFID tags will be accepted until the end of 2012. After that date, the Ketchum and the Allflex dangle tags will be de-commissioned. The RFID tag incentive program will assist AB producers to transition to RFID by covering the cost of RFID tags for lambs born in 2011 and 2012. Alberta Lamb Producers is aware that a limited number of breeding stock may need to be re-tagged with CSIP tags during this transition time. It is possible for producers to request a refund of the second payment of check off on these animals if the amount is significant.*

2. Alberta Lamb Producers to review tag distribution/recording. Judy Cabay, 2<sup>nd</sup> J.P. Theriault. Carried.

*Response: The current market and price for Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP) tags offers insufficient return for multiple distributors in Alberta due to the need for: secure stock holding of several tag styles/applicators; reporting of tag sales to CCIA; collection & remittance of Alberta Lamb Producers check off.*

*Following a tender process, Alberta Lamb Producers considers that Canadian Co-operative Woolgrowers continue to provide the best option for CSIP distribution in Alberta.*

## **Zone 6**

1. Patric Lyster moved that the newsletter be provided by electronic form to help reduce cost optionally. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lorraine Taylor. Carried.

*Response: Newsletters are currently mailed to all Alberta producers. Anyone outside Alberta is advised by e-mail that there is a new issue on our website. There was no response to an offer of electronic newsletter instead of mail in the December or February newsletters.*

2. Jason Pritchard moved if a producer requests check-off returned the person should not be allowed to vote and should be removed from mailing list of ALP and not be able to run for a position within ALP. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lolly Chadd. Carried.

*Response: The Minister of Agriculture determined that basic services must be provided to all eligible producers – as check off is paid on every tag purchase, all producers are deemed to be eligible even if they have claimed a full refund. There is on-going discussion on refundable check off, see resolutions from zones 2 & 4.*

## **Zone 7**

1. Work on subsidy for producers to do traceability equipment, tags, hand book (how to) Jody McLean. 2<sup>nd</sup> Sautie Krey. Carried.

*Response: Alberta Lamb Producers has successfully obtained the RFID tag incentive program (Feb 2011) which will provide RFID tag incentive payments to Alberta producers for the 2011 and 2012 lamb crops. We have also requested funding be available for the purchase of RFID equipment to enable producers to benefit from the use of RFID technology, we will continue to negotiate. Communications and education will be increased with regard to the use of RFID systems.*

*A number of producers have taken advantage of the Growing Forward funding available for RFID equipment to implement On Farm Food Safety recordkeeping, as communicated by Alberta Lamb Producers.*

2. Website to have Classifieds. Lianne Read. 2<sup>nd</sup> Sherry Mortland. Carried

3. ALP use advertising to keep newsletter going. Educational topics (predators, mentoring program). Greg Beadnoyer. 2<sup>nd</sup> Sautie Krey. Carried.

*Response to resolutions 2 and 3: Alberta Lamb Producers had already investigated offering an advertising service to producers – it will begin in May 2011 and be expanded later in the year. Please look for further announcements in Alberta Lamb Producers communications. Alberta Lamb Producers will continue to create and distribute the N'ewesletter. Thank you for your suggestions for content.*