

Please consider taking part in this survey to create some practical benchmarks for biosecurity. It is critical that CFIA receives producer input to ensure the program created is practical and sustainable. Thank you.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), in collaboration with the Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF), is developing a **voluntary national farm-level biosecurity standard** and producer guidance document for the **sheep industry**. An advisory group is guiding the development of the standard and guidance document. This group is composed of representatives from CSF, provincial associations, producers, academia, and provincial and federal governments. The national standard is expected to be completed by the summer of 2013 and will focus on the broad issues affecting biosecurity. Funding for this project is being provided through the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada *Growing Forward* program.

Biosecurity refers to activities that can be done to minimize the risk of introducing and spreading disease in sheep flocks. The benefits of adopting a national approach to biosecurity include the following:

- helping to prevent, detect and control infectious disease,
- increasing productivity when there is no disease present, and
- contributing to the continuation of inter-provincial and international trade in the face of a disease outbreak.

A **national producer-level study** will be conducted to help in developing the standard. The study will explore current farm-level biosecurity activities and best practices. This study is very important in the development of the standard in order to make it **realistic** and **achievable** for producers to easily implement on-farm.

**Serecon Management Consulting** has been engaged under contract to work with the CSF, CFIA, the Advisory Group and other stakeholders in the development of the standard and the administration of the questionnaire for the producer-level study, which will be conducted by phone or on-farm interviews. The CSF and your provincial associations are respectfully asking for **volunteers** to respond to the biosecurity questionnaire. The intent is to have sufficient volunteers in order to ensure that the data can be analyzed by geographic region, production type and flock size. In order to have a representative sample of the sheep industry in Canada, Serecon is looking for:

Provinces	Target number of farms
British Columbia	22
Alberta	22
Saskatchewan	20
Manitoba	28
Ontario	37
Quebec	61
New Brunswick	9
Nova Scotia	19
PEI	8
Newfoundland and Labrador	11
<b>Canada</b>	<b>237</b>

We are seeking your participation in the national producer-level study. The only contact information required is your name and telephone number. If you are interested we would ask that you directly contact Jennifer Mac Tavish, the CSF's director to ensure that you have the opportunity to participate in this very important process for the sheep industry. These new national voluntary standards must be based on actual experience in the industry. Your input will serve to ensure that standards are operational.

Please rest assured that the issue of **confidentiality** is of critical importance to the project team. Names and information related to those names will be handled following a formal process that is designed specifically to ensure that data remains confidential. Neither the names nor attached information will be used for any other purpose, or shared with CSF, CFIA or any person or Agencies outside of the Serecon team. All contact information will be destroyed immediately after the study is completed. Serecon's data management process follows principles developed and outlined in the Freedom of Information and Privacy (FOIP) Act, and may be viewed at [http://www.serecon.ca/uploads/serecon/Serecon\\_Privacy\\_Policy.pdf](http://www.serecon.ca/uploads/serecon/Serecon_Privacy_Policy.pdf) . Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to call Cheryl March, Privacy Officer collect ([780 448 7440](tel:7804487440)). Thank you for considering this request. For further information, please contact:

- Canadian Food Inspection Agency: Dr Manon Racicot at [613-773-7366](tel:6137737366)
- Canadian Sheep Federation: Jennifer Mac Tavish at [1-888-684-7739](tel:18886847739)
- Serecon Management Consulting: Bob Burden [1-780-448-7440](tel:17804487440)

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