

**CANADIAN SHEEP FEDERATION
2010 BLUETONGUE INSURANCE FOR SHEEP AVAILABLE NOW!**

Canada's sheep farmers now have a proactive tool to manage the growing threat of loss due to Bluetongue disease.

The Bluetongue Insurance Policy for Sheep has been designed in such a way that producers who have coverage, and have been diagnosed with *any* of the 25 serotypes of Bluetongue disease will receive compensation above and beyond CFIA compensation. This voluntary insurance supplements funding provided to sheep farmers through current government agricultural assistance programs.

In contrast, a vaccination program in Canada would require vaccinating flocks against all expected serotypes and any new or emerging strains of the disease. There is not a universal bluetongue vaccine that will protect against all serotypes of the virus. Each serotype of the bluetongue virus would require its own separate vaccine for protection. Communication with US vaccine producer (Fort Dodge) for serotype 10 indicates use of vaccine in the USA is extremely limited. Furthermore, there is no licensed Bluetongue vaccine in Canada nor interest from US manufacturers to pursue licensing as the Canadian market is perceived to be too small. As vaccination is not possible or practical at this time, commercial insurance coverage provides a more affordable and accessible option for Canadian sheep farmers.

HOW DOES BLUETONGUE INSURANCE WORK?

Bluetongue Insurance covers producers for: mortality; consequential loss (drugs and treatment materials; veterinary fees; diagnostic fees; humane euthanasia) and; business interruption (loss of productive capability, additional feeding and management costs).

Premiums for Bluetongue Insurance vary by province reflecting differences in risk. Depending on your province of residence coverage will be 0.55 -1.78% of the sum insured. The value of the insured animal is predetermined and is defined in the policy. This value is reviewed annually to ensure it keeps pace with the market value. If the market value of the animal changes during the life of the policy, the change in market value will have no impact on the settlement price in the event of a loss.

For more information on the BT Insurance program visit:

<http://cansheep.ca/cms/en/Programs/BluetongueProgram/BluetongueProgram.aspx>

For more information on Bluetongue Disease:

<http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/bluetongue.pdf>

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