

Canada's National Sheep Network thanks the Government of Canada for additional support to help us continue to feed Canadians

May 5, 2020 (Airdrie, AB) – As Canadians across the country continue to deal with the health, social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Sheep Network (NSN) is thankful for the additional support announcement by the Prime Minister today.

"Today's announcement is the start of the kind of support we need from our federal government. It will help our meat processors continue to improve their facilities ensuring safe working conditions for their employees while continuing their operations" said Ryan Greir Chair of NSN. "The resiliency of our processing capacity is critical to maintaining our ability to keep food on our shelves and our producers in business."

NSN has been working throughout the COVID-19 crisis to manage and address sheep supply chain challenges. The national collaboration has established a supply chain task force to identify and address issues within the supply chain.

In addition, NSN continues to work with industry and government partners to reform the existing suite of business risk management (BRM) programs to better support the immediate and long-term negative impact of COVID-19 on the sheep industry. As noted by the Prime Minister this morning, these measures are just the next step in addressing the ongoing challenges to our food supply during the crisis. We all know there is more to do.

"We would like to express our appreciation to the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada" said Greir. "It is imperative that industry and government continue to work as partners to manage the risks and challenges in our food supply chain, and we are committed to ensuring our members can continue to stay in business and support Canadians through this crisis."

The NSN represents Canada's business of sheep farming. We are a formal collaboration currently consisting of the top three lamb producing provinces, Quebec, Ontario, and Alberta. Home to 72% of Canada's ewe flock and over 80% of processing, the NSN contributes over \$900 million to Canada's economy.

For more information, please contact:

Ryan Greir National Sheep Network ryan@ablamb.ca 403.305.6174