

NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION

THE FOLLOWING WAS TAKEN FROM A REPORT TO THE CGS BOARD THAT WAS SUBMITTED BY THE NATIONAL ID COMMITTEE IN LATE OCTOBER AS WELL AS NEW DEVELOPMENTS.

AS AN INDUSTRY WE MUST FORMULATE A PLAN RECOMMENDING AN ADMINISTRATOR, FORMS OF INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFICATION, A TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION, AND SUGGEST PENALTIES FOR NON COMPLIANCE. ONCE WE HAVE A PLAN IN PLACE WE MUST APPROACH THE CANADIAN FOOD INSPECTION AGENCY (CFIA) WITH OUR FORMULATED PLAN AND CFIA REVIEWS IT AND JUDGES IF IT MEETS THE STANDARDS OF A NATIONAL ID SYSTEM. IF NOT WE GO BACK AND FORMULATE A NEW PLAN. IT NOW APPEARS THAT THE ONLY WAY WE CAN GET GOATS INTO THE LEGISLATION WITH MINIMAL INVESTIGATION WOULD BE TO SIMPLY ADD GOATS TO AN EXISTING POLICY. AT PRESENT THIS WOULD MEAN JOINING THE EXISTING CATTLE REGULATION INCLUDING THEIR TAGGING METHODS. AT THIS TIME THE SHEEP INDUSTRY HAD HOPED TO HAVE A PROGRAM IN PLACE BY JANUARY 2003 BUT NOW ARE BEING DELAYED BY THE LENGTHY PROCESS REQUIRED TO ADD SHEEP TO THE SYSTEM GOVERNING THE ID PROGRAMS FOR CATTLE AND BISON. THE SHEEP ARE NOW LOOKING AT LATE 2003. THEIR NEW PLAN IS TO HAVE A RANGE OF TAGS AVAILABLE, INCLUDING METAL, PLASTIC AND PERHAPS ELECTRONIC- AS LONG AS THE TAGS MEET THE STANDARDS FOR FLEXIBILITY AND STRENGTH AND REMAIN LEGIBLE AFTER FIVE YEARS. ONCE WE HAVE A CHANCE TO EXAMINE THEIR FINAL PROGRAM WE COULD INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITY OF UTILIZING THEIR REGULATION INCLUDING THEIR TAGGING METHODS.

AFTER MANY DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CFIA AND RESPONSES RECEIVED, IT SEEMS VERY UNLIKELY THAT TATTOOS WILL BE ACCEPTED AS A FORM OF IDENTIFICATION. THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME CONFUSION WITH THE UNITED STATES AND THEIR SCRAPIE ERADICATION PROGRAM AND A NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM. WHILE TATTOOS ARE ALLOWED FOR THE SCRAPIE PROGRAM IT IS NOT A NATIONAL ID PROGRAM.

IT ALSO APPEARS THAT CFIA IS LEANING HEAVILY TOWARDS THE CANADIAN CATTLE IDENTIFICATION ASSOCIATION (CCIA) AS ADMINISTRATOR OF CHOICE SO IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO INCLUDE CCIA AS AN OPTION IN OUR PLAN. NO MATTER WHICH ADMINISTRATOR WE APPROACH, WE WILL HAVE TO FIRST DETERMINE IF THEY WOULD ACT AS ADMINISTRATOR FOR OUR PROPOSED PLAN AND SECOND, HOW MUCH IT WOULD COST.

SINCE THIS WILL NOT BE FORCED UPON US, AT LEAST NOT ANYTIME SOON, IT MAY BE PRUDENT TO OBSERVE OTHER COMMODITIES FOR A TIME THEN ATTEMPT TO FORMULATE ONE OF OUR OWN. THERE ARE RUMOURS THAT THE CATTLE INDUSTRY WILL BE ALTERING THEIR EXISTING SYSTEM AND THIS MAY PROVIDE THE GOAT INDUSTRY WITH NEW IDEAS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION. SECRETARY MANAGERS FROM THE DAIRY CATTLE BREEDS AND DAVID TRUS MET FOR A LATE SUMMER MEETING AND TWO OF THE MAIN ITEMS DISCUSSED WERE RADIO FREQUENCY (RF)ID AND THE NEED TO ELIMINATE SOME TAGGING OPTIONS.

THE DAIRY GOAT COMMITTEE HAS INVESTIGATED SEVERAL TAGGING METHODS INCLUDING LEG BANDS WHICH WERE MADE FOR RATITES AND OTHER PURPOSES. SOME ARE THE RIGHT SIZE AND CAN BE BAR CODED BUT ARE NOT SUITABLE FOR YOUNG KIDS. THERE ARE OTHERS WHICH ARE TAMPERPROOF, NARROW AND INEXPENSIVE BUT IT IS UNKNOWN IF THEY CAN BE BAR CODED.

WE HAVE ALSO INVESTIGATED RF TAGS (CHIPS) AND WOULD BE A PROMISING CHOICE FOR GOAT PRODUCERS. IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT THERE WILL BE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS ATTACHED TO ANY SYSTEM WE DEVELOP BUT AT THIS TIME THE COST OF CHIPS IS AROUND \$10.00 EACH. THE RADIO FREQUENCY READER FOR THESE TAGS IS HIGH BUT AUSTRALIAN RESEARCHERS ARE WORKING ON A RADIO FREQUENCY

TAG THAT CAN BE READ WITH A SCANNER WITH GREATER ACCURACY THAN A BAR CODE.

THE CANADIAN CATTLE IDENTIFICATION AGENCY (CCIA) HAS CURRENTLY APPROVED 29 TAG OPTIONS . THESE TAGS HAVE BEEN TESTED IN CATTLE UNDER TRIAL CONDITIONS AND HAVE MET THE PROGRAM'S CRITERIA FOR RETENTION, READABILITY AND ABILITY TO WITHSTAND TAMPERING IN CATTLE. THE APPROVED BAR CODE TAGS ARE ALL THE LARGE DANGLE TYPE EAR TAGS.

THE SHEEP INDUSTRY HAS APPROVED THE KETCHUM KURL-LOCK #3 FOR THE ID SYSTEM AND THIS WOULD BE AN ANSWER TO TAGGING NEWBORN KIDS OR SLAUGHTER ANIMALS BUT WE CANNOT FIND WHERE THE CFIA HAS APPROVED THESE TAGS AS AN IDENTIFICATION MEANS AND WE WILL HAVE TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS WITH THE SHEEP.

SINCE CANADIAN PRODUCERS WILL BE PAYING THE COST OF THE SYSTEM- A SHARP DIFFERENCE FROM ID SCHEMES IN THE U.S., EUROPE AND THE PACIFIC, WHERE GOVERNMENT COVERS THE COSTS- AN AFFORDABLE SYSTEM IS VITAL.

THE COMMITTEE IS CONSIDERING RECOMMENDING POLLING GOAT PRODUCERS AND ASKING THEM TO RATE THE TYPE OF IDENTIFICATION THEY PREFER IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE. THE POLL SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE AS MANY OPTIONS AS POSSIBLE RELATING TO ALL ASPECTS OF AN IDENTIFICATION PLAN INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO TIMING, ADMINISTRATION, TAGGING OPTIONS, MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE COST, IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE AND FINES FOR NON COMPLIANCE. THE PRODUCERS SHOULD ALSO BE ASKED TO COMMENT ON WHETHER TO WAIT AND OBSERVE THE SUCCESS OF OTHER PLANS OR TO BEGIN THE PROCESS FOR GOATS IMMEDIATELY. IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO ASK PRODUCERS FOR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS AND WE HAVE HEARD FROM ONE ASSOCIATION TO DATE.

ONCE THE DATA IS COLLECTED A PLAN CAN THEN BE FORMULATED TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE CFIA. IF IT WERE REJECTED THEN IT WOULD BE EASY AND INEXPENSIVE TO RESUBMIT ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS USING THE DATA COLLECTED FROM THE POLLS.