



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pink Ketchum Kurl-Lock tag to be revoked from CSIP by end of October

Ottawa, ON (September 15, 2017) - Canadian sheep farmers and ranchers should expect the pink metal Ketchum Kurl-Lock #3 tag to be revoked from the Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP) at the end of October 2017. In an upcoming meeting of national ID program administrators, stakeholders and government representatives scheduled for early October, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) will recommend revoking the pink metal Ketchum Kurl-Lock tag. In a meeting earlier this week, the Canadian Sheep Federation Board of Directors elected to support the tag's revocation, as they considered a recommendation from the CSIP Working Group to do so.

“As we begin to prepare for new traceability regulations expected to come into effect within the next two years, the Board felt it was time to revoke the tag” says Canadian Sheep Federation Chairman, Phil Kolodychuk, adding “we encourage producers to check their stock as they sell them to make sure they are compliant with the changes to the ID program once the pink metal Ketchum Kurl-Lock tag is revoked”.

The pink metal Ketchum Kurl-Lock #3 tag, identified in CSIP as OVI-07-01, has been an approved identifier since CSIP became part of the Health of Animals Act back in 2004. A decision to phase the tag out of the national ID program came in October 2011, when the tags were no longer offered for sale. Since then, producers were encouraged to use what they had left of the tags with the reminder that the tag would eventually be revoked. That day is near, and could happen as soon as the end of next month. The official announcement on the status of the pink metal Ketchum Kurl-Lock tag is expected in early October. The pink plastic Allflex tag (OVI-01-02) will remain CSIP approved, and provide a non-electronic tag option to producers who prefer a non-RFID tag.

Until the pink metal Ketchum tag is officially revoked, sheep farmers and ranchers may continue to ship animals that already have pink tags in them and even use up any tags they have left on the farm. However, once the revocation date for the Ketchum tag arrives sheep leaving the farm will have to have one of the remaining approved program tags in their ear. If you plan on shipping sheep that have a pink metal Ketchum tag in them after the revocation date, you will need to *add* an approved tag and report the new tag number to Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) along with the number of the pink tag already on the animal. You **MAY NOT** remove a pink metal Ketchum tag from a sheep or lamb even after the tag has been revoked, it is illegal.

For more information about the Canadian Sheep Identification Program, visit the Canadian Sheep Federation's website at: www.cansheep.ca or give us a call at 888.684.7739.

For detailed information about regulated national animal identification programs, including up to date lists of approved identifiers for all regulated species, visit the Canadian Food Inspection Agency website: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrialanimals/traceability/eng/1300461751002/1300461804752>

To report information to the CSIP database, including the application of a new tag to an animal with a pink metal Ketchum Kurl-Lock tag, access your online account at <https://www.clia.livestockid.ca/CLTS/secure/user/home.do>. If you're having trouble accessing your online account, give CCIA a call at 877.909.2333.