

# Expanding Federally Inspected Lamb Processing

## A CFFO Policy Statement

- Whereas** Canadian lamb production accounts for only 50% of national lamb consumption and Ontario lamb production accounts for only an estimated 40% of lamb consumption in Ontario;
- Whereas** the strength of the Canadian dollar at more than \$0.80 U.S. would be a significant factor in limiting lamb exports south even if BSE-related border difficulties were resolved;
- Whereas** the U.S. Scrapie Surveillance Program will also limit exports to the U.S. even if BSE-related border difficulties were resolved;
- Whereas** rising energy prices are translating into higher transportation cost for New Zealand lamb creating a new opportunity to replace those imports with Ontario production;
- Whereas** CFFO has a long-standing policy of wanting governments to provide better support for import replacement;
- Whereas** sheep producers are frustrated with having to depend on processing facilities that are committed to and are already very busy with cattle and cull cows;
- Whereas** most of Ontario's lamb slaughter is in provincially inspected facilities resulting in the requirement that the lamb be consumed inside Ontario's borders;
- Whereas** federally inspected lamb is generally available in supermarket stores on the Prairies and in Quebec;
- Whereas** Ontario sheep producers have demonstrated an ability to meet changing market opportunities by increasing lamb production by 50% since 1999; and
- Whereas** low prices put at risk those sheep producers who have recently invested in new technology, facilities, equipment and/or breeding stock and in many cases have made a full-time commitment to sheep production (those that are vital to an expanding and maturing sector);

### Therefore Be It Resolved

- That** CFFO ask the federal and provincial governments to support the Canadian sheep meat sector by supporting financially and with policy the establishment of significantly more federally inspected lamb kill space in Ontario; and further
- That** Canada/Ontario set a significant goal (minimum 25%) for Ontario lamb meat processed at federally inspected facilities by 2008.

*Adopted November 3, 2004*

*Provincial Council*

*Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario*