

Greetings,

Please take the time to read this email in its entirety.

We realize everyone is busy and their time is limited but the information below is extremely critical to the future of 4-H livestock programs, livestock shows and educational animal displays at your fairs and events in the future.

FYI - This email is being sent to the main contact for your agricultural society.

IMPORTANT – Please forward this email to your board members, and all directors and members of your agricultural society ASAP – we need as many people as possible to support this initiative.



1) Background

CFIA has recently released details of proposed modifications to the current Livestock Traceability regulations – PART XV of the Health of Animals (Identification and Traceability).

The OAAS, and our national and provincial partners, have several concerns about the current and proposed regulations but **the section of the proposed regulations that we feel will have the most significant effect on our agricultural societies and their volunteer workload is related to animal movement.**

2) OAAS Concerns about the proposed changes to the CFIA Health of Animals regulations

We are extremely concerned with the proposed amendments - **which will require agricultural societies to be responsible for collecting and submitting information for animal movement to/from fairgrounds for livestock and 4-H shows.**

The position of the OAAS, and our provincial and national partners, is that the reporting of movement to/from fairgrounds is the responsibility of the farm of origin (owner of animal). The burden of collecting and reporting this information should not fall upon our agricultural societies.

We are concerned that our agricultural societies do not have the volunteer or financial resources to collect and submit the required information and societies **could be forced to reduce or eliminate 4-H livestock programs, livestock shows and educational animal displays at their fairs and other events.**

- The proposed amendments to the current regulations will require every agricultural society **to collect and submit the following information for each animal of the following species - dairy or beef cattle, bison, sheep, goats or pigs** within 7 days after the date on which the animal arrived on your fairgrounds.
 - 1) the premises identification number of the host farm;
 - 2) the premises identification number of the fairgrounds;
 - 3) the date and time of departure of the vehicle transporting from the host farm;
 - 4) the date and time of arrival of the vehicle on the fairgrounds;
 - 5) the identification number on the approved tag/indicator for **each** animal;
 - 6) the licence plate number of the vehicle that transported the animals;

These regulations will apply **to any event that involves the listed animals** that is held on your fairgrounds -- not just your fair. For example, if you rent or loan your premises for a 4-H show, calf rally, livestock show, etc. - your agricultural society will be responsible for collecting and reporting the animal movement, as explained above.

3) OAAS and national and provincial partners are lobbying CFIA to change the legislation

So far, CFIA is acknowledging the arguments that CAFE has submitted against the new legislation but thus far, CFIA is not considering our concerns and are not willing to change their proposed amendments.

CFIA comments in the Canada Gazette indicate to the OAAS that CFIA does not have a realistic idea of the amount of work that the proposed requirement to collect and submit the required animal movement information will place upon our agricultural societies and their volunteers. Or the reality that agricultural societies and their communities could be negatively affected by the excessive workload the CFIA proposed changes could cause.

4) We need your participation – here’s how!!

The large number of letters and emails that our agricultural societies sent to provincial ministers and your local MPPs helped the OAAS to secure the millions of dollars of COVID funding.

Your support for this initiative could have an even bigger impact!!

We need your participation in this initiative to make CFIA aware of the negative effect that their proposed regulations could have on our agricultural societies, the 4-H program, livestock shows and our opportunity to promote agriculture, local food and positively showcase livestock production to the general public.

a) FIRST AND FOREMOST - submit your concerns via the Canada Gazette Part I, Volume 157, Number 11

CFIA will be influenced by numbers – if only a few people respond with their concerns via the Gazette – CFIA will be able to argue that agricultural societies and their members don’t have an issue with the proposed changes.

Therefore, it is critical that agricultural societies, directors, and members as well as your family, friends and supporters from across Canada flood CFIA with hundreds, hopefully thousands, of submissions of your concerns via the Canada Gazette.

If each agricultural society’s directors and members in Ontario submitted a minimum of 10 responses to CFIA via the Canada Gazette that would be over 2,000 submissions! That’s not counting submissions from your exhibitors and supporters.

NOTE - We have until June 16, 2023 to respond with comments and concerns about these changes via the Gazette so please act quickly.

CAFE held their first webinar on April 11th to give a brief overview on how to submit your comments and concerns to CFIA regarding the proposed regulations. The webinar also spoke about the “Position Paper” which explains the CAFE, OAAS and our provincial partners objections and suggested alternatives to the CFIA proposals.

We are asking that you copy the “Position Paper” information into your submission on the Canada Gazette under “*Add a comment for the General Comment section*” field (top of the form) and your personal comments into the “*Add a comment for the PART XV Animal Identification and Traceability section*” field (near the bottom of the form). The CAFE webinar and/or the instructions on the CAFE website gives more details.

Link to **Canada Gazette** Part I, Volume 157, Number 11 - <https://canadagazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2023/2023-03-18/html/reg1-eng.html>

If you were unable to attend this webinar, - the recording and instructions are available on our website <https://www.ontarioagsocieties.com/communication/oaas-news/438-information-on-the-proposed-regulations>

Here is the link to CAFE website - <https://www.canadianfairs.ca/livestock-traceability> with the step-by-step instructions to input your comments via the Canada Gazette.

NOTE: Unfortunately, CFIA will only accept comments via the Canada Gazette website and it isn't the most straightforward/easiest to navigate so we suggest you check out the very short clip on the CAFE site with the step-by-step instructions or view the webinar recording prior to submitting your comments via the Canada Gazette

Additional webinars

There is another webinar scheduled for April 19th at 9:00 pm. It is scheduled for Western Canada attendees that is why it starts at 9:00 pm.

Here is the link to register for that webinar - <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlpd-ypjlvE9Es2UryViUZG7zSWO8daz84#/registration>

NOTE: If there is sufficient interest, we will look at scheduling another one later in Ontario.

b) Email your MP, Federal Minister of Agriculture, MPPs and Provincial Minister of Agriculture using the link on the OAAS website to get their support for our position.

Let them know your concerns about the proposed legislation. We encourage you to include specifics on how you feel these changes will affect your agricultural society, and the 4-H programs and livestock shows, and educational animal displays at your fair.

Here is the link to the form - <https://www.ontarioagsocieties.com/communication/oaas-news/435-livestock-traceability-information>

c) Spread the word!!

Share with your network - exhibitors, livestock groups that use your facilities, and friends, family and community networks. Use word of mouth, email and social media to call as many people to action as possible!

Share this information with your local 4-H clubs, livestock breed organizations and let them know that the proposed changes to the legislation **could force your agricultural society to reduce or eliminate 4-H livestock programs and livestock shows at your fair and other events** because your society does not have the volunteer resources to collect and submit the required information.

- i) **FIRST** - Share the links to the Canada Gazette and the CAFE website with the step-by-step instructions or the CAFE webinar recording and ask them to submit their concerns to CFIA via to the Gazette. This must be submitted by June 16, 2023.
- ii) Share the link to the email form and ask them to send emails to their MPs and the Federal Minister of Agriculture and their provincial counterparts via the email form.

5) Links to information

- If you would like to read the Canada Gazette with all the details on the proposed changes to the legislation and the CFIA rationale for the changes - Canada Gazette Part I, Volume 157, Number 11 - <https://canadagazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2023/2023-03-18/html/reg1-eng.html>
- OAAS website - <https://www.ontarioagsocieties.com/>
- CAFE website - <https://www.canadianfairs.ca/livestock-traceability> with the step-by-step instructions to input your comments via the Canada Gazette
- CAFE webinar recording - <https://www.ontarioagsocieties.com/communication/oaas-news/438-information-on-the-proposed-regulations>
- Position Paper that CAFE has submitted to CFIA on behalf of the OAAS and our provincial counterparts https://www.canadianfairs.ca/files/uqd/a7c392_f5af3b402ead4536a4d187cbbb6e8ab1.pdf

- Email form to contact your MP, MPP and Ministers of Agriculture - <https://www.ontarioagsocieties.com/communication/oaas-news/435-livestock-traceability-information>

I wish to thank you for taking the time to read and forward this email.

I can't stress enough how critical it is that your agricultural society, directors and members submit your concerns to CFIA via the Canada Gazette no later than June 16, 2023.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your Provincial Director.

Thanks,



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"Teamwork makes our Ag Societies Strong."