USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services,
National Center For Import And Export:
Protocol For The Importation Of
Sheep And Goats For Feeding From Canada

1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1.1 In order to import uncastrated sheep and goats under this protocol, the importer must obtain an import permit from:

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
Veterinary Services (VS)
National Center for Import-Export (NCIE)
4700 River Road, Unit 39
Riverdale, Maryland
20737-1231

The web site to obtain the import permit application (VS 17-129) is:
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie.

This permit is valid for 14 days from the date specified on the application as the "proposed arrival date" Wethers (castrated sheep and goats) do not need a permit. However, the entire sealed shipment must consist of castrated sheep and goats and must be certified as such on the Health Certificate.

The sheep and goats must be presented for entry at a land border port listed in 9 CFR 93.403(b).

1.2 An original and two copies of the official Canadian health certificate are required for each vehicle. The official health certificate must be issued by a veterinarian designated or accredited by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), and must be endorsed by a full-time salaried veterinarian employed by CFIA attesting to the certifications and tests required in this protocol. The health certificate is valid for 30 days from the issue date.

1.3 The official health certificate must include:

a) name and address of the importer;
b) species, breed, and number of sheep or goats to be imported,
c) purpose of the importation;
d) individual sheep or goat identification, which includes the eartag number, and any other identification present on the animal, including registration number (if any);
e) description of the sheep or goat, including name, age in months, color, and markings (if any);
f) region/country of origin origin (**Note:** this part should read Canada. If the animals originated in the United States, then the certificate can indicate "U.S." in this part);

g) address or other means of identifying the premises of origin and any other premises where the sheep or goats resided immediately prior to export;
h) specific physical location of the feedlot where the sheep or goats are to be moved after importation;
i) name and address of the exporter;
j) port of embarkation in Canada, the mode of transportation, route of travel, and port of entry in the United States; and
k) identification numbers of the Canadian seals that have been applied to the vehicle.

1.4 Each animal must be individually identified by an official Canadian eartag, applied before the animal's arrival at the port of entry into the United States. All tags must be clean and readable and preferably in the right ear to expedite inspection at the port of entry. Complete ear tag numbers must be recorded on the health certificate.

1.5 The feedlot of destination must have **prior approval** by VS to receive feeder sheep or goats from Canada in accordance with 9 CFR 93.419(d) (8). Contact the Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC) in the State of destination for further information.

2. HEALTH CERTIFICATIONS

2.1 The sheep or goats have been kept in Canada during the last 60 days immediately preceding the date of shipment to the United States, and during this time, Canada has been free from foot-and-mouth disease and rinderpest. [Ref: 9CFR 93.405(a)(1)]

2.2 The sheep or goats are not in quarantine in Canada. [Ref: 9CFR 93.405(a)(2)]

2.3 The sheep or goats are not pregnant or the sheep or goats have been castrated.

2.4 With regard to Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy the following certifications must be made:

2.4(a) the sheep or goats are **less than 12 months** of age when imported into the United States [Ref: 9CFR 93.419(c)];

2.4(b) the sheep or goats are subject to a ruminant feed ban equivalent to the requirements established by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration [Ref: 9CFR 93.419(c)] [Ref: 21CFR 589.2000];

2.4(c) the sheep or goats have been permanently and humanely identified before arrival at the port of entry with a distinct and legible C mark that has been properly applied with a freeze brand, hot iron, or other permanent method, and is easily visible on the live animal. This mark must also be visible on the carcass

before skinning and be not less than 1 inches or more than 1 1/4 inches high [Ref: 9CFR 93.419(c)]; and

2.4(d) other means of permanent identification may be used **if requested in writing and approved by NCIE prior to import** [Ref: 9CFR 93.419(c)].

3. TESTING

3.1 No tests are required for feeder sheep or goats.

4. PORT OF ENTRY INSPECTION

4.1 Sheep or goats must be presented by appointment to a U.S. port of entry listed in 9 CFR 93.403(b). The VS Form 17-29 "Declaration of Importation" must be completed by the customs broker and must be presented to the port veterinarian along with the official health certificate.

4.2 Sheep or goats must arrive at the port of entry in a vehicle that has been sealed in Canada with seals of the national government of Canada. (In the event that Customs and Border Protection [CBP] inspected the vehicle, CBP will reseal the vehicle with official seals.) The Canadian seal numbers must be included on the Canadian health certificate. If the vehicle arrives at the port of entry and the Canadian seals are broken, missing, or do not match the seal numbers on the health certificate, the entire shipment will be refused entry. In the event that the shipment does not comply with protocol requirements, the port veterinarian will document the number of sheep or goats in the shipments that are rejected. The port veterinarian will also contact the appropriate officials with CBP and CFIA port authorities to inform them of the refusal of the shipment.

4.3 The port veterinarian shall inspect the animals and examine the health certificate and verify that the requirements of this protocol have been met. The port veterinarian will then issue VS Form 17-130 "Ruminants Imported to Designated/Approved Feedlots" and VS Form 17-30, "Report of Animals, Poultry or Eggs offered for Importation."

4.4 If the Canadian seals are broken by the APHIS port veterinarian at the port of entry, official seals of the U.S. Government will be applied by the port veterinarian and noted on the VS Form 17-130, along with any Canadian or CBP seals that remain intact on the vehicle.

5. POST ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

5.1 The sealed shipment must be moved directly from the port of entry to a **pre-approved designated feedlot** identified on VS Form 17-130.

5.2 The seals can only be broken at the feedlot by a State or U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) representative, an accredited veterinarian, or his/her designee (i.e., an employee of the accredited veterinarian). It is the responsibility of the State or U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) representative, an accredited veterinarian, or his/her designee (i.e., an employee of the accredited veterinarian) to complete #13 to 18 on VS Form 17-130 and return it to the port veterinarian within 14 days of receipt of the shipment. If the seals are broken, missing, or do not match the seal numbers listed on VS Form 17-130, the individual receiving the shipment must immediately notify the port veterinarian and the AVIC.

5.3 No person may alter, deface, remove, or otherwise tamper with the individual official animal identification while the animal is in the United States or moving into or through the United States. Official animal identification may be removed only at the time of slaughter.

5.4 The sheep or goats must remain at the feedlot identified on VS Form 17-130 until transported from the feedlot to a recognized slaughtering establishment for slaughter.

5.5 The sheep or goats must be moved directly from the feedlot to a recognized slaughtering establishment in vehicles that are sealed by an accredited veterinarian or a State or USDA representative with seals of the U.S. Government. The seals may be broken only at the recognized slaughtering establishment by a USDA representative.

5.6 The shipment must also be accompanied to the slaughter establishment by VS Form 17-130 and VS Form 1-27 completed by an accredited veterinarian or a State or USDA representative. VS Form 1-27 must identify the physical location of the recognized slaughtering establishment, the individual responsible for the movement of the animals, and the individual identification of each animal, which includes the official eartag and any other identification present on the animal. A copy of the official health certificate must also accompany the shipment.

5.7 The sheep or goats **must be less than 12 months of age** when slaughtered.

6. BREEDING ANIMALS

6.1 Breeding sheep or goats cannot be imported from Canada at this time. Also, pregnant sheep or goats are not considered feeders and cannot be imported under this protocol.