



Canadian Quality Assurance Program Alliance  
Alliance des programmes d'assurance de la qualité du Canada

***Agriculture Commodity Groups Continue On-Farm Programming Alliance***  
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Ottawa, Ontario: The former Canadian On-Farm Food Safety (COFFS) working group continues to collaborate as national commodity associations further develop programming at the farm level. Now named Canadian Quality Assurance Program Alliance (CQAPA), to reflect the variety of on-farm programs.

“We are continuing the collaboration that the COFFS working group did to develop practical and auditable on-farm programming, says Chairperson Kristy House. “Many programs have now expanded modules into animal care, biosecurity, traceability, post-harvest processing or environmental stewardship. The solid background of ISO-based programming is an effective model to take forward to extend auditing options for the new components. We want to continue to share learnings and collaborate where it makes sense to do so”.

Farm programming can intersect where producers have more than one commodity and want to avoid several auditors coming to the farm. This group will continue to share approaches to program implementation to reduce duplication and share learnings, says House. “Continuing to build a common pool of qualified auditors, for example, can help build cost-effective programming.”

Over 99% of Canadian agriculture organizations developed on-farm food safety programming, including livestock, grains, specialty crops and horticulture. A common denominator followed was Canada’s federal-provincial *Food Safety Recognition Program* led by CFIA. As programs expand, extending that common approach in development will help continue credibility. “The CQAPA plans on assisting program collaboration as well as communicate the similarities in these programs so that customers can source from auditable programs at several levels.”

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For more information

Chairperson: Kristy House, Canadian Sheep Federation, 613-220-2711 [kristy@cansheep.ca](mailto:kristy@cansheep.ca)

Vice Chair: Connie Kehler, Herbs Spice & Specialty Agriculture, 306-694-4622 [hssa@sasktel.net](mailto:hssa@sasktel.net)