Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

House of Commons

Ottawa, Ontario

K1A 0A6

Marie-Claude.Bibeau@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister,

My name is **<** Name **>**, I am the **<** President/ Secretary/role **>** with the **<** Name **>** Agricultural Society in **<** City/town name **>**, Ontario.

**First and foremost, our Agricultural Society along with the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies understands and fully supports the need for a fully integrated national livestock identification and traceability program.**

However the current and proposed CFIA Traceability Requirements could place an undue burden upon our volunteers and may threaten the continued viability of our fair

We are asking the CFIA to work with the OAAS and their national and provincial counterparts to modify the CFIA Traceability Requirements to place the responsibility on the owners and exhibitors for tracking and tagging livestock rather than on our Agricultural Societies volunteers.

Our major concern about the CFIA Traceability Requirements is that they could pose a substantial financial and volunteer burden to our Agricultural Society and may result in us being forced to discontinue our 4-H Livestock Achievement Programs and livestock shows and displays due to the increased expense and complexity of organizing these shows and displays. 4-H Livestock Achievement Programs and Livestock Shows and displays **are an integral part of our fair** and their loss would be devastating to us and the local community.

Most people are 2 to 3 generations removed from the farm and for many of them, fairs provide the **only** opportunity for them to connect with the producers and learn about agriculture and where their food comes from.

**<** Input some specifics about your fair – when established, what kind of livestock shows, Educational Livestock displays and 4-H livestock Programs you have. Also indicate the specific effect these changes could have on your Agricultural Society/Fair and your community, added expense of purchasing tags, extra work for volunteers to track animal movement, what would be the effect on your fair and the community if your fair were no longer able to host 4-H Achievement Programs and livestock shows/displays **>**.

We believe there is room for positive dialogue and cooperation on this matter. Will you commit to strongly considering placing the responsibility on the owners and exhibitors for tracking livestock movement and providing tags rather than on our Agricultural Society volunteers?

I look forward to your response. Thank you for considering this important matter for our Agricultural Society and our community.

Sincerely,

**<** Name **>**