

ONTARIO SHEEP NEWS

Vol. 40 - Issue 1 Spring 2022

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OSF Advocacy Behind Proposed
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Photo submissions for use in publications (magazine, promotional/ education materials). Photo submissions are welcomed. Include the following information with your submission: name, mailing address, phone number, email address, expressed consent for Ontario Sheep Farmers to use the photo. If there are individuals in the picture, they should be identified and permission to print their picture must be secured either directly (if adults) or (if children) from a parent/guardian. Emailed photos must be a minimum of 300dpi and each photo should be clearly identified with the required information as outlined above. Photos will not be returned, and all submissions become the property of Ontario Sheep Farmers to be used or reproduced at the organization's discretion. Wherever possible, credit will be given to the photographer if used.

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Tapping Into Our Positive Resourceful Side

It seems that everywhere we turn, there are more challenges popping up to continue to test our strength and resilience – as individuals and as an industry. After two years in this suspended state, most of us are longing for something that resembles what we knew. And yet, these disruptions throughout our world keep showing up.

Interest rates are beginning to climb. We're already feeling the effect of rising fuel costs and fertilizer. We're witness to the rising returns for wheat brought about by unimaginable circumstances facing our "civilized" world. And yet, we must keep pulling together. We are watching incredible acts of kindness and humanity in Europe for those fleeing the Ukraine.

Watching all of these challenges, also makes me think about the opportunities we have. Agriculture and our rural communities are inherently strong and supportive. We all

pitch in whenever and wherever others need help – in times of crisis and celebration. And now is exactly when we need to draw on that strength and innovation and collaboration.

How can we work together to find creative solutions for some of the challenges we face? Where can we find innovative ideas? Let's ask ourselves what we could do to make a difference together.

Now more than ever we need to dig deep for the resourcefulness we use every day on our farms. The challenges of broken supply chains, rising costs and interest rates and the needs of our customers and partners will challenge all of us. But there are opportunities inherent in change and, as Ontario farmers have for generations, we will rise to the challenge. **OSN**





Sheep are Environmental Powerhouses Sheep Will Save the World

If you've been in meetings with me, you've likely heard me utter these phrases. And yet, despite the great environmental benefits of sheep farming, we are struggling to tell our story.

The environment is gaining growing attention both provincially and nationally, and it desires our attention and focus. The next policy framework will be influenced by the Guelph Statement and Minister Bibeau's Mandate letter. The federal government has set targets to have net zero emissions by 2050 and to reduce methane emissions by 30% – both these targets will impact farming.

Key to helping the sheep industry benchmark both its environmental impact and benefit will be the Life Cycle Analysis project the University of Guelph is currently working on. Since last fall, we've been asking farmers to fill out a Life Cycle Analysis Questionnaire as part of the project. Have you completed your yet? It's a critically important project that will help the sheep industry set out environmental benchmarks. Producers who complete the survey are eligible for a \$100 reimbursement.

Establishing benchmarks will help us determine how and the government's reduction targets will impact the industry and how we can best adapt. And we might also be able to contribute to reaching these targets.

The American Lamb Board (ALB) announced it is working with Michigan State University (MSU) on a study to evaluate the environmental footprint of the U.S. sheep industry. The initial focus of the research is to define a comprehensive model of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for U.S. sheep production systems, including range, farm flock, pasture,

intensive and feedlot. MSU will conduct a partial life cycle analysis of lamb production in these types of operations to quantify GHG emissions. They'll then be defining environmental improvement strategies that are the most feasible and effective for sheep producers to implement, based on their production system.

We're going to be watching this work closely. Environmental sustainability falls on all our shoulders, and we all need to be learning and adapting. It shouldn't be a surprise to anyone that environmental concerns about livestock production have gained traction.

If you haven't taken the time to look at the University of Guelph Life Cycle Analysis Survey – please email general@ontariosheep.org to receive a copy of the survey.

We have a tremendous opportunity to contribute to greater environmental sustainability for our industry, and lead by example. Sheep will save the world. **OSN**



Editorial policy: Ontario Sheep Farmers welcomes and encourages letters to the editor and article suggestions from farmers and industry partners as a means of communicating with the Ontario Sheep Farmers board of directors and other farmers on issues of importance. Letters may be on any sheep industry topic, including Ontario Sheep Farmers' policies, programs and procedure. Letters may address previous articles or letters to the editor, and the editor may comment on the accuracy of the information in letters. Letters should not exceed 300 words and may be edited for style and grammatical errors. When submitting a letter, please include the name of the author, address, phone number and/or email address (for verification purposes). Printed letters will include the author's name. Potentially defamatory or libelous material, or personal attacks on individuals will not be permitted. If an author feels that the editor has inappropriately edited or not print a letter, a written request can be submitted to the board of directors for review to determine if there has been a violation of *Ontario Sheep News'* editorial policy.



Federal Transport Requirements

What you need to know to be in compliance.

Welcome to the first issue of Ontario Sheep News 2022 we hope this publication finds you and your family well.

Two years ago, we started off the new year with the implementation of the new Health of Animals Regulations: Part XII Transport of Animals Regulatory Amendment (commonly referred to as the Federal Transport Regulations). This regulation came into force on February 20th, 2020. Since then, OSF has hosted two webinar information sessions on the new regulations led by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) who is the agency responsible for education and enforcement of the regulation. The webinars provided an overview of the changes and allowed for questions from producers. The most recent webinar can be found by visiting the OSF YouTube channel located at www.youtube.com/user/OntarioSheep.

The regulation has been in various stages of consultation since the early 1970's. It has had several different periods of consultations with academia, animal advocacy, individuals, industry, legal, MPs, regulators, veterinarians and veterinary organizations. The CFIA believe that the final amendments provide the proper balance by being evidence based and science informed. They also have considered concerns regarding the previous outdated regulation; reviewed all consultations and feedback; looked at international standards, consumer, and public expectations; market impacts and assessment of feedback regarding ability to adapt to available trending transport related technologies.

The revised Act and Regulation affect every person who loads or causes an animal to be loaded and it applies to all animals. It brings additional protection for the more vulnerable animals such as those deemed to be "unfit". The Act further allows for assessment and monitoring of first factors related to transport such as: Are there any other pre-existing conditions of the animal(s) that could have an impact on the ability to withstand transport? Is the expected duration and conditions of the transport adequate for the animal(s) being transported? Have measures been taken to prevent unnecessary suffering, injury, or death of the animal(s) during transport?

The intent of the regulation is to protect the animals from suffering, being injured or dying during transportation. In the sheep sector, cull ewes, lactating ewes and very young lambs

are considered more vulnerable. The first step is to assess the animal before they are transported.

For the first two years of the new Act and Regulation CFIA focused on education rather than enforcement. Now that all aspects of the Act and Regulation are in place and the educational grace period has lapsed, CFIA is now in full enforcement mode. If there are any negative animal welfare outcomes with a load, CFIA will act while ensuring the well-being of animals during transport remains the CFIA's highest priority.

Here are some things to be aware of:

- **Unfit animals** can only be transported under the recommendation of a veterinarian and with the aim of receiving veterinary care.
- **Compromised animals** must be transported to the nearest place where they can receive care or be humanely killed (cannot go through the auction market) and the maximum interval without FWR is 12 hours.
- **Lambs less than 8 days** of age cannot go to an auction market Can be transported one time only, for a max of 12 hours and the max interval without FWR is 12 hours.
- **Lambs older than 8 days** of age but not weaned can be transported for a max of 12 hours and the max interval without FWR is 12 hours (can go through an auction market).
- **Cull ewes** must be assessed carefully before transport and the driver must be informed of all pertinent pre-existing conditions.
- **Lactating ewes in peak lactation** are unfit for transport. If in normal lactation, they must be milked adequately to prevent mammary engorgement.
- **Pregnant ewes in the last 10% of gestation** are unfit for transport.
- **Ewes that have given birth during the preceding 48 hours** are unfit for transport.
- Transporters must provide **transfer of care notice** when animals are **left at any slaughter facility or assembly centre, including an auction market. Animal Transport Record** is a requirement for all animal transportation events except for routine animal husbandry/management movement if no transfer of stewardship takes place.

On pages 19 and 20 of this issue, we have included the CFIA Now Vs Then Document and the OSF Transport Manifest. We encourage you to visit our resource page www.ontariosheep.org/Transport which will assist in finding the information on the new regulation and compliance with the new regulations. Should you require paper copies of the Manifest we welcome producers to call the OSF office 519-836-0043.

In closing we wish you all the best as we begin the 2022 spring season! **OSN**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ARE WELCOME

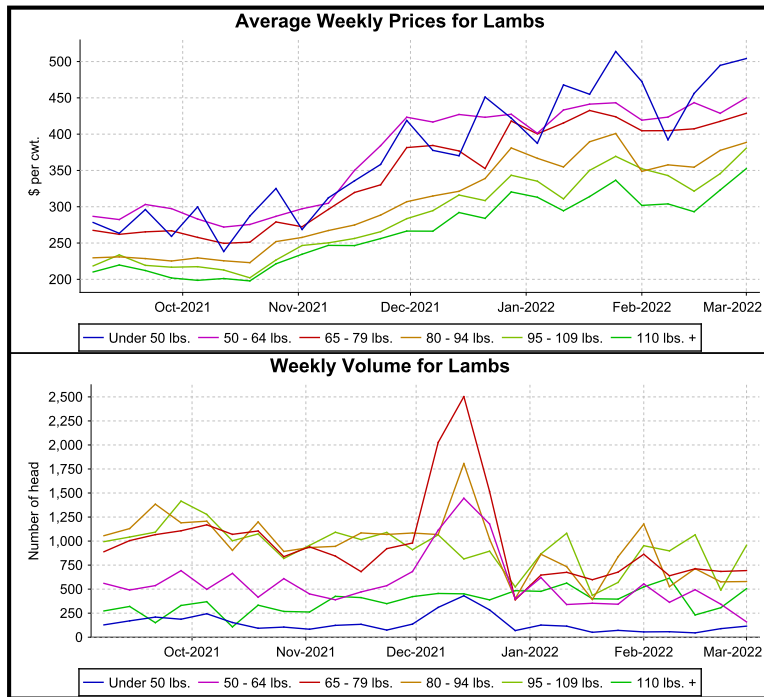
The OSN welcomes letters to the editor.

Please email: tlewis@ontariosheep.org or mail to:

Ontario Sheep News, 130 Malcolm Road, Guelph ON N1K 1B1.

The Ontario Market Report

Full market information can be found every week in the Ontario Farmer and online at www.OntarioSheep.org under "Market Information". The graphs here show the trends in pricing and volume of the last six months in Ontario
 NOTE: OSI did not submit numbers from September 15th to November 15. **OSN**



You can also listen to the weekly information by calling 519-836-0043 and press 4 to go to the market line.

Market information for OLEX, the Ontario Stockyards, Brussels and Embrun are recorded every week. You can also find archived weekly summaries on the Market page.

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2022 OSF Awards and Scholarships

Applications are now open!



Please see the list of awards/scholarships being offered by Ontario Sheep Farmers. Full details and applications/nomination forms can be found online by visiting www.ontariosheep.org/Awards%20Scholarships

Emerging Leader Award - This award celebrates and recognizes distinguished younger members of Ontario Sheep Farmers who are socially responsible leaders and innovators, currently making notable contributions to the Ontario sheep industry with significant impact.

Outstanding Shepherd Award is awarded to an Ontario shepherd who has made significant contributions to the advancement of the Ontario sheep industry. This award is presented to an Ontario shepherd who exemplifies the values of leadership and responsible sheep husbandry.

DATE
June 11, 2022

LOCATION
South Mountain Agricultural Hall
2967 Lough Rd, South Mountain, ON K0E 1W0

This event is a trade show (information seminars and vendors) by sheep farmers for sheep farmers!

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Application Forms

Long Service Award is awarded in acknowledgment and appreciation of long-standing contributions to the Ontario sheep industry, recipients of this award have demonstrated outstanding dedication, leadership, and an innovative spirit. This award is presented to an Ontario shepherd or industry service provider in recognition of their significant contributions to the advancement of the Ontario sheep industry over many years of service.

Mapleseed Pasture Award is sponsored in part by OSF, Mapleseed and the Ontario Forage Council, recognizes individual sheep farmers who are doing an outstanding job of pasture management. The Mapleseed Pasture Award is a way of encouraging sheep farmers to implement pasture management strategies to maximize production per acre. The winner of the award receives a cash prize of \$250.

Ontario Sheep Farmers Memorial Fund - Industry Leader Award Funds for this award have come from donations made in memoriam of Ontario sheep industry leaders. This fund was started with donations that have been made in memory of the late Bob Irvine, an Ontario sheep farmer who was a strong supporter of continuous learning. He was a dedicated member of the industry, with a focus on sheep genetics and was a mentor to many. This \$500 cash award is open to applicants who are wanting to further their leadership development in Ontario's sheep industry. This award can be used by the successful applicant to participate in postgraduate or industry education opportunities and leadership courses.

Ontario Sheep Farmers Undergrad Scholarship - This \$500 cash scholarship is open to applicants who are enrolled in their first or second year at an accredited university, college, or apprenticeship program. Applicants do not have to be enrolled in an agriculture program to be eligible for the award. Applicants must be 21 years of age or younger (as of January 1, 2021).

For additional details on the 2022 OSF Awards and Scholarships please visit www.ontariosheep.org/Awards%20Scholarships or call the OSF office at 519-836-0043 **OSN**

OSF Educational Day at the 2022 All Canadian Classic

Earlier this year Ontario Sheep Farmers (OSF) provided a \$5k sponsorship to the 2022 All-Canadian Classic. This in-person event is being held in Ancaster Ontario from July 7th to 9th 2022.

OSF staff are currently working with the Purebred Sheep Breeders of Ontario (PSBO) to plan an OSF educational day at The Classic. More details on the OSF educational day will be included in future issues of The Messenger, posted on the OSF events calendar, and shared on OSF social media channels so stay tuned!

For more details on the 2022 All Canadian Classic visit <https://sheepbreeders.ca/2022-all-canada-classic>. **OSN**



Thank you for your insights

We know timely, relevant communications is a cornerstone activity at Ontario Sheep Farmers, and one that our members depend on. When we asked for your input on the communication vehicles we use, and the content we share, you provided invaluable insights and ideas.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our recent Communication Survey. Your responses will help us continuously improve on the information we create and share with Ontario sheep farmers

Congratulations to *Allison Brown, Jenny Carnaghan, Tom Hutchinson, Peter Kudelka* and *Ed Post* who each received a gift card to the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers as part of our incentive to complete the survey.



Breed Selection

Tunis and North Country Cheviot

Laurie Maus, Hawk Hill Farm - OSF Producer Submitted Article

I see Social Media posts at least every month where “want to be” shepherds ask what breeds to raise and everyone pipes up with their favourite breed which may or may not be suitable for the poster’s situation. I have suggested that sheep producers submit articles on what breeds they raise and why, advantages and disadvantages and if they could change, would they.

Spoiler alert: we raised purebred North Country Cheviots, purebred Tunis and a North Country/Tunis cross created by putting a Tunis ram on Cheviot ewes. The F1 cross ewes were bred to either a Cheviot/Hampshire terminal sire or purebred Tunis. Everything is in past tense as we have retired from breeding sheep.

Breed selection is or should be about research, availability, and suitability. Suitability is all about your existing or planned management system. Management will dictate what breeds are appropriate for your operation. Availability is critical as is access to quality seed stock and knowledgeable mentors.

What was our management system? We bred in December for a May lambing date; we lambbed indoors but for the balance of the time the sheep were on pasture and were wintered outside on round bales with access to a run-in shed. We wanted to market heavy lambs that were shipped before the snow flew. We did not want to winter feed or winter house the lambs. Since single lambs did not pay the bills, we wanted twins and, if ewes had triplets, they must be able to raise them. I do not like feeding bottle lambs and strong, vigorous lambs were a must.

While I was doing my research over many years before starting with sheep, I looked at various breeds. My heart was stolen by North Country Cheviots both for their look and their reputation for hardiness and as excellent mothers. I would still recommend them for beginning shepherds with similar goals with a couple of cautions. We started with Cheviots and they lived up to much of their reputation. Cheviot lambs are strong at birth and are up and nursing faster than most breeds. The breed also had superb udders, hooves, and legs. While it is just our experience in the sheep (and horses), the dam seems to have a disproportionate influence on hoof and udder quality. Cheviot crosses seem to inherit the udder and hoof quality from the Cheviot side of the breeding.

Now some of the disadvantages that we found with Cheviots. Their prolificacy was below what we wanted and they were penalized for that in production testing. The lambs grew well to about 80 lbs in the fall and then stalled over the winter, not hitting a heavy lamb until after Christmas. While it may have been the bloodlines we had, the Cheviots developed arthritis and unfortunately threw that condition to their crossbred progeny. The Cheviots were not as heat tolerant as their Tunis flock mates, nor were they as thrifty in feed efficiency. The amount of feed required to keep a Cheviot ewe

in good body condition made the Tunis ewes fat. The Cheviot ewes had wool break during lambing causing them to lose most of their fleece. The final deciding factor was financial. Despite that our rams and many of our ewes were testing near the top of the breed, other producers would not pay the price for quality Cheviot breeding stock. Would I breed North Country Cheviots again? A solid yes.

Why did we decide to stay with the Tunis? The breed met many of the requirements of our management system. We could get all our May born lambs to heavy lambs and shipped before November. The meat was superb leading to loyal, repeat customers including those who wanted Tunis mutton. We always had more clients than product for our meat. Unlike the Cheviots, the Tunis tolerated both the heat of our summers and the cold of our winters. They were housed outside except for lambing without any problems. They were good mothers and, through selection, all of our ewes were able to feed the number of lambs they had. While triplets were not common, it was important that a ewe was able to feed their lambs. They are long lived and generally had few health problems. We found the Tunis thrifty to feed. And finally, clean Tunis fleece is a joy to spin and has a tendency not to felt making it suitable for washable wearables.

Like all breeds Tunis sheep have some negative characteristics, some more serious than others. The first negative and it is a serious one - hoof quality. While I assume that the breed originated in dry, harsh, probably stony environments, their hooves do not do well on our soft, lush pasture and, hearing from producers that raise them in confinement, it is also an issue with that management. The hoof wall is thin, fast growing and prone to delaminate at the white line (shelly hooves). While our Cheviots only needed to be trimmed once a year if that and stayed sound, the Tunis required trimming at least twice a year (even being on pasture year-round) and would have been better being trimmed more often than that.

Another issue with legs and feet of the Tunis breed is weak pasterns, especially in the hind end of the animal. While so far this has not caused a lameness issue in the animals where we have seen it, it is a fault that should be selected against.

Next is udder conformation. In my past, I raised dairy cattle and udder conformation can make the difference for a long, healthy, productive life. I look for wide rear and fore udder attachment, level udder floor, correct teat placement with teats that were the right size for lambs nursing and no extra teats. I wanted an udder that almost disappeared in a dry ewe with no hard lumpy tissue. Why are these features so important? If a ewe is to have a long, productive life, be able to feed all her lambs, have few if any nursing problems, not be prone to mastitis or udder injury this is the ideal udder conformation. The Tunis we had did not compare well with our North Country Cheviots’ udder conformation. The rear

and fore attachment is not as wide, nor is the udder floor as level. Teat placement and size is quite variable and multiple teats are common despite trying to select against them. This is an area where the breed needs improvement. For the most part, the udders did shrink down in dry ewes.

As mentioned, Tunis are easy on the feed bill, but we found they were more sensitive to trace mineral imbalances. We almost dispersed our Tunis flock when our ewes either failed to conceive or if they did conceive, only had one lamb. Our early production was well under one lamb per ewe per lambing. It took us multiple tests, lots of discussion with vets and researchers to find the problem. Our forage was low in copper and high in molybdenum leading to a copper deficiency problem. This problem was not as obvious in our Cheviots. Once we solved the dietary problem, multiple issues disappeared. Prolificacy, wool quality, and parasite resistance all improved. We went from under one lamb per ewe to close to two lambs per ewe.

That brings up the final negative in Tunis. All the breed descriptions talk about the high percentage of twinning in the breed. Yet when you ask for pedigrees, there still is a high percentage of singles. I would estimate that the breed average is closer to 1.5 lambs per ewe. We were able to get higher than that but ewes that consistently gave singles were culled. At our farm, singles did not pay the bills. The focus for the breed needs to be as much on production as on showing. I would love to have the registry "on line" so it is easier to review pedigrees and prolificacy of potential ram and ewe families.

The Tunis/Cheviot F1 cross developed by putting a Tunis ram on a Cheviot ewe was better productively than either of the purebred animals. They also came with some of the benefits and faults of the parent stock. They inherited the lovely feet and udders of the Cheviots (Bonus) and the tendency for arthritis from the Cheviots. They raised all their lambs, had very low lamb mortality and when crossed with a terminal sire put out a fast-growing market lamb that dressed out well. If we were to continue, I would have tried breeding the F1s to different terminal sires such as Canadian Arcotts or Charolais.

I had no regrets about raising both these breeds and would do so again. If I had a different management system, I recognize that these breeds might not work.

Before other producers criticize what I have said this article is based on our experience with the animals we bought. We bought the best quality sheep we could from what was available from breeders that had many of the same goals as us though not necessarily the same management. We bred, selected, and tested for the characteristics that we wanted. Others will have different experiences even with the same breeds. It is important not to become barn blind to the pros and cons of the sheep you have. **OSN**

This editorial/article was submitted to OSN and does not necessarily reflect the view of OSF.




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Getting to know OSF Chair John Hemsted

In late 2021, we introduced our new OSF Chair John Hemsted by asking him questions submitted by OSF District executives. We received lots of questions and are continuing our Q&A with John.

Q. From the Crossroads Challenge, what activities can be implemented this year, and what changes do you expect from them?

As part of the Crossroads Challenge, we asked Ontario producers and our other partners what was important to them. From that input, the importance of our districts and district leadership became clear and we have already started providing districts with tools and support to enhance the value of district meetings.

We are now scheduling regular meetings of the District Chairs to broaden our perspective on important issues. This is a big step forward in harnessing the collective wisdom for the benefit of the Ontario producers.

Before Crossroads, our market forecasting tools were less than stellar. It became abundantly clear that providing Ontario producers with better market insights was a critical

tool in helping our farmers with their business decision making. OSF staff is now working with our stakeholders to enhance the market information we provide to producers, and the results will be evident in changes to our market reports during 2022.

Another immediate result of the Crossroads process was a refocusing of the board. Initiating the recommendations from this process over the next five years will require a significant maturing of

many of our internal processes. Part of that includes a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities. The board is focused on what and why issues and staff take care of the how and who.

Q. How will OSF take steps to work together nationally to grow the full potential of our sector?

I share Minister Thompson's goal for a strong and sustainable agri-food sector. But alignment on our collective goals should never be confused with agreement on every issue. Ontario sheep producers are a proudly diverse community, and we see things from different perspectives. The most important thing is to ensure we can learn and benefit from each other.

The Crossroads report included an addendum on national issues that can be found on the OSF website. What do Canadian sheep producers need and want? And what are the best ways to deliver on those needs? I believe a conversation on how we can best meet the needs of our farmers would be helpful. It's unlikely that there will be one single national organization, but we will continue to design ways to work together as efficiently and effectively as possible, using modern structures to include our supply chain and partners. Cooperation between producing provinces is a great step in that direction.

Q. How do you think we can encourage Ontario sheep farmers to effectively work together?

I believe we are heading in a good direction. Focusing on what producers need and building from the districts are imperatives to unity of purpose. In a recent diversity workshop, a participant noted that the world was a different place than the one he grew up in. All of us are changing and adapting to new realities on the farm and in the markets.

Our goal should always be to understand and learn from different perspectives and move forward. While our individual interests may vary farm to farm, they unite on the issues that most effect the business of producing high quality Ontario sheep products. **OSN**



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OSF Advocacy Behind Proposed Exemptions for Livestock Guardian Dogs

On January 21, the Ontario government announced proposed changes to the Standards of Care for Outdoor Dogs under the Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act (PAWS), 2019. These proposed changes are an outcome of the Outdoor Dogs Technical Table that OSF participated in from late 2020 through mid-2021. OSF played a key role in advocating for these changes with representatives at the table during the updates to the standard of care. Livestock Guardian Dogs will be considered outdoor dogs.

Regarding the requirement for outdoor doghouses, there is a proposed exemption for Livestock Guardian Dogs actively protecting livestock from predation and living with the flock or herd they are protecting, and dogs that have ready access to a structurally sound building that is currently being used to house livestock.

The government was seeking input on these proposed changes and OSF encouraged its members to add their voices before the commenting period ended on March 7th,

2022, via notice in The Messenger. The results of this commenting period have not been published nor has the final proposed changes been posted. An in-force date of July 1, 2022 is proposed for the new requirements to take effect as law to provide time for organizations and individuals to come into compliance with the updated requirements. OSF will continue to monitor this and will share updates via The Messenger and over social media. OSN



Photo by Producer Carrie Wooley

To view the proposed changes, visit www.ontariocanada.com/registry/view.do?language=en&postingId=40207 **OSN**



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Need recipes? Our website sixbysixteen.me has a bounty of locally sourced recipes, youth activities, a downloadable recipe guide and much more.

Make preparing, cooking and plating the meal a family affair by getting everyone in the kitchen. To brush up on safe food handling practices, knife safety skills and more visit youtube.com/ontariofarms.

Follow us on social for additional recipes, what's in season updates and links to additional food literacy resources: [@SixBySixteen](https://twitter.com/SixBySixteen) [f sixbysixteen](https://facebook.com/sixbysixteen) [@ sixbysixteen](https://instagram.com/sixbysixteen)



Here for a Good Time (and Hopefully a Long Time)

A Review of Research on Ewe Longevity

By: Erin Massender, Acting Small Ruminant Specialist, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Here for a good time (not a long time). It's a common theme in music, no matter your favourite genre (see Trooper, George Strait and more), but not likely the goal for our ewes.

Premature loss of ewes is expensive. It lowers flock productivity and increases replacement rearing costs. The longer a ewe stays in the flock, the more lambs she has the opportunity of producing, and likely, the more profitable she will be. For this reason, some countries describe premature deaths and culling of ewes as "ewe wastage". Decreasing ewe wastage has been a popular research topic in the last few years. This article summarizes some of the research that aims to produce sheep that live both productive and long lives.


An Introduction to Ewe Wastage

Ewe wastage refers to ewes that do not reach the end of their productive lives either due to on-farm mortality or premature culling (Flay et al., 2022). This is typically defined as ewes that are culled before 6-7 years of age but varies by country and production system.

Ewe wastage lowers the average age of the ewe flock. It is well known that ewe reproductive performance does not peak until about 4-6 years of age, so ewes that die or are culled prematurely produce fewer lambs per lambing on average and also have lower lifetime productivity than ewes culled for old age.

As ewe wastage increases, more ewe lambs must be retained to maintain a stable flock size. This increases replacement rearing costs, reduces the size of the market crop, and lowers selection intensity leading to lower rates of genetic improvement.

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Another problem that should not be overlooked is the potential implications of ewe wastage on the social license of the sheep sector.

Causes of Ewe Wastage

In a recently published review, Flay et al. (2022) identified several key risk factors for ewe wastage including:

- Poor reproductive performance
- Udder health
- Dental health
- Body condition score

Figure 1 summarizes the results of several recent studies on causes of death and culling in different countries (Annett et al., 2011; Flay et al., 2021; McLaren et al., 2020; USDA, 2020). These long-term studies tracked the reasons a cohort of animals exited the flock throughout their entire lives.

As shown in Figure 1, the percentage of ewes culled for old age is lower than expected and ranged from 5.1 to 36.3%, suggesting high ewe wastage rates as few animals reached the end of their productive lives. However, in some of the studies ewes were only reported as being culled for old age if there were no other reasons contributing to their exit from the flock. Since older ewes are more likely to have other problems like poor teeth, the proportion of the animals culled due to old age is likely under reported.

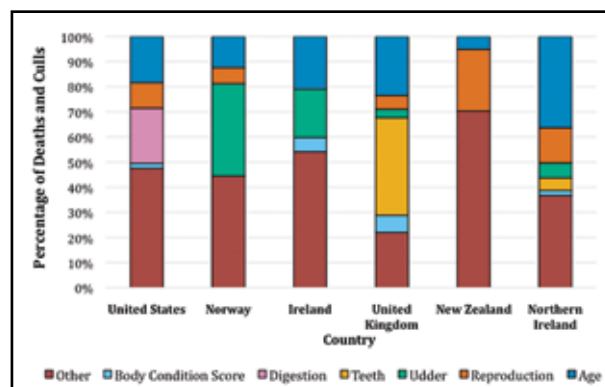


Figure 1. Causes of deaths and culling in longevity studies in various sheep populations. (Sources: USDA, 2020; McLaren et al., 2020, Flay et al., 2021, Annett et al., 2011)

It is interesting that the main causes of ewe wastage differed between countries. Digestive problems in the United States, udder problems in Norway, old age in Ireland and Northern Ireland, teeth in the United Kingdom and reproductive problems in New Zealand were the most common causes of ewe wastage. It would be interesting to know how Canadian flocks compare, however, this type of study has not been conducted to date. It should be noted that the results for each country are not directly comparable because the way causes of death and culling were categorized differed between the studies.

Selecting for Longevity

There has been a growing interest in selecting for ewe longevity in sheep breeding programs. Longevity can be defined many different ways, for example, “stayability” is the probability of a ewe surviving to a specific age (e.g., 6 years), while “productive lifespan” typically counts the number of years between a ewe’s first and last lambings. Heritability estimates (i.e., the proportion of observed variation in a population that is due to genetics) for longevity traits vary, but the traits tend to be moderately heritable overall (0.15 to 0.30). Longevity traits have not been studied in Canada, but international research suggests that they could be promising traits to evaluate in the future.

Managing Ewe Wastage

It may come as no surprise that reducing ewe wastage starts with record keeping. At minimum, calculating the involuntary culling rate will give you a baseline for the operation. Involuntary culls (e.g., infertility, mastitis, chronic lameness, deaths) represent the random loss of animals outside of the shepherd’s control. Ewes culled for involuntary reasons could very well have the best genetics in the flock, but by some bad environmental luck end up with a problem that leads to them being culled. Thus, operations should aim to have a higher proportion of total culls due to voluntary reasons (e.g., low prolificacy, low weaning weights of lambs, poor temperament). Involuntary culling rate is defined as (Fetrow et al., 2006):

$$\text{Involuntary Culling Rate} = (\text{Involuntary Culls} + \text{Ewes Died or Euthanized}) / \text{Average Ewe Flock Inventory}$$

To calculate ewe wastage rate, exclude any culls or deaths that occur beyond a specific age end point (e.g., 6 years). Tracking the primary causes of premature culls and deaths (e.g., reproductive, udder, respiratory, body condition score, teeth, lameness etc.) would give a better indication of where improvements can be made. Additionally, recording birthdates and death or culling dates along with individual animal ids would provide the most information to optimize management and possibly allow for selection for longevity in the future.

Conclusion

Premature culls and deaths of ewes, known collectively as ewe wastage, reduce the productivity and profitability of the sheep flock. Research suggests that ewe wastage is a significant challenge in many countries and improving ewe longevity is an active area of research. To ensure the best productivity for your flock, it is important that you know the ewe wastage rate as well as the main causes of ewe wastage. Ultimately, the aim is to produce ewes that are not only “here for a good time”, or productive, but also “here for a long time” to maximize lifetime productivity of the ewe and production efficiency of the operation. **OSN**

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Good Participation at the Pilot Breeders Group Meetings

Amélie St-Pierre, GenOvis technical support & dev., CEPOQ

On January 26th & 27th, OSF in collaboration with the CEPOQ genetic team, organized breeders group meetings for Dorset and Suffolk breeders as a pilot project. The meetings were a good opportunity for breeders to discuss the strengths of their breed, and the challenges they face on where to go in the future.

Frederic Fortin, CEPOQ geneticist, moderated the meetings and both groups of breeders asked great questions with an aim to have a better understanding of the information provided for their own farm as well as for the entire group. Participants appreciated the new information provided and the new personalized reports offered to them.

This was also a good opportunity to explain better uses of the breeding values and remind them the importance of management groups in the genetic evaluation. One of the main goals of the meetings was to connect breeders and discuss a common vision for the breed and create genetic links between the flocks.

Improving connectiveness across flocks gives strength to the genetic program and increases its efficiency in calculating breeding values based on connected records from different environments.

The CEPOQ genetic team was surprised to learn that both groups used mostly loin scanning measurement service. Improving meat quality is important to make Canadians satisfied with lamb meat products of Canada. Discussions about this service also raised an important concern on the future of this service. A new technician needs to be accredited in Western Ontario, as the present resource plans to retire next summer. Actions are ongoing to find a new accredited resource in this area.

The Dorset group expressed they would like to have a selection index that better suits their dual-purpose breed. A new dual index designed for the group is waiting approval and will be delivered shortly to participants.

The Suffolk group has high interest in increasing loin depth and to collect new traits as marbling. Marbling is related to juiciness, flavour, and tenderness of the meat. It requires a specific ultrasound machine and training to be measured. This could be an interesting new trait to measure and integrate in our genetic program in the future.

Among the topics discussed, were concerns related to the Cache Valley Virus (CVV) recently found in some Ontario breeds. The issue was discussed at the GenOvis steering committee to determinate the best way to manage data in the GenOvis program. More information will be sent shortly to GenOvis members. OSF District 7 presented an information night on CVV and the preliminary results of a recent research project. A recording is available for those interested to learn more on this disease which can be found on the OSF YouTube channel located at www.youtube.com/user/OntarioSheep.

In summary, the breeders' group meetings are opportunities to talk about genetics but, also on other topics of interest. Objectives fixed for 2022 will be following next year and new topics will be discussed. For those looking to participate by joining the breeders' group can contact the OSF office at 519 836 0043 to have your name put on the list

Thank you to the CSBA for funding the report translation and to Quebec Purebred Sheep Breeders' Association (SEMRPQ) that have initiated the concept of those meetings three years ago for Quebec breeders and OSF for hosting the breeders' groups. **OSN**



The role of Animal Welfare Services and the Provincial Animal Welfare Services (PAWS) Act

The PAWS Act has now been around since January of 2020, and many farmers are wondering what the changes from the old OSPCA system means for them. Farm & Food Care Ontario (FFCO) has developed a multi-page backgrounder to answer many of your questions.

In effect, little has changed in terms of the care that animal owners must provide for their animals, but it has created a new publicly-funded animal welfare enforcement model that has created a new unit of officers who report directly to the province through the Ministry of the Solicitor General. This revamped system provides for increased accountability, transparency and oversight by the government.

While the PAWS Act does not specifically mention the National Farm Animal Care Council codes of practice for each livestock commodity, there is an expectation in the legislation that: all agricultural animal management or husbandry is carried out in accordance with the reasonable and generally accepted practices of agricultural animal care.

When considering standards of care, housing systems and the development of euthanasia practices on your farm, farmers are reminded to refer to the Animal Care Code of Practice for all animal species raised on their farm. For a link to the Sheep Code of practice: <https://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/sheep>

The FFCO backgrounder on the PAWS Act, including frequently asked questions, what you should know and concerns about an inspection or inspector, is available here: [Summary-of-PAWS-Enforcement-Powers-Sept-2021.pdf](#) (farmfoodcareon.org) **OSN**



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OSF Revamps Consumer Website

New look, recipes and multilingual options, plus updated product locator tool among the changes

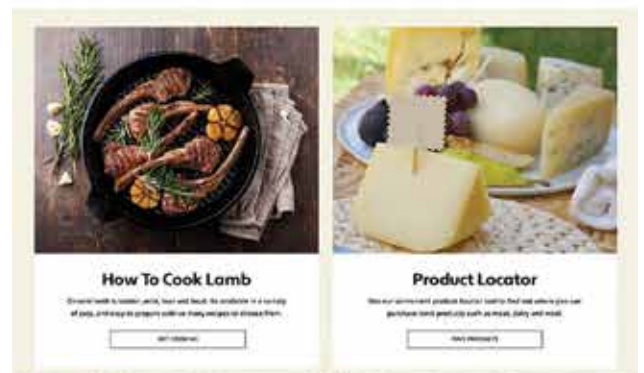
Ontario Sheep Farmers (OSF) updated consumer website www.lambrecipes.ca is live! The new site delivers a wide range of resources and support for consumers cooking with Ontario lamb. Many of the site's features have been refreshed – look, layout, recipes, updated cooking, handling and nutritional information – plus a new multilingual viewing option and Ontario lamb producer profiles.

One of the most notable changes is the ability for consumers to view the site in a variety of different languages to support the growing demand for Ontario lamb with ethnic markets in the province. Site users can now find out where to purchase local lamb, and how to cook and prepare it, in the language of their choice.

The site also continues to connect lamb suppliers with consumers with the Ontario Lamb Product Locator tool. This tool helps consumers source local lamb products/retailers and helps retailers get connected with customers looking for local lamb. The Lamb Locator tool is prominently featured on the updated site and is easy to use – consumers simply enter their postal code to find a local lamb retailer. If you are selling Ontario lamb and want to register your business for this locator tool, visit www.ontariosheep.org/product-locator-registration.

As consumer interest in making smart and sustainable food choices grows, OSF is profiling some of our farmers on the new site. Viewers can read stories on lamb production and the role of sheep farming in mitigating climate change. OSF wants consumers to leave the site inspired about cooking with lamb and feeling good about supporting local, environmentally sustainable agriculture.

Visit www.lambrecipes.ca for more ideas and resources. **OSN**



THEN VS. NOW

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- ✓ Full range of enforcement and compliance

IMPROVEMENTS (starting in 2020)

- ✓ Science-based
- ✓ Longer rest periods
- ✓ Must arrive at destination safely and be suitably fed, hydrated and rested
- ✓ Full transport time (including loading and unloading) from time off feed, water and rest
- ✓ Balance of prescriptive and outcome-based requirements
- ✓ Outlines training requirements and contingency plans
- ✓ Better aligned to international standards
- ✓ Shorter hours for many animals
- ✓ Addresses compromised animals and unfit animals
- ✓ Addresses broiler chickens, spent hens, and rabbits
- ✓ Addresses young animals
- ✓ Allows for innovation

SPECIFIC COMPARISON

PROVISION	THEN (Regulations from 1977)	NOW (Amended regulations 2019)
Transport continuum	Focus mainly on time in confinement	Feed, water and rest (FWR) times start when FW are first removed and include time for loading, transport and unloading, until FW are provided again.
Type of regulations	Prescriptive based requirements that restrict innovation	More outcome based regulations including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ adequate space, ✓ enough headroom, ✓ weather protection ✓ ventilation, etc.
MAXIMUM INTERVALS WITHOUT FEED, WATER AND REST (FWR)		
All livestock, camelids and cervids of 8 days of age or less, and ruminants too young to be fed exclusively hay and grain	Max. 18 h of transport confinement (calves)	Max. 12 h without FWR
Compromised animals	Not specified. Covered under general requirements (48 h for ruminants, 36 h for monogastrics).	Max. 12 h without FWR
Ruminants	Max. 48 h of transport confinement	Max. 36 h without FWR
Animals with a simple stomach (monogastrics): horses, pigs, birds, reptiles, pets, etc.	Max. 36 h of transport confinement	Horses and pigs 28 h without FWR Max. 36 h without FWR for all other animals
Hatching birds	Max. 72 h of transport after hatching (chicks only)	Max. 72 h from time of hatching for birds
Broiler chickens, spent hens and rabbits	Not specified. General requirement for monogastrics (36 h of transport confinement)	Max. 24 h without water Max. 28 h without feed
Rest time after max. interval without FWR	5 h	8 h
Innovation	Not specified	No maximum for specially equipped conveyances/containers that meet numerous specified requirements and provide FWR. Outcome-based requirements for the animals still apply.

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Address:			
Town:	Province:	Postal Code:	Phone #:
Trailer Unit or License Plate:		Driver:	
Conveyance Last Cleaned Date:		Time:	Location:

OWNER NAME:

Address:			Premises ID:
Town:	Province:	Postal Code:	Phone #:
Individual CCIA Tag Numbers Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			

ANIMALS LOADED

Loading Date (yyyy/mm/dd):	Loading Time:	<input type="checkbox"/> AM <input type="checkbox"/> PM
Last access to feed water and rest (FWR) prior to loading Date:	Time:	<input type="checkbox"/> AM <input type="checkbox"/> PM

Tag/Lot/ Pen #	Head Count	Species	Gender/ Type	CCIA tags	Identifying Mark	Trucking Rate

Floor area available to animals (m ² /ft ²)	Estimated Weight (lbs or kgs)
All animals have been determined to be fit for transport <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Number of compromised animals loaded

Compromised animal(s) description and measures taken:

If applicable, FWR was provided during transport Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____

Animals unloaded for FWR FWR provided on board

Transfer of Care to the RECEIVER (auction market / assembly yard / dealer / abattoir)

Date Received(yyy/mm/dd):	Unloading Time:	<input type="checkbox"/> AM <input type="checkbox"/> PM	# of head received:
All animals arrived in good condition <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			

If no, describe condition of animals upon arrival, including any dead animals, and actions taken to address prior to arrival:

Comments:
If Shipper is not the Owner, please include name, full mailing address, premises identification and telephone number of the Shipper(s) here.

		Driver Signature
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Metabolic Challenge During the Transition Period in Dairy Sheep

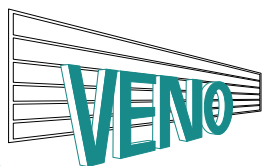
By Marlene Paibomesai, Dairy Specialist at Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Ministry of Rural Affairs

The transition period can bring many challenges to ewes. It is defined as the weeks leading up to and after lambing. The ewe is transitioning from a non-lactating, pregnant state to a lactating, non-pregnant state. Metabolic challenges can arise in the last 3-6 weeks of gestation before lambing and last into early lactation. This article will focus on ketosis.

The name ketosis is derived from the name ketone bodies which are a product of the breakdown of body fat stores for energy or lipid mobilization. In ewes, this occurs in times of the increased energy requirements like in late pregnancy and in early lactation. A negative energy balance is when energy consumed does not meet current physiological demand. In a less technical phrase, not enough groceries to fuel the body. There are numerous risk factors for ketosis including: carrying multiple fetus, being under conditioned, being over conditioned, improper

nutrition, diseases like Johne's, and stress induced. High milk production can also be a risk factor for dairy ewes. Dry matter intake will typically decrease in the weeks leading up to lambing with decreased rumen capacity. One study showed that decreased dry matter intake around lambing persisted into early lactation for primiparous vs. multiparous Sarda ewes (Cabiddu et. al., 2020). This decrease in dry matter intake around this period of time can pose a risk for ketosis, especially in ewes with multiples.

Ketosis can exist in both clinical and subclinical states, which can be determined by testing ketone bodies concentrations in circulation. Beta hydroxybutyrate, short form BHBA, is a commonly used to monitor the magnitude of lipid mobilization which is a key indicator of ketosis and can be detected in the blood and urine of ewes. Blood BHBA concentration of 0.86-1.60mmol/L is moderate



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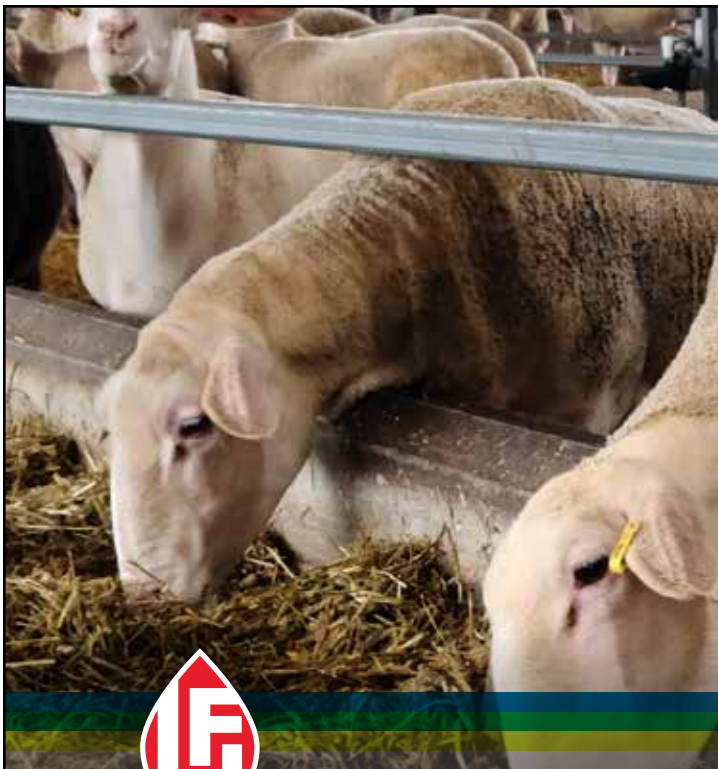
(subclinical) ketosis and ≥ 1.60 mmol/L is defined as severe (clinical) ketosis. Subclinical ketosis is more common than clinical ketosis. The incidence of subclinical ketosis is not known for ewes in Ontario. Subclinical ketosis can impact milk production in early lactation, potentially setting ewes back for the rest of their lactation. In addition to milk production, milk fatty acid profiles can differ between low BHBA (average 0.63 mmol/L) and high BHBA ewes (average of 1.35mmol/L) with increase concentrations of 9 saturated fatty acids and 24 unsaturated fatty acids (Fiore et al., 2021). This can have an impact on overall milk quality, perhaps a discussion for another article

Early detection is key for successful treatment of ketosis. Laboratory testing is the gold standard for determining BHBA concentrations, but is not always convenient for animal-side care. For small ruminants, most energy demand occurs in late gestation so testing during this period would be best. Luckily there have been a number of studies that tested handheld devices for determining ketosis in ewes. A study performed in Prince Edward Island, tested the Precision Xtra meter for detection of BHBA in blood samples from 384 ewes from 34 commercial flocks which

randomly sampled 8 ewes from lambing groups. The Precision Xtra meter is a device used for human diabetic care and readily available. There was high agreement between Precision Xtra and laboratory testing making it a suitable for ewe side testing. The researchers did note that there was a 0.2mmol/L difference between laboratory test and the Precision Xtra meter, so ranges of 0.6-1.0mmol/L can be inconclusive and suggest upper limit of 1.0mmol/L be used with the Precision Xtra meter. The Precision Xtra meter also has a temperature range of 10-50°C for optimal use. In this study 29% of lambing groups had at least 1 ewe classified as ketotic (Ratanapob et al., 2018). There is more work needed to understand how common subclinical ketosis is in dairy sheep herds in Ontario.

Work with nutritionists and veterinarians to work out a plan for preventing and treating ketosis. Monitoring body condition score, identifying ewes with multiples, recording ewes transition and maybe implementing a BHBA testing protocol will help with controlling this metabolic condition. **OSN**


Sources: Cabiddu A., et al. (2020) Journal of Dairy Science 103(9):P8564 ; Fiore E. et al. (2021) Animals. 11:1371.; Ratanapob et al., (2018) J. Vet. Diagnostic Investigation. 31(1):17-22.



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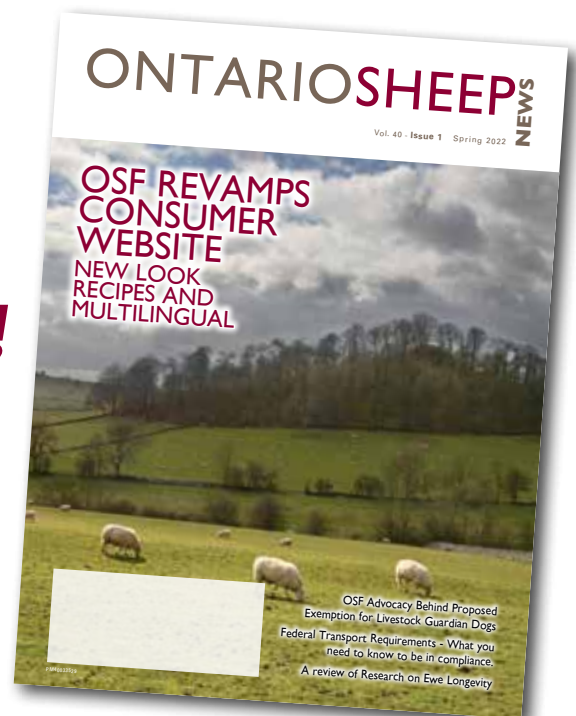
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THE 2022 ONTARIO LAMB MARKET CALENDAR

Year	Holiday	Consumption Preferences	Market Processor Needs	Public Auction Market Impact
January 6	Epiphany (Christian)	Lamb is featured in many celebration meals.	Recently weaned and milk fed lambs are preferred.	Lower market volumes generally.
February 1	Chinese (Lunar) New Year	Both mutton and lamb are used in a variety of dishes and is a favorite ingredient in hot pots.		Lower market volumes.
March			Easter holiday inventory buildup.	Growth in supply following winter, with Easter demand increase.
April 15 to 23	Passover (Jewish) 8 days	Traditionally must be processed under Kosher laws.	Healthy finished lambs. (up to 64 lbs live weight; ideally milk fed and fat)	Steady market. A limited influence.
April 17 April 24	Western Easter Eastern Orthodox Easter A peak sale period for in the year.	Roast lamb is a main festive meal for European (Italian, Portuguese, and Greek) heritages.	Healthy young lambs. (under 60 lbs live weight; ideally milk fed and fat) Numbers of lambs under 65 lb begin to increase in three weeks before Easter, and peaks during the week before Easter. Numbers of 65-79lb lambs will increase during this time as well.	Higher market demand in 2 to 3-week period preceding holiday. Hint: check local auction schedules for 'special' Easter sale dates.
Apr 2 to May 2	Ramadan (Islam) 1 month (daylight fasting)	Some celebrations will occur prior to start of Ramadan.	Weaned market lambs (60 – 90 lbs live weight)	A moderate market factor for week leading into Ramadan.
May		Start of barbeque season which more frequently featuring Ontario lamb.	Mod demand. Processors see an increase in BBQ lamb demand from May to August.	Commonly higher supply and slightly higher but still moderate demand.
May 3	Eid al-Fitr (Islam) Festival of Fast Breaking	Celebrations occur during the fast break period which will feature lamb products.	Weaned market lambs 60 – 90 lbs liveweight. Lower demand for heavy lambs.	A moderate market factor for the week leading into Ramadan.
July 9 to 10 The Hajj is July 7 to 12	Eid al Adha (Festival of Sacrifice, Eid) (Islam) A peak sale period in year.	Eid, the festival of sacrifice, is one of the most important observances in the Islamic faith. (This may be referred to as Qurbani, though this refers to the actual act of animal processing.)	Lambs (70 – 110 lbs live weight) Desired weight differs across different communities. Lambs should be under a year of age and be unblemished. Blemishes may include open wounds, torn ears or other physical unsoundness. Wethers and lambs with docked tails may not be acceptable to some buyers.	High market demand in period leading up to holiday. Peak demand is in week preceding holiday. Note: There is a high activity level of private holiday sales sought by families for this important celebration period.
July 29	Muharram (Islamic New Year)	The Islamic New Year is the first day of the Muslim calendar. Mutton is often served as the main course for this holiday meal.	There is no preferred weight for this holiday, although animals should appear healthy.	Steady market. A limited influencer.
September 25 to 27	Rosh Hashanah Jewish New Year	Lamb is a tradition or symbol of a new beginning.	Forequarters from weaned market lambs (60 – 109 lbs live weight)	Steady market. A limited influencer.
October 10	Thanksgiving	Lamb is an alternative to turkey.	Steady demand with slow year over year consumer demand increase.	Steady market. A limited influencer.
November		Stew/casserole are growing in seasonal popularity	Lower but steady demand during transition from Thanksgiving into Christmas period.	Lower market volumes.
December 18 to 26	Chanukah (Festival of Rededication) (Jewish) 8 days	Traditionally must be processed according to Kosher law.	Healthy heavy lambs. (up to 100 lbs live weight)	Usually occurs close to Christian Christmas which leads to high demand.
December 25	Christmas Day to New Year (Christian) A peak sale period in year.	Lamb is a feature at Christmas parties (lamb-pops, spiedini, roasts). Leg of lamb, stews and curries are food staples.	Lambs should be freshly weaned (milk fed), up to 80 lbs, and not older than 3 months of age. Out-of-season breeding is required to produce the favoured type of lamb for this market. Cull sheep are popular for stew and curry.	Higher market demand in 2 to 3-week period preceding holiday.

This calendar is also available on the OSF website at <https://www.ontariosheep.org/religious-ethnic-market-calendar>.

2022 OSF PHOTO CONTEST IS NOW OPEN

If you've got an eye for capturing great moments in a photo this contest is for you!

Entries are now being accepted for the 2022 Ontario Sheep photo contest. We are looking for photos of your flocks, activities around your sheep farm, and you Ontario's sheep farmers. This contest is open to everyone. You do not have to be a member of Ontario Sheep Farmers to be eligible to enter.

Winners of the contest will be announced at the 2022 Annual General Meeting.

CATEGORIES

- **Flock shots** – a minimum of 20 sheep must be in the photo
- **Around the sheep farm** – farm landscapes, outside/inside your barn or pasture, shearing day, and more
- **Sheep farmers** – farmers at work, farm family life
- **All about Wool** – Showing off Ontario Wool
- **Fan Favourite** – Farm landscape, outside/inside barn or pasture, shearing day, and more

PRIZES

A \$100 cash prize will be awarded to the top photos in each of the categories. An overall grand prize award of \$250 is also available. All photo entries will be eligible to win the fan favourite cash prize of \$100.

SUBMISSIONS

Send pictures electronically to general@ontariosheep.org in a jpeg format with the subject line 2022 photo contest. Photos submitted must be at least 200 dpi and a minimum of 1 MB in file size. Pictures submitted must be Canadian and international pictures submitted will not be entered.

The deadline for entries is September 14th, 2022.

Include the following information with your submission:

- Title of the photo (optional)
- Mailing address, phone number, and email address
- Name of the photographer if different than the person submitting the photo.
- The category you are submitting the photo for (see above for criteria and a list of categories)

CONTEST RULES

- Any photos received become the property of Ontario Sheep Farmers (OSF) and will not be returned. OSF reserves the right to use and/or reproduce the photos. Where possible, the credit will be given to the photographer.
- If the person who submits the photo to the contest is not the person who took the photo, the name of the photographer needs to be included with the submission.
- Only two (2) entries per photographer, per category, will be accepted.
- Entrants do not have to be involved in the sheep industry to be eligible to enter.



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ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY

PRODUCER/SHEEP OWNER LICENCE FEE REMITTANCE FORM (PRIVATE TREATY SALES)

Ontario's 3,000 sheep producers are represented by the Ontario Sheep Farmers organization. With a focus on profitability and sustainability, the organization works in the areas of advocacy, industry capacity, research and market development. The organization is funded through a check off (or licence fee) on lamb and sheep marketed in Ontario. Representing the sheep, lamb and wool industries, it was established in 1985 under the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Act. A compulsory check off (licence fee) of \$1.80 per head sold or slaughtered in Ontario is payable to the Ontario Sheep Farmers to fund projects and operations supporting the Ontario sheep marketplace. Visit our website (www.OntarioSheep.org) to see your licence fees at work.

Auction markets, livestock agents, and processors are to deduct the check off fee from the proceeds payable to a seller, and processors must also assess the licence fee in addition to the slaughter fee. This fee is applicable to each sale or slaughter transaction.

Private sales (i.e. a sheep owner to sheep owner sale, sales not done at an auction market, nor to an agent or processor) require licence fee self-assessment and reporting through this remittance form.

Ontario Sheep Farmers 130 Malcolm Road, Guelph, Ontario N1K 1B1

SHEEP/LAMB: FEE IS \$1.80 PER HEAD PLUS 13% HST

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Genetic and Health Program Enrollment Listing

If you have questions, concerns, or would like more information about these programs please contact the Ontario Sheep office at (519) 836-0043 or email general@ontariosheep.org.

CURRENT PRODUCERS ENROLLED IN THE GENOVIS PROGRAM (AS OF MARCH 2022)

4S Maple Lane Farm • Kimberly Schneider • (905) 404-7811
5-Star Livestock and Farm Services • Jen & Chris Vervoort • (519) 993-6413
Allinbrook Farms • Neil Allin • (905) 983-5791
Asphodel Sheep Co • Todd Payne • (705) 875-5904
Bone Run Farm • Jana Vleuten • (519) 532-9901
Bonfire Hill Farm • Lisa Schultes • (902) 326-1195
Breezy Ridge Farm • Philip & Elizabeth Smith • (905) 478-4280
Brubacher Ovine • Earl Brubacher • (519) 323-4152
Burtwistle Sheep • Benjamin Burtwistle • (519) 280-0093
Cedar Creek Charollais • Ted & Joanne Skinner • (905) 263-2102
Cedar Grove Farm • Quintin Mc Ewen • (519) 949-4130
Century Lane Farm • Robert & Shirley Graves • (613) 791-2656
Circle R Livestock • Ryan & Romy Schill • (519) 669-4146
Codan Suffolks • Bill & Lynne Duffield • (519) 899-2663
Craigmore Farm • Wayne Kreklewich • (416) 892-0664
Cursio Farms & Arkell Valley • Frank & Ned Cursio • (519) 766-3378
DP Farms • Neil Post • (519) 820-2810
Ewenique Farm • Nathalie Labelle • (613) 290-5405
Fare Vewe Acres • Mark & Betty Beringer • (519) 323-1760
Jim & Wendy Driscoll • (519) 638-5703
G & L Brien • Gary & Luanne Brien • (519) 674-3846
Gimlet Hill • Rob & Tracey Werry • (289) 385-6804
Gopher Broke Dorsets • Tania Lise • (519) 440-1076
Grant • Grant Cowan • (705) 796-2236
H D Livestock • Heidi Kristufek • (519) 803-4194
Hutchings Farm • Kevin & Sandra Hutchings • (705) 437-4441
J & J Farms • Ross & Clementine Savasi • (705) 652-7477
Jeff Ditner • Jeff Ditner • (519) 889-0288
John & Holly Wallace • (519) 368-6540

Irwin and Spencer Jackson • (519) 856-4490
Keiton Moffat • Keiton Moffat • (705) 295-4354
Kettle Crest Farm • Art & Sandra Alblas • (519) 637-0050
Lamb Lady Farm • Shelagh Finn • (647) 932-7102
Leahy Hill Farm • Clara Leahy • (705) 927-3545
Linc Farm • Juliet Oraziotti • (905) 984-0987
Lush Acres • Jenean & Jason Lush • (519) 538-2753
Maderstone Farm • Courtney Mader • (705) 313-5882
Maple Meadow Farms • Colleen Acres & Dwayne Bazinet • (613) 826-2330
Meadow Brook Family Farm • Steven A. Ernewein • (519) 392-8624
Our Farm CSA • Katie Ward • (613) 797-0601
Parker Agriculture Ltd. • Jeanne Parker • (204) 730-0597
Pinnacle Haven Farm • Shanna & Tyler Armstrong • (613) 433-8255
Prolific Acres Sheep Farm • Charlie Renaud • (705) 322-2140
Rising Oak Farm • Laura Mosley • (705) 305-9275
Rocky Lane Farm • Allison Brown • (705) 308-3284
Shadow Ridge Acres • Zabrina Bielaskie • (613) 433-6199
Schuyler Farms Ltd. • Brett Schuyler • (519) 427-9696
Sheep View Farm • Enos Martin • (226) 751-6990
Shepherd's Fold • Bethanee Jensen • (519) 887-9948
Shepherd's Grove • Harv & Christine Breman • (519) 879-6579
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Tulach Ard Farm • Sean McKenzie • (905) 786-2476
Twin Shores Farm • Brian Voith • (343) 364-4095
Woodhurst Farm LTD • Tom Woods • (519) 281-9829
Wooldrift Farm • Chris Buschbeck & Axel Meister • (519) 538-2844

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Asphodel Sheep Company • Todd & Jennifer Payne • (705) 875-5904
The Greenhill Farms • Wietze & Leny Raven • (519) 928-2705

ITSA Breeze Farm • Tammy Trinkwon • (519) 843-4222
Kettle Crest Farm • Art & Sandra Alblas • (519) 637-0050

FLOCKS WHO HAVE ACHIEVED "A" STATUS ON THE MAEDI VISNA PROGRAM (AS OF MARCH 2022)

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Anchor A Farms • Tim Thomsen & Allison Lange • (506) 538-2835
Cedar Creek Charollais • Ted & Joanne Skinner • (905) 263-2102
Century Lane Farm • Robert & Shirley Graves • (613) 831-2656
Cursio Farms and Arkell Valley
Frank & Caitlin Cursio, Ned Curiso • (519) 766-3012
Cleon M. Martin • 519-323-3519
Howard & Denise Wideman • (519) 335-6124
Hunterdown Farm • Gerald & Joanne Hunter • (613) 283-7565
Jake Sloan • (519) 379-1966

Kettle Crest Farm • Art & Sandra Alblas • (519) 637-0050
Mark Martin Dairy Sheep • Mark & Rosena Martin • 519 638 3644
Orchardview Farm • Gordon Walker • (519) 287-5085
Rider Ridge Ranch • Jill & Tim DeClark • (519) 644-0766
Robert Pennie • (705) 859-2671
Salt Breeze Farms • Jeff & Alana Campbell • (902) 956-4397
Shepherd's Flock • John Stoltzfus • (519) 773-9569
Sisson Sheep Farm • Perry Sisson • (705) 277-1866
Stonehill Sheep • Paul Dick • (519) 794-3732
Trailblaze Farm • Perry, Sharon & Valerie Robinson • (519) 794-4837

FLOCKS WHO HAVE ACHIEVED "B" STATUS ON THE MAEDI VISNA PROGRAM (AS OF MARCH 2022)

Allinbrook Farms • Neil Allin • (905) 983-5791
Bojudabrook Farms • Robert & Judy Pringle • (519) 794-2579

Brian Atkinson • (705) 924-3043
James & Cecile Blackie • (506) 392-6263

FLOCKS WHO HAVE ACHIEVED "ENROLLED NEG" STATUS ON THE MAEDI VISNA PROGRAM (AS OF MARCH 2022)

Bonfire Hill Farm • Lisa Schultes • (902) 326-1195
Creekdale Lamb & Wool • Josh & Ashtyn Bruton • (519) 807-6978

The Northern Sheep Company • Daniel Goodsman • (306) 570-6415

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Century Lane Farm • Robert & Shirley Graves • 1 Certified
Codan Suffolks • Lynne & Bill Duffield • 1 Certified
DP Farms • Lorraine & Neil Post • 1 Certified
Lamb Lady Farm • Shelagh Finn • 1 Certified

Oak Glen Farm • Bridget & Peter Misener • 1 Certified
Our Little Flock • Jaime Neeb • 1 Certified
WoolDrift Farm • Axel Meister • 1 Certified

Auction Markets and Abattoirs

ABATTOIRS		
NAME	CITY	PHONE NO
Abattoir Lefavre Inc.	Lefavre	(613) 679-4698
Afghan Halal Meat Suppliers	Schomberg	(416) 894-1802
Agram 2005 Meats Inc.	Georgetown	(905) 877-6082
Al Madina Halal Meat Packers	Brinston	(613) 652-1301
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Bachert Meats	Walton	(519) 887-9328
Belle Vallee Meats & Abattoir	Belle Vallee	(705) 647-7419
Bentinck Packers Ltd.	Hanover	(519) 364-3538
Beverly Creek Farm	Hamilton	(905) 690-8111
*Bilal Farms Inc.	Clarence Creek	(613) 488-2268
Birch Lake Abattoir	Massey	(705) 865-3395
Brian Quinn's Meats Ltd.	Yarker	(613) 377-6430
Burt Farm Country Meats	Gore Bay	(705) 282-0328
Caledon Halal Meat Packers	Bolton	(416) 999-9999
Charles Quality Meats Ltd.	St. Agatha	(519) 886-7931
Cloverbelt Country Meats Co-operative	Oxdrift	(807) 937-6716
Cole Bros. Meat Processing	Picton	(613) 476-6955
Country Fresh Packers	Tilbury	(519) 682-2222
Creative Meats	Warren	(705) 967-2006
Desormeaux Slaughter-house & Meats Inc.	Crysler	(613) 987-2148
Dresden Meat Packers Ltd.	Dresden	(519) 683-2585
Elora Road Meats	Mildmay	(519) 367-2261
Ewe Dell Family Farm	Woodslee	(519) 723-4456
Farmersville Community Abattoir	Athens	(613) 924-0400
FGO Organic Processing Ltd.	Ingersoll	(519) 236-7717
Gord's Abattoir Ltd.	Leamington	(519) 326-2503
Green's Meat Market & Abattoir Ltd.	Wingham	(519) 357-2912
Grey County Meats	Maxwell	(519) 922-2400
Hank De Koning Ltd.	Port Dover	(519) 583-0115
Harriston Packing Company Ltd.	Harriston	(519) 338-3330
Hastings Meat Market	Stirling	(613) 395-0505
Hay's Custom Cutting Ltd.	Campbellford	(705) 653-3388
Highgate Tender Meats Ltd.	Highgate	(519) 678-3383
Highland Packers Ltd.	Stoney Creek	(905) 662-8396
Hilts Butcher Shop Ltd.	Norwood	(705) 696-2172
Hunter's Dressed Meats	Dunnville	(905) 774-5900
J.J. Meat Distributing Inc.	Schomberg	(905) 859-1540
Joe Savage & Fils Abattoir Inc.	St. Albert	(613) 987-2070
Johnson Meats	Aylmer	(519) 773-9208
Julius Meat Packers Inc.	St. Anns	(905) 957-7162
Kawartha Meats	Little Britain	(855) 786-9970
Ken R. Mogk	Tavistock	(519) 462-2280
L & M Meat Distributing Inc.	Beeton	(905) 729-2771
L & M Meat Distributing Inc.	Gilford	(905) 775-6775
Len and Patti Butcher Block	Lindsay	(705) 328-2100
Matar Meats	Osgoode	(613) 821-7929
McGarroch of Micksburg Custom Butchering	Pembroke	(613) 732-7181
Miedema's Country Meats	Exeter	(519) 235-4978
Miedema's Meat Market Ltd.	Embro	(519) 475-4010
Millgrove Packers Ltd.	Waterdown	(905) 689-6184
Mr. Beef Inc.	Pakenham	(613) 624-5222
Mount Brydges Abattoir Ltd.	Mount Brydges	(519) 264-1873
Newmarket Meat Packers Ltd.	Newmarket	(416) 364-2671

ABATTOIRS		
NAME	CITY	PHONE NO
Northern Meat Packers and Abattoir Ltd.	Trout Creek	(705) 723-5573
Norwich Packers Ltd.	Norwich	(519) 468-3617
Ontario Halal Meat Packers Inc.	Milton	(905) 875-0270
Otonabee Meat Packers Ltd.	Peterborough	(705) 743-8547
Palmateer's Abattoir Ltd.	Tweed	(613) 478-3801
Parkhill Meats	Parkhill	(519) 293-3000
Peel Sausage Abattoir	Drayton	(519) 638-3446
Penokean Hills Farms	Bruce Mines	(705) 782-4224
Rainy River District Regional Abattoir Inc.	Emo	(807) 482-3028
Ralph Bos Meats Ltd.	Strathroy	(519) 245-1574
Reiche Meat Products Ltd.	Pembroke	(613) 732-3773
Rua Meats Ltd.	Foxboro	(613) 962-7915
Simcoe Street Meat Packers	Oakwood	(705) 821-3151
Smelser Meats	Cayuga	(905) 772-5053
St. Helen's Meat Packers Ltd.	Toronto	(416) 769-1788
Stayner Meat Packers Ltd.	Stayner	(705) 428-3006
Taylor's Custom Meats	Roseneath	(905) 352-2367
Teals Pure Pork Sausage	Waterford	(519) 443-8844
The Beefway	Kincardine	(519) 396-2257
Thunder Bay Meat Processing Co. (1986) Ltd.	Murillo	(807) 935-2911
Tom Henderson Custom Meat Cutting	Chesterville	(613) 448-3471
Townsend Butchers	Simcoe	(519) 426-6750
Vanessa Meats & Deli	Vanessa	(519) 446-3897
VG Packers	Simcoe	(519) 426-2000
Walkerton Meat Market	Walkerton	(519) 881-0781
Wallace Beef Inc.	Joyceville	(613) 536-6379
Wall's Pork Shop	Oxdrift	(807) 937-4357
Wayne's Meat Products Inc.	Hagersville	(905) 768-3633
Weiland Meats Ltd.	Petrolia	(519) 882-1215
Willie's Meats Ltd.	Troy	(519) 647-3160
Windcrest Meat Packers Ltd.	Port Perry	(800) 750-2542
Zehr's Country Market	Dashwood	(519) 237-3668

AUCTION MARKETS			
Aylmer Stockyards Inc.	8933 Walker Road, RR 1	Aylmer	(519) 765-2672
Brussels Livestock Exchange	42857 Newry Road, RR 3	Brussels	(519) 887-6461
D.H. Hickson Ltd.	2508 County Road 8, RR 5	Campbellford	(705) 653-3660
Denfield Livestock Exchange Inc.	12952 Sixteen Mile Road, RR 2	Denfield	(519) 666-1140
Embrun Livestock Exchange Ltd.	1643 Salebarn Road,	Greely	(613) 821-2634
Hagersville Auction Centre	97 First Line, RR 6	Hagersville	(905) 768-5601
Kawartha Lakes Community Sale Barn Inc.	580 Woodville Road, RR 3	Woodville	(705) 439-4444
Keady Livestock Market Ltd.	117012 Grey Road 3, RR 4	Tara	(519) 934-2339
Ontario Livestock Exchange Inc.	856 Weber Street N,	Waterloo	(519) 884-2082
Ontario Stockyards Inc.	3807 Highway 89,	Cookstown	(705) 458-4000
Renfrew-Pontiac Livestock Ltd.	18156 Highway 17, RR 3	Cobden	(613) 646-7335
Temiskaming Livestock Exchange	883006 Highway 65 E, RR 3	New Liskeard	(705) 647-5415
Vankleek Hill Livestock Exchange Ltd	1239 Ridge Road,	Vankleek Hill	(613) 678-3008

* Bilal Farms – Always looking for quality lambs (70 – 80 lbs) and have a year round market. wzazay@hotmail.com or www.bilalfarms.com

District Contacts

Look for your district news and events in the Messenger or on the website.

District 1

Counties of Essex, Kent, Lambton, Middlesex, and Elgin

Director	Art Alblas	519.637.0050
Chair	Sandra Alblas	519.637.0050
Vice Chair	Ed Post	519.280.4638
Secretary/Treasurer	Lisa Burks	519.671.2635

District 2

Counties of Grey and Bruce

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Chair	Jay Lennox	519.374.4055
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Counties of Huron, Perth, Waterloo and Oxford

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Chair	Quintin McEwen	519.949.4130
Vice Chair	Susan Martin	519.669.8066
Secretary	Bonnie DeWeerd	519.502.1389
Treasurer	Rick Zimak	519.284.0533

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Counties of Wellington and Dufferin and the Regional Municipalities of Halton and Peel

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Vice Chair	Mark Lenover	705.563.2966

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

As we all know too well one of the biggest costs of the pandemic has been the loss of social gatherings. It would have been satisfying to have received and acknowledged the 2021 Outstanding Shepherd Award in person at the Ontario Sheep Farmers Annual General Meeting. I would like to thank the board and members-an award from your peers has to be earned and is appreciated.

Particularly gratifying to our family is that Cherry and I were recognized together as true partners in every sense of the word for over thirty years.

Thank you.

Mark Ritchie

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