

ONTARIO SHEEP NEWS

Vol. 41 - Issue 4 Winter 2023

2023 OSF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Farm Back Up Power
OSF Convention Snapshot
OSF 2023 Photo Contest

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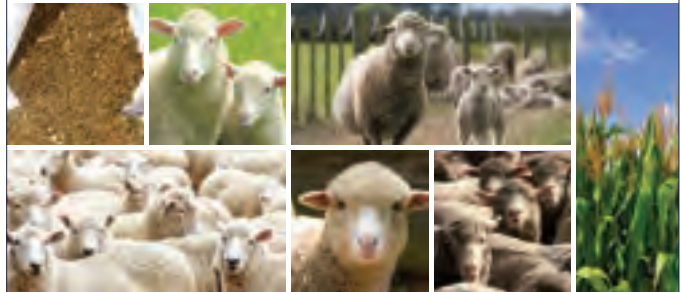
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District 7	Ken Lamb	(905) 435-6027
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A Message from the OSF Chair

I am thrilled and deeply honored to assume the role of the new chair of Ontario Sheep Farmers (OSF). As we embark on this journey together, I look forward to collaborating with our dedicated board of directors to uphold our business theme for the year: "Towards a Better Future - Forward Together."

The recent OSF Convention and Annual General Meeting (AGM) marked a tremendous success, thanks to the hard work and dedication of our staff. Attendees had the opportunity to engage in a unique learning experience throughout the day, with many expressing appreciation for the well-presented program. Your positive feedback reaffirms our commitment to delivering valuable content that contributes to the growth and success of our sheep industry.

At the AGM, the 2022-2023 Board of Directors presented the results of the business year ending Aug 31, 2023. The positive conversations and feedback received underscore the substantial potential for our sheep producer organization to grow. Our business theme will serve as a guiding principle for us to work collaboratively as one united sheep industry.

While 2023 brought about a margin squeeze in lamb production, our conference shed light on the prospects of more favorable markets and costs in 2024. Despite food inflation affecting consumer buying habits, the demand for lamb is expected to grow, presenting opportunities for our industry.

The 2024 OSF Board of Directors, representing all primary production segments of the Ontario sheep industry, is actively engaged and committed to a sustainable future. Their passion and focus set the priorities for our motivated OSF

staff, dedicated to providing the best support to our industry.

Your feedback at the AGM highlighted the need for enhanced communication on initiatives and their success or failure of implementation. In response, we are committed to improving communication from member meetings through the district committees to the Board of Directors. Priorities brought forward will be communicated back to all members promptly, ensuring clear messaging and transparency.

We understand the importance of prudent fiscal responsibility and investing in actionable initiatives. As initiatives are implemented or completed, a summary report will be shared with district committees using a start, stop, or continue approach.

The idea of a more cohesive Ontario sheep voice has been resonating, and we are open to initiating dialogue, to build strong connections with the various sheep groups. We believe that a united front will strengthen our industry and amplify our impact.

The challenge set by the Ontario Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, the Honourable Lisa Thompson, through the Grow Ontario initiative, is an exciting opportunity for our lamb production chain. With a vision to increase production and consumption of lamb by 30% by 2032, we encourage each district to educate members on this priority and engage in discussions on the necessary steps to achieve this growth goal.

Every action we take at OSF is geared towards improving deliverables that enhance our sheep market opportunities. Our Board of Directors is committed to creating an environment

that drives OSF member value, and this commitment will become increasingly evident throughout the year. However, we cannot do this alone, and I encourage all members to share their ideas with their district committee Chair or district Provincial Director, allowing us to work "Towards a Better Future - Forward Together"

Thank you for your support, and I look forward to a year of collaboration, growth, and success. **OSN**



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OSF at the Royal Winter Fair

Ontario Sheep Farmers sponsored the Junior Sheep Competition at the Royal Winter Fair this year. There was an incredible turnout of 131 participants in the Showmanship, Conformation and Junior Costume classes from across Ontario as well as competitors from Alberta, Quebec and New Brunswick.

Congratulations to all of the participants for their hard work preparing for the show. Everyone did a great job. Thank you also to the judges, the MC, the volunteers recording the results and those who helped in the ring throughout the day.

The winners of the showmanship classes were:

Novice Showmanship:

1. Austyn Groves, Brantford
2. Josie Crawford, Glencoe
3. Tristan Lush, Meaford



Junior Showmanship:

1. Brock Bartlett, Rockwood who was also the Grand Champion show person
2. Felicity Groves, Brantford
3. Brinley Miller, Kerwood

Intermediate Showperson:

1. Colby Young, Brantford
2. Nicole Prange, Strathroy
3. Lauren Todd, Lucknow

Senior Showmanship

1. Brandon Bartlett, Rockwood who was also Reserve Grand Champion show person
2. Taylor Draper, Durham
3. Mia Westergaard, Vermillion, AB

In the conformation classes, congratulations to the winners:

- Mia Westergaard from Vermillion Alberta in the AOB shortwool class with the Grand Champion lamb
- Carley Young from Brantford in the AOB longwool class
- Briggs Miller from Kerwood in the Cross-bred class
- Avery Kendall from Strathroy in the Dorset class
- Peter Shoemakers from Kerwood in the Southdown class with the Champion Southdown lamb
- Josie Crawford from Glencoe in the Suffolk class with the Champion Suffolk lamb and the Reserve Grand Champion lamb

And a big congratulations to Lauren Cowan from Innisfil who will be the 2024 Sheep and Wool Ambassador and is the winner of the Albert and Reta Hunter Memorial Award and the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair award. **OSN**

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OSF New Podcast Series

Flock Talk Brings Ontario Producers Additional Communications

In recent months I have found myself listening to a variety of podcasts, on a wide range of topics and really enjoying this method of learning on the go. Podcasts are easy to fit into daily routines, downloadable to your iPhone or smart phone and you can listen while doing chores, which is important for sheep producers. They are perfect for people with busy schedules (like sheep farmers), or those who don't have access to Wi-Fi which is many people in rural Ontario. It's also another option to a playlist when traveling or working instead of music and traditional radio and television.

Podcasts for those who haven't spent much time using them make education and information sharing more accessible and are helpful to knowledge transfer. The easier it is for someone to fit learning into their schedule, the more likely someone is to do it and that is one of the many reasons OSF has started producing them. Educational and informative podcast discussions are on the rise and OSF is excited to add this to the list of communication vehicles offered to our producer members and the public.

The need for improved communications was one of the items to come out of the Strategic Planning sessions undertaken by Ontario Sheep Farmers (OSF) during the Crossroads Challenge consultations. The Crossroads consultation process allowed OSF staff the ability to gain a better understanding of the different types of communication methods preferred by producer members wanting to receive additional communications from our organization.

OSF is excited to announce that in late 2023, we started recording a weekly podcast series called Flock Talk. Ontario Sheep Farmers "Flock Talk" is a weekly podcast series bringing Ontario Sheep Producers ideas and insight from fellow producers, and industry experts covering research, marketing, education, news updates and more.

Current Episodes include:

Life Cycle Analysis, with Dr. Bassim Abbassi, discussing the main objective of this project and his findings.

Grazing with producer Bill McCutcheon. From pasture, predation to parasites, Bill goes in depth about his grazing operation offering decades of experience.

Nutrition with Courtney Vriens, who specializes in dairy and commercial sheep nutrition and discusses different nutritional requirements, dietary options, and gives some advice to anyone starting out in production.

Sheep Dairy with Jay Arkas from Ovino Sheep Farm Dairy based in Acton, Ontario. Jay discusses how he and the company got started in sheep dairy, some challenges he's faced along the way and future market growth opportunities.

Dr. Emma Borkowski, a researcher and assistant professor at the Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph. Dr. Borkowski's research interests include Veterinary parasitology, particularly parasites of livestock, immune responses to parasites, sustainable parasite control and more to come monthly.

Current episodes can be found by searching Flock Talk on Spotify, Amazon Music, Apple Podcast or by visiting the Ontario Sheep Farmers website at www.ontariosheep.org/communications. We encourage you to check it out and stay tuned for future episodes. **OSN**



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ARE WELCOME

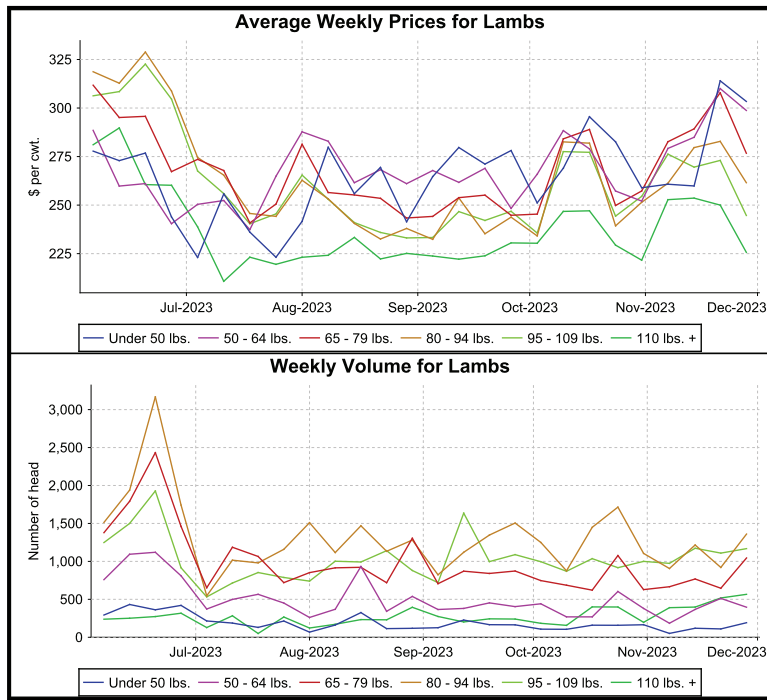
The OSN welcomes letters to the editor.

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. 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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OSF 2023 Annual General Meeting Highlights

Towards a Stronger Future - Forward Together!

AGM Meeting Highlights

The 2023 Ontario Sheep Farmers (OSF) Annual General Meeting (AGM) returned this year to in-person format as well as being offered in an online hybrid. It was a great opportunity for producers to meet in person, catch up and share stories after so many years apart due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

During the annual meeting, OSF welcomed several new board members to the OSF team. Wesley Godden (District 9), Devon Wensink (District 10), and Grant Cowan (District 6).

Art Alblas (District 1), is the new OSF Chair, joined by 1st Vice Ken Lamb (District 7) and 2nd Vice Chair Karen Davis (District 8). The remaining board members include Keith Todd (District 3), Jay Lennox (District 2), Marusha Kostuk (District 4), Ryan Schill (District 5) and Jenna Wight (District 11). All new directors were elected earlier this year at their OSF district meetings.

"I am very pleased to be elected as chair of such a great organization with such a bright and prosperous future," says Art Alblas incoming OSF Chair. "I look forward to the industry coming together and working hard to advance our strategic plan and the Ontario Sheep Sector."

The board thanked outgoing Chair John Hemsted (District 6), Reggie Campbell (District 9), Lee Brian (District 10).

AGM Keynote Speaker Yassir Al Qayem from Parkhill Meats, spoke about meeting the needs of Ontario's Ethnic Market. He shared the opportunities and challenges facing the industry and consumers and provided advice for producers looking to target the ethnic markets with their production.

Steve Duff, Chief Economist with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs, wrapped up the day's program with a presentation on the Lamb Industry Situation and Outlook.

In the coming year, OSF will continue its work to build on the strategic plan - Building Strength for a Better Future. The Five key deliverables identified in the OSF strategic plan are designed to build greater public trust, more dynamic market relationships, more effective business support, a more robust system to identify leadership and support districts, and a more effective organization to support each member.



The 2023/24 OSF budget was passed showing an ongoing commitment to use the valuable dollars to support programs and services that help our producer members.

2023 OSF Resolutions

OSF producer members discussed a number of resolutions at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), with delegates voting on those resolutions presented. The resolutions and outcome are below.

District 2 Resolution 1

Whereas A significant amount of money is being expended by the board. We as District 2 would like some benchmarks using matrix identifying timelines and an action plan to indicate if the current programs are effective.

Be it resolved that if the programs is not effective it should be discontinued.

Moved by: Henry Kelly Seconded by: Steve Ernewein
Motion: CARRIED

District 3 Resolution 1

Whereas Finding volunteers to participate in the local level of the districts is increasingly difficult. New and established producers need to understand the governance and be actively encouraged to participate.

Be it resolved that To encourage leadership and participation for the future of our industry in districts, to explore incentives for District Executive Positions to attend AGM of OSF. Specifically, 50% of room costs.

Moved by: Bonnie DeWeerd Seconded by: Laura Mosley
Motion: CARRIED

District 5 Resolution 1

Whereas Current livestock compensation values for predation losses do not reflect the actual values of animals on an Ontario sheep farm. The value of a purebred or registered ewe is higher when valued for losses. However many "commercial" ewes and breeders put that same value on their quality breeding stock as well. A producer should get fair value for their stock not just cull ewe prices if they don't register their animals. There is also a large difference in value for young animals less than a year old. These are considered lambs but many producers will buy or produce high value breeding stock that may be less than a year old. This discrepancy in price value/ replacement value need to be addressed to properly support Ontario sheep farmers and losses they experience.

Be it resolved that OSF work to create a memorandum of understanding with the responsible organization. Create an ongoing relationship to maintain realistic livestock compensation values based on real value and engage in annual reviews to ensure producers are properly compensated for their losses.

Moved by: Mike Swidersky Seconded by: Chris Vervoort
Motion: CARRIED

District 5 Resolution 2

Whereas Producers who use LGD fall in an odd space with townships and dog licensing guidelines. Some producers care for more than 5 dogs which is the allotted maximum before one would need a full kennel license. There may also be dogs at more than one location, moving between locations and there may also be litters of puppies. Stock or working dogs would also increase the number of dogs on a farm and need to be considered as well as working dogs. Township bylaws need to reflect and not restrict normal farm practices. Many townships even offer licence fee exemptions for working dogs, as they help to reduce economic strain and resources for the townships.

Be it resolved that OSF engage with townships to create realistic standards of care, numbers, possible exemptions for producers caring for LGDs and working dogs. As well follow up with townships that the information has been reflected in their bylaws. There should also be direct communication with townships to ensure adequate knowledge of town employees to deal with working dogs and the differences in standards of care vs pets.

Moved by: Chris Vervoort Seconded by: Bill McCutcheon

Motion: CARRIED

District 9 Resolution 1

Whereas there are producers that are asked by Ontario Sheep Farmers to represent the Ontario sheep industry and take time out of their days and businesses to represent the industry.

Be it resolved that Ontario Sheep Farmers support producers who are asked to represent the industry through compensation for their time and incurred expenses.

Moved by: Chris Moore Seconded by: Katie Ward

Motion: CARRIED

District 9 Resolution 2

Whereas there are young producers with a social insurance number who pay check-off and submit tax forms to CRA and are interested in the business of sheep farming; Whereas Ontario Sheep Farmers is not regulated by Elections Canada

Be it resolved that Ontario Sheep Farmers lower the voting age from 18 to 15 to serve on committee and to vote at the AGM.

Moved by: Chris Moore Seconded by: Allan Burn

Motion: DEFEATED

District 10 Resolution 1

Whereas Ontario Sheep Farmers is currently one of 25 commodity organizations that is listed as being recognized under the Farm Products Marketing Act (FPMA).

Whereas Section 2 of the FPMA states its purpose is "to provide for the control and regulation in any or all aspects of the producing and marketing within Ontario of farm products including the prohibition of such producing or marketing in whole or in part."

Whereas OSF is not actively involved in either marketing or market development work or controlling production, both of which are listed as activities under FPMA and

Whereas OSF has already taken steps to change its name to Ontario Sheep Farmers in recognition of the fact that it does not serve a marketing function

Whereas Beef Farmers of Ontario and Ontario Goat along with other livestock commodities and other agricultural groups are governed under the Agricultural and Horticultural Organizations Act (AHOA)

Whereas AHOA allows agricultural organizations to be incorporated under that act and lists the objectives of incorporated organizations as:

- (a) to promote the development, sale and export of agricultural products; and
- (b) to provide educational opportunities related to agriculture and rural life.

Both of these activities are listed as functions under the OSF strategic plan.

Be it resolved that Ontario Sheep request Farm Products Marketing commission to rescind its status as recognized under the FPMA and that it seeks to be recognized under the AHOA to more accurately reflect the activities that our organization undertakes.

Moved by: Colleen Acres Seconded by: Conner Fetterly

Motion: DEFEATED

District 10 Resolution 2

Whereas The Farm Products Marketing Act, Revised Regulations of Ontario Regulation 430, also known as the Sheep Plan, amended 12/2/23 and consolidated June 9, 2023 states in Section 4 that

"The local Board shall not,

- a) establish or acquire controlling interest in a corporation or other entity
- b) exercise its powers and perform its duties or purport to do so, through a corporation or other entity"

Whereas the OSF Board has contravened Regulation 430 by establishing and demonstrating a controlling interest in an entity known as the National Sheep Network and using that entity in the exercise of its powers and the performance of its duties.

Be it resolved that OSF immediately cease any and all activities connected to and support for the entity known as the National Sheep Network.

Moved by: Fred Baker Seconded by: Sarah Jean Campbell

Motion: DEFEATED

District 10 Resolution 3

Whereas The OSF represents all sectors of the sheep industry,

Be it resolved that The Ontario Sheep Farmers make significant efforts to improve advertising breeder directories and participate further in agricultural exhibitions to grow and promote the industry and develop local markets.

Moved by: Kyle Seguin Seconded by: Ghislain Mayer

Motion: CARRIED

Lastly, our OSF Sponsors and exhibitors were acknowledged and thanked at several points in the proceedings and were formally thanked for their generous financial support to the Ontario Sheep Sector. Those sponsors included White Valley, Te Pari, Grober Nutrition, Christian Farmers of Ontario, Dufferin Veterinary Supply, Farmers Depot, Metzger Vet and Ontario Sheep Farmers. **OSN**

OSF 2023 Awards & Scholarships

Recognizing Ontario Sheep Farmers

During this year's Annual General Meeting (AGM), several Ontario sheep farmers received special recognition, with the announcement of the award winners at the Ontario Lamb Banquet. The annual Ontario Sheep Farmers (OSF) awards program recognizes a diverse group of individuals for their contributions to the Ontario sheep sector.

"There are many outstanding people in our industry and it is a privilege to be able to highlight and celebrate their achievements at the OSF awards program" says John Hemsted, OSF Chair.

Emerging Leader Award: Courtney Vriens

Courtney is an industry leader and driver helping push sheep production in Ontario and across Canada. Her dedication and commitment to improving sheep nutrition and helping farmers achieve their goals makes her an emerging leader.



Starting in the dairy nutrition industry, she quickly realized the need the sheep industry had for similar services and knowledge. She had the initiative and bold approach to learn and invest energy to improve her sheep knowledge and create her own independent company. Working with farmers, she quickly became a recognized expert in sheep specific nutrition and ration balancing.

Outstanding Shepherd Award: Ted and Joanne Skinner

Ted and Joanne Skinner have always strived for health and performance for the Ontario sheep industry.

Their first sheep were purebred North Country Cheviots acquired in 1988. In 1993-94 they participated in the first embryo research of imported embryos at the U of G with Dr. Brian Buckrill and staff.

Following this, they were the first Ontario producer, along with several other producers from other provinces, to import frozen Charollais embryos into Canada from the UK in 1994-95.



After the embryo importation, Ted made several Charollais semen importations to upgrade his breeding program. They were the first breeders of purebred Charollais sheep in the province of Ontario.

During the early 2000's the Rideau Arcott breed was added to the expanding flock. Ted and Joanne managed a sow farrowing operation in Nova Scotia before returning to Bowmanville to start and expand the sheep operation. Ted has represented Ontario on the CSBA (Canadian Sheep Breeders Association) and is the third generation of his family to be a representative from Ontario to CSBA.

Ted and Joanne exhibited at the 100th Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in 2022.

Long Service Award: John Hemsted and DVM John Hancock

John Hemsted – Those of us fortunate enough to have served beside John can attest to his unrivalled depth and breadth of knowledge of policy and programs, his unique and unbiased outlook and his commitment to listening and building solutions through discussion and the exchange of ideas. With these traits, John has demonstrated his ability to understand this diverse industry and its broad spectrum of perspectives and production models and seek collaborative solutions. In his many leadership positions, John's steady hand on the tiller has been key to maintaining focus and navigating towards the defined long term solutions of the industry. Along with his commitment to strong governance and his humble demeanor, John has influenced many and facilitated the positive trajectory of the Ontario sheep industry for years to come.



DVM John Hancock - A pioneer in developing a flock-based health approach to economically viable sheep production in Ontario. John ran trials with producers over many years to develop appropriate mineral supplements for different production stages - again with an eye on being cost effective. Recognition of increasing parasite challenges in the



industry and being involved in helping access new products for treatment. Patient analytical skills that have helped identify unusual situations such as magna liver fluke from deer crossing over into sheep, ergot poisoning on sheep at pasture and vomitoxins causing abortion in sheep - just to name a few. A willingness to take on new sheep clients and making himself available to producer meetings.

Undergrad Scholarship: Rachel Gras

Rachel is a University of Guelph Bachelor of Commerce, in Food and Agriculture Business with a minor in Agriculture. She is a Huron county 4-H member (Cloverbud leader, youth leader, and vice president/secretary of many clubs as well as 4-H Ontario Ambassador). Tractor Tug for Tots Registration Assistant 2023 - Huron County Queen of the Furrow 2023-2024. Ontario Agriculture College Class of 2026 first year Vice President. College Royal Executive Member (Canadian Intercollegiate Judging Competition Chair Person 2024, Kids Carnival Assistant Director 2023). Seaforth Fall Fair Junior Ambassador 2018-2019. General member of the Dairy Science club, and the Sheep and Goat Club at the University of Guelph.



Please see her submission on page 25.

Maple Seed Pasture Award: Mike Swidersky

Mike Swidersky and family of Riverview Ranch Meat Co. in Melancthon, Dufferin County are the recipients of the 2023 Ontario Sheep Pasture Award. The award is sponsored by MAPLESEED, the Ontario Forage Council, and the



Ontario Sheep Farmers. Mike was awarded \$250 and a bag of forage seed for his exceptional pasture management.

Mike and his wife, Amber own the farm and operate it with their two children, Warren and Grace. Mike and Amber established the farm in 2003 after completing Agricultural programs at the University of Guelph. Mike has spent the past 17 years honing the farm's production practices and stewarding the land, raising and growing their flock of sheep supported by Amber who has experience in the animal nutrition industry.

Warren and Grace are interested in taking over the farm and making it a second-generation operation. This means adapting the farm in years to come to make it sustainable for multiple families. Warren and Grace both invested in a ewe with their own money over 10 years ago; since that time they have been developing their own flocks within the Riverview Ranch flock.

The Swidersky's are passionate about holistic and pasture management. Mike notes that "The core focus of the farm is sustainability, soil health and integrity. All decisions made on the farm are made with the health of the pasture, soil, and the animals in mind." Sharing ideas and successful best management tips are ways producers pass on experience to, not only new and novice producers, but to the entire industry. Thank you to the Swidersky family for representing these practices and sharing their story.

Congratulations to all this year's winners! [OSN](#)

Ontario GenOvis Program Awards

1st Place Winners

Prolific Breed Category

Ted and Joanne Skinner, Cedar Creek Charollais - Rideau Arcot

Maternal Breed Category

Frank & Caitlin Cursio, Curiso Farms - Dorset

Terminal Breed Category

Ted and Joanne Skinner, Cedar Creek Charollais - Charollais

Commercial Category

Earl Brubacher, Brubacher Ovine - Maternal composite

Hybridizer Category

Wayne Krecklewich, Craigmore Farm - Australian White/Romanov, Australian White/Rideau Arcott, Dorset/Romanov, Rideau Arcott/Romanov

Congratulations to all this year's winners! [OSN](#)

These are the financial reports of September 1st, 2022 to August 31st, 2023. Each year it is the responsibility of Ontario Sheep to ensure that all producers receive this information.

ONTARIO SHEEP MARKETING AGENCY
(Operating as "Ontario Sheep Farmers")
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2023

ONTARIO SHEEP MARKETING AGENCY
(Operating as "Ontario Sheep Farmers")
INDEX TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2023

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors of: Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency, which comprise the statement of financial position as at August 31, 2023 and the statements of changes in net assets, operations and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency as at August 31, 2023 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis of Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to a going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the organization's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements, as a whole, are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the organization's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the organization to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



Guelph, Ontario
October 24, 2023

Chartered Professional Accountants
Licensed Public Accountants

ONTARIO SHEEP MARKETING AGENCY
 (Operating as "Ontario Sheep Farmers")
 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
 AS AT AUGUST 31, 2023

	2023	2022
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 517,287	\$ 358,590
Short term investments (note 4)	549,103	529,601
Accounts receivable (note 5)	292,185	319,746
Prepaid expenses	<u>25,484</u>	<u>10,067</u>
	1,384,039	1,218,004
CAPITAL ASSETS (note 6)	<u>3,650</u>	<u>1,571</u>
	<u>\$ 1,387,689</u>	<u>\$ 1,219,575</u>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 113,435	\$ 80,473
Government remittances payable	31,986	15,644
Deferred income	<u>7,733</u>	<u>6,497</u>
	153,154	102,614
LONG TERM DEBT (note 7)	<u>0</u>	<u>21,000</u>
	<u>153,154</u>	<u>123,614</u>
NET ASSETS		
Operating Fund - unrestricted	82,147	93,673
Memorial Fund - internally restricted (note 11)	17,346	17,329
Research And Development Fund - internally restricted	477,164	435,081
Operational Reserve Fund - internally restricted	541,202	400,000
Special Project Fund - internally restricted	<u>116,676</u>	<u>149,878</u>
	<u>1,234,535</u>	<u>1,095,961</u>
	<u>\$ 1,387,689</u>	<u>\$ 1,219,575</u>

See notes to the financial statements

ONTARIO SHEEP MARKETING AGENCY
 (Operating as "Ontario Sheep Farmers")
 STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2023

	Memorial Fund (note 11)	Research and Development Fund	Operating Fund	Operational Reserve Fund	Special Project Fund	Total 2023	Total 2022
NET ASSETS, beginning of year	\$ 17,329	\$ 435,081	\$ 93,673	\$ 400,000	\$ 149,878	\$ 1,095,961	\$ 1,156,463
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for the year	17	42,083	96,474	0	0	138,574	(60,502)
Interfund transfers (note 13)	0	0	<u>(108,000)</u>	<u>141,202</u>	<u>(33,202)</u>	0	0
NET ASSETS, end of year	<u>\$ 17,346</u>	<u>\$ 477,164</u>	<u>\$ 82,147</u>	<u>\$ 541,202</u>	<u>\$ 116,676</u>	<u>\$ 1,234,535</u>	<u>\$ 1,095,961</u>

See notes to the financial statements

ONTARIO SHEEP MARKETING AGENCY
(Operating as "Ontario Sheep Farmers")
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2023

	2023	2022
REVENUE		
License fees (note 8)	\$ 839,260	\$ 735,066
Toronto Stock Yards capital revenue	175,204	158,044
Project and program revenue (note 9)	40,661	35,945
Industry programs (note 10)	32,383	16,748
Ontario Sheep News	19,707	20,241
Interest income	13,836	11,334
Other income	4,610	6,205
Annual general meeting	3,577	1,420
Seminars	3,289	0
Memorial Fund income (note 11)	517	517
	<u>1,133,044</u>	<u>985,520</u>
EXPENSES		
Staff salaries and benefits	350,587	329,197
Contracted services	185,770	80,620
Research projects and industry programs (note 9)	98,296	105,055
Board and committee	90,588	81,953
Legal and other professional services	51,493	81,243
Office (schedule 1)	38,212	41,414
Occupancy (schedule 2)	36,130	35,917
Ontario Sheep News	33,432	29,616
Promotion and advocacy	26,835	13,253
Industry programs (note 10)	25,875	24,657
Membership fees (note 12)	18,382	20,091
Staff travel	10,940	4,042
District grants and education	7,845	8,690
Audit and accounting	6,350	5,149
Staff recruiting and training	4,991	5,961
Seminars	3,403	0
Annual general meeting	2,112	4,560
Bad debts	1,443	6,033
Amortization	786	253
Memorial Fund payments (note 11)	500	500
Scholarships	500	0
Special projects (note 13)	0	165,818
	<u>994,470</u>	<u>1,046,022</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES for the year	<u>\$ 138,574</u>	<u>\$ (60,502)</u>

See notes to the financial statements

ONTARIO SHEEP MARKETING AGENCY
(Operating as "Ontario Sheep Farmers")
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2023

	2023	2022
CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for the year	\$ 138,574	\$ (60,502)
Items not requiring an outlay of cash		
Amortization	786	253
	<u>139,360</u>	<u>(60,249)</u>
Changes in non-cash working capital		
Accounts receivable	27,561	10,492
Prepaid expenses	(15,397)	12,115
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	32,962	(32,536)
Government remittances payable	16,342	(11,136)
Deferred income	1,236	(5,046)
	<u>202,064</u>	<u>(86,360)</u>
CASH USED IN FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Long term debt	(21,000)	(9,000)
CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN) INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Additions to capital assets	(2,865)	(1,824)
Short term investments	(19,502)	83,711
	<u>(22,367)</u>	<u>81,887</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH	158,697	(13,473)
CASH, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>358,590</u>	<u>372,063</u>
CASH, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 517,287</u>	<u>\$ 358,590</u>

See notes to the financial statements

ONTARIO SHEEP MARKETING AGENCY
(Operating as "Ontario Sheep Farmers")
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2023

1. NATURE OF OPERATIONS

Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency is a not-for-profit organization incorporated without share capital under the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Act. Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency is exempt from income tax. Its purpose is to operate as a producer organization, representing all aspects of the lamb, sheep and wool industries in the Province, through marketing, information, advocacy and education.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and include the following significant accounting policies:

(a) **REVENUE RECOGNITION**

The organization follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Externally restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when they are received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

(b) **CAPITAL ASSETS**

Capital assets are recorded at cost and amortized on the basis of their estimated useful life using the following methods and rates:

- Computer and office equipment - 3 years straight line basis
- Leasehold improvements - 3 years straight line basis

(c) **IMPAIRMENT OF LONG LIVED ASSETS**

Long lived assets are tested for recoverability whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that their carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognized when the carrying value exceeds the total undiscounted cash flows expected from their use and eventual disposition. The amount of the impairment loss is determined as the excess of the carrying value of the asset over its fair value.

(d) **USE OF ESTIMATES**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the year. Significant areas requiring management's estimates include the carrying amounts of accounts receivable, deferred revenue and accounts payable and accrued liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

ONTARIO SHEEP MARKETING AGENCY
(Operating as "Ontario Sheep Farmers")
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2023

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(e) **FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

Measurement of financial instruments

The organization initially measures its financial assets and liabilities at fair value.

The organization subsequently measures all its financial assets and financial liabilities at amortized cost.

Impairment

Financial assets measured at amortized cost are tested for impairment when there are indicators of impairment. If an impairment has occurred, the carrying amount of financial assets measured at amortized cost is reduced to the greater of the discounted future cash flows expected or the proceeds that could be realized from the sale of the financial asset. The amount of the write-down is recognized in net surplus. The previously recognized impairment loss may be reversed to the extent of the improvement, directly or by adjusting the allowance account, provided it is no greater than the amount that would have been reported at the date of the reversal had the impairment not been recognized previously. The amount of the reversal is recognized in net surplus.

Transaction costs

The organization recognizes its transaction costs in net income in the period incurred. However, financial instruments that will not be subsequently measured at fair value are adjusted by the transaction costs that are directly attributable to their origination, issuance or assumption.

(f) **CONTRIBUTED SERVICES**

During the year, a number of volunteers contribute a significant amount of their time. Because of the difficulty in determining the fair value, contributed services are not recorded in the financial statements.

ONTARIO SHEEP MARKETING AGENCY
(Operating as "Ontario Sheep Farmers")
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2023

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(g) FUND ACCOUNTING

Operating fund

The operating fund reports resources available for the organization's general operating activities.

Research and Development fund

The research and development fund reports resources available for special program activities of the organization. This fund is internally restricted.

Operational reserve fund

The operational reserve fund reports resources that have been directed by the Board of Directors in accordance with the organization's reserve fund policy. This fund is internally restricted.

Special project fund

The special project fund reports resources that have been directed by the Board of Directors in accordance with the organization's reserve fund policy. This fund is internally restricted.

Memorial Fund

The memorial fund reports resources that are contributions of past leaders as well as to fund sheep education and development. This fund is internally restricted.

3. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The organization manages its investment portfolio to earn investment income and invests according to a Statement of Investment Policy approved by the Board. The organization is not involved in any hedging relationships through its operations and does not hold or use any derivative financial instruments for trading purposes.

The extent of the organization's exposure to these risks did not change in 2023 compared to the previous period.

The organization does not have a significant exposure to any individual customer or counterpart.

Transacting in financial instruments exposes the organization to certain financial risks and uncertainties. These risks include:

Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial asset will cause a financial loss for the organization by failing to discharge an obligation. The organization's credit risk is mainly related to accounts receivable. The organization provides credit to its clients in the normal course of its operations. Collectibility is reviewed regularly and an allowance for doubtful accounts is established to recognize the impairment risks identified.

ONTARIO SHEEP MARKETING AGENCY
(Operating as "Ontario Sheep Farmers")
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2023

4. SHORT TERM INVESTMENTS

Guaranteed investment certificates, interest rates ranging from 1.3% to 4.3%, maturing December 2023 through to November 2025	2023	2022
	\$ 541,202	\$ 521,700
738 shares in Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers Limited - at cost (restricted for scholarships)	<u>7,901</u>	<u>7,901</u>
	<u>\$ 549,103</u>	<u>\$ 529,601</u>

The guaranteed investment certificates include \$541,202 (2022 - \$400,000) representing cash that is restricted and is included in the Reserve Fund.

5. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

At August 31, 2023, accounts receivable is net of an allowance for doubtful accounts of \$6,550 (2022 - \$3,550).

6. CAPITAL ASSETS

	Net 2023	Net 2022
Computer and office equipment	\$ 68,362	\$ 1,571
Leasehold improvements	<u>22,132</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>\$ 94,144</u>	<u>\$ 1,571</u>

7. LONG TERM DEBT

Canada Emergency Business Account loan through Meridian Credit Union, interest-free with forgiveness of up to 25% if repaid by January 2024

	2023	2022
	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 21,000</u>

8. LICENSE FEES

	2023	2022
Auction fees	\$ 518,244	\$ 496,414
Slaughter license fees	300,531	217,206
Direct license fees	17,291	21,446
Wool license fees	<u>3,194</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>\$ 839,260</u>	<u>\$ 735,066</u>

The wool license fees are included within the Research and Development Fund.

ONTARIO SHEEP MARKETING AGENCY
(Operating as "Ontario Sheep Farmers")
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2023

9. PROJECT AND PROGRAM REVENUE AND EXPENSES

During the year, the organization managed the following programs:

	2023 Revenue	2023 Expenses	2022 Revenue	2022 Expenses
Industry Research:				
R 21-1 Comprehensive Life Cycle	\$ 0	\$ 8,000	\$ 0	\$ 12,000
R 21-2 Metablolomics	0	0	0	4,500
R 21-3 CarLa	0	15,000	0	2,000
R 21-4 Maternal Diet & Stress	0	20,000	0	20,000
R 21-5 Ovipast Vaccine	0	3,500	0	6,500
Pregnancy Toxemia	0	0	0	3,100
Testing Programs:				
MAEDI-VISNA	40,661	40,817	35,945	35,861
OMAFRA-GenOvis	0	5,000	0	11,667
Other	0	5,979	0	9,427
	<u>\$ 40,661</u>	<u>\$ 98,296</u>	<u>\$ 35,945</u>	<u>\$ 105,055</u>

10. INDUSTRY PROGRAM REVENUE AND EXPENSES

During the year, the organization managed the following industry programs:

	2023 Revenue	2023 Expenses	2022 Revenue	2022 Expenses
Master shepherd course	\$ 28,902	\$ 0	\$ 11,442	\$ 0
Fecal egg count course	1,688	0	2,144	0
Introduction to small ruminant course	1,496	0	2,002	0
Lenders seminar	0	25,395	0	24,657
Parasite management	297	0	680	0
GenOvis breeders group	0	480	480	0
	<u>\$ 32,383</u>	<u>\$ 25,875</u>	<u>\$ 16,748</u>	<u>\$ 24,657</u>

11. MEMORIAL FUND

The Memorial Fund was established to recognize the contributions of past industry leaders as well as to fund sheep education and development. During the year, the following activity occurred:

	2023	2022
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 17,329	\$ 17,312
Investment income	517	517
Memorial Fund payments	<u>(500)</u>	<u>(500)</u>
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 17,346</u>	<u>\$ 17,329</u>

ONTARIO SHEEP MARKETING AGENCY
(Operating as "Ontario Sheep Farmers")
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2023

12. MEMBERSHIP FEES

During the year, the organization paid the following industry membership fees:

	2023	2022
Animal Care Initiatives	\$ 7,800	\$ 7,800
General Farm Organizations	5,382	3,070
Provincial Commodity Discussion/Lobby Groups	3,100	622
Animal Health Initiatives	1,100	6,100
Meat and Poultry Ontario	600	2,099
Livestock Research Innovation Corporation	250	250
Agricultural Adaptation Council	<u>150</u>	<u>150</u>
	<u>\$ 18,382</u>	<u>\$ 20,091</u>

13. INTERFUND TRANSFERS

The board of directors approved a transfer of \$141,202 (2022 - \$0) from the Special Project Fund to the Operational Reserve Fund.

Additionally, the board of directors approved a transfer of \$0 (2022 - \$20,000) from the Operating Fund to the Operational Reserve Fund and a transfer of \$108,000 (2022 - \$105,315) from the Operating Fund to the Special Project Fund. The Special Project Fund will be used to leverage funds to build a three to five year marketing program for lamb, partner with processors to gain market intelligence and develop the Sheep Institute.

Additionally, the board of directors approved a transfer of \$0 (2022 - \$165,818) from the Special Project Fund to the Operating Fund for special projects.

14. COMMITMENTS

The organization is committed to minimum monthly rental payments of \$1,491 plus HST for its premises.

15. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

In the normal course of its operations, the organization is subject to various litigations and claims. The ultimate outcome of these claims cannot be determined at this time. However, the organization's management believes that the ultimate disposition of these matters will not have a material adverse effect on its financial position.

ONTARIO SHEEP MARKETING AGENCY
(Operating as "Ontario Sheep Farmers")
SCHEDULE 1 - OFFICE EXPENSE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2023

	2023	2022
Computer maintenance and supplies	\$ 19,703	\$ 18,856
Postage	8,930	9,953
Supplies and rentals	7,485	7,248
Telephone	6,876	4,295
Miscellaneous	2,429	1,216
Bank charges and interest	<u>(7,211)</u>	<u>(154)</u>
	<u>\$ 38,212</u>	<u>\$ 41,414</u>

SCHEDULE 2 - OCCUPANCY EXPENSE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2023

	2023	2022
Rent	\$ 21,673	\$ 22,580
Insurance	7,901	7,789
Building equipment and maintenance	5,900	4,775
Security	<u>656</u>	<u>773</u>
	<u>\$ 36,130</u>	<u>\$ 35,917</u>

See notes to the financial statements

Emke & Wright Livestock

Oxfords, Suffolk, & Commercial



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 Nora & Gage Emke
 Elmwood Ont.
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Farm and Rural Backup Power

Good Luck is Not a Plan

By Bruce Kelly, Program Consultant, Farm & Food Care Ontario

The need for a backup power option for your farm or rural property has never been more apparent. Our reliance on electricity to power our farms, homes, and communication devices means that having a backup option is not just a convenience but a necessity. The requirement is evident for livestock owners dependent on power ventilation and well pumps. For everyone else, a loss of power to run well water pumps, refrigerators, heating equipment, computers, and communications equipment when an outage lasts more than a few minutes can be inconvenient and costly.

The hydro grid in Ontario is very dependable, but it can never guarantee power when seasonal wind storms, ice storms, and thunderstorms sweep in. Wind events and an ice storm can take out power for several days, and you need a backup plan. In May 2022, a Derecho wind event cut a swath from Brampton to Ottawa, leaving ten dead and hundreds of thousands without power for days. Farms in the storm's path ran on backup power for over a week. The best time to develop your backup power strategy is today, well ahead of catastrophic events.

What type do you need?

There are three basic types of generators: smaller portable units, power-take-off (PTO) units run by a tractor, and built-in standby generators. There are several ways to configure these systems to get power into your farm's electrical system



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to power some or all of your equipment during an outage. An approved transfer switch that isolates your system from the grid is required so that you do not electrocute a hydro worker or damage the generator when the power comes back on. Transfer switches can have a manual or automatic disconnection and power transfer from the generator into the system. There is also a role in your strategy for smaller battery back-ups and surge protectors for essential and sensitive systems like routers or computers. These devices will hold uninterrupted power for a short time until the backup power kicks on.

What systems do I need/want to run during a power outage?

To determine the best option for your farm operation, you must decide what equipment you need to run during an outage vs. what other equipment it would be nice to have during an outage. Consider what equipment needs to run, whether power needs to restart even if you are not home to start it, and your budget. What size do you need? Establish the electrical equipment you need to operate during an outage to make a difference, what other circuits would benefit from power, and what high-usage equipment you can forgo. i.e., the house air conditioner or clothes dryer. Be sure to include equipment like basement sewage and sump pumps. You can have quite a costly mess if these systems do not have continual power.

What equipment would be mandatory during an outage? Likely - farm ventilation, water pump, milking and feeding equipment, furnace, and sump or sewage pump. What would be nice to have? Hot water, stove, some lights/TV. What can you live without? The air conditioner or power to the shed or the shop?

For livestock operations that rely on ventilation fans and need reliable power for watering and feeding equipment, the most reliable alternative is a more significant permanent stand-by generation (diesel) with an automatic transfer switch. But for smaller farms and rural property owners, there are other options.

Types of Generators

Portable generator: \$1,000 to \$2,500

- Depending on commercial or recreational models
- Pricing on these vary quite a bit from brand to brand

Portable generators can be a good option for rural homeowners. They are the least expensive and can be



Photo of GenerLink transfer switch and standby unit on a dairy farm from Sommers Generators



used anywhere or shared between users. But how they are connected safely and effectively to your home systems is critical. Extension cords through a door or window are potentially unsafe and would not easily allow you a code-compliant connection to a furnace or water pump. A new device called a GenerLink offers a safe and code-compliant option to connect portable generators purchased from local retailers to your house or small farm electrical system (max 200 Amp service) and for generators up to 40 Amps output (10,000 watts). This unit is an approved manual transfer switch that connects the generator to your house. It is

ordered with the correct cord to match your generator output and installed at your power meter base.

When an outage occurs, you start the generator and plug the line into the base of the GenerLink. It will power all the systems connected to your electric service, so it is essential to understand that you are now the load manager and must balance the demand load from the house with the output of your generator. You may not be able to run high-load circuits such as the air conditioner or clothes dryer, but a GenerLink

Continued on page 22.



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allows you to manage the entire 30 or 40 amps of power in your house by choosing which specific equipment. Hint: a few dabs of nail polish on electric panel labels can help you identify key circuits to leave on or off during generator use to limit the load. Small LED lights on the bottom of the GenerLink unit show connection status so you can turn off your generator when Hydro is restored to your system.

A GenerLink generator connection is the safest connection option for portable generators. Other small sub-panel kits are available, but they soon reach the cost of the GenerLink. This tool offers the most versatility in circuit selection and load management, as you can manage the actual load used by the entire house and not be limited to selecting circuits based on the maximum breaker rating. The GenerLink facilitates portable 8,000 to 10,000-watt generators to run a refrigerator, freezer, water pump, and furnace, along with a few lights and TV as required, with minimal compromise in family activities - as long as you do not run everything simultaneously. And if you needed to run your stove or another high load, you could always turn off other appliances or loads and use some of the stove elements.

“The GenerLink unit is the most cost-effective way for small generator users to connect a portable generator to their home electrical system safely,” states Brent Graziotto of Graziotto Electric, serving rural customers in Nobel, Ontario.

For his customers who are upgrading their electrical system and those who do not need or want the expense of a more extensive auto-start standby system, he recommends this to his rural residence and small farm customers.

As another option for a transfer connection, both Bent and Scott Childerley from Sommers Generators agree that those who are considering an auto-start generator in their future should invest in the transfer panel with a portable generator receptacle that can be similar in cost to a GenerLink but can have an easy upgrade with the addition of an auto-start generator in the future.

Never run a portable generator in an enclosed building or garage or where the exhaust might enter a living space. Portable generators must be shut down every few hours for inspection and refueling.

PTO Tractor Driven Generators

- PTO – 10,000 up to 150,000 watts (150kW).

PTO generators and manual pole-top switches were once the main options for farmers across Ontario. They offer a cost-efficient way to access significant power and run entire farms, including feed milling equipment and silo unloaders. They are portable and can be moved and shared between farms or towed to an outlying barn. PTO generators require

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a manual transfer switch, and someone capable of safely operating a tractor must be on the farm to hook up the generator and run the tractor. The PTO generator must be stored someplace accessible in both summer and winter.

Scott Childerley from Sommers Generators points out that, “For some applications, PTO generators can be an excellent choice: certain applications such as remote field locations, irrigation, or pumping out flooded field space in the spring can sometimes still be more cost-effective than a permanent generator that you may only use one week to one month per year.” A concern with PTO generators is the quality of the power. In our modern age of electronic equipment, we have sensitive computer boards in all types of equipment, including digital farm thermostats, milk cooler controls, robots, and well pump controllers. Even your fridge would be susceptible to damage from fluctuations from a power supply that does not provide the correct voltage or stable frequency.

Permanent Standby Generator Systems

- Home-series
(10kW – 26kW; 3600 rpm air-cooled NG/LP)
- Commercial-series
(35kW – 60kW; 1800 rpm liquid-cooled NG/LP)
- Commercial/Agricultural Diesel Cost
(10kW – 30kW; 1800 rpm liquid-cooled DSL)
- Commercial/Agricultural Diesel Cost
(55kW – 150kW; 1800rpm liquid-cooled DSL)

A permanent auto-start system is the most reliable for rural properties and livestock farms. Generators are powered by diesel, natural gas (NG), or liquid propane (LP) fueled engines, generally with an automatic transfer switch. The automatic transfer switch constantly monitors the incoming power. It will start the generator when the power goes off and automatically transfer power in less than one minute after it goes out. These systems are designed to run for several days when you provide adequate fuel supplies. Home systems run from 10kw up to 26kw. Larger farm systems (diesel, NG, or LP) run from 15kw to 80kw or larger for large applications. However, these larger applications are becoming more and more prevalent, depending on the area. These units require a mounting base or a small building to house them. Like any tractor engine, they require regular maintenance. They usually include a battery maintainer and often a block and oil pan heater for winter dependability.

Your local generator supplier can help you design a system to meet your needs, level of protection, and budget. Sizing and siting are essential concerns. The layout of your current electrical system will dictate the location of the meter and electrical panels, how you connect a transfer switch, and where you might locate

Continued on page 24.



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a generator and transfer panel. Please consult a dependable generator client services representative to investigate further pricing and details of accurately sized, individually tailored backup power solutions for your operation.

What lies ahead for farm power?

In addition to regular inquiries from dairy and poultry producers across his sales district, Scott Childerley of Sommers Generators is looking to supply equipment for new and unique situations where he believes generators and new battery technologies could play a role.

Here Are Two Examples:

- Helping fill the energy gap for clients to meet their “Peak or prime power” needs. For example, a farmer looking to add another dryer may find that upgrading the electrical service from the road into the new dryer location is prohibitive compared to adding an on-farm power option when excess power is required for short periods.
- New packages of generators, solar inverter(s), and energy storage systems (ESS) (batteries) as a tertiary/alternative supply for storing power and running during peak periods to save on operating costs or moving toward “off-grid” applications (even just for remote locations) will become more practical to meet unique power demands.

Scott states, “New systems are coming to market that combine integrated power generation and storage. Battery storage systems will increase demand with the enhanced stress we continue to put on the electrical grid. They also can (in some cases) offer a more cost-effective solution to running Hydro to a particular area of the property for one select machine/function – e.g. remote field irrigation pumps, well pumps, and off-grid/partial off-grid operations.”

Modern society depends on a constant supply of electricity. We often take this for granted – until a power outage occurs. Livestock producers depend on electricity for ventilation, milking, pumping water and feeding equipment. The economic loss from not having a backup plan (or two) is enormous, not to mention the inconvenience to your family. A safe, reliable power generator option is critical to every farm’s electrical system and emergency plan.

The biggest outside threat to our rural properties is damage from weather events; the most widespread impact is summer thunderstorms, winter ice storms, and power disruption.

The next power disruption is not a question of “if” it will occur; it’s a matter of “when” and for how long. Make your backup power plan today. **OSN**

Reference: OMAFRA On-farm generators for emergency use (2020)

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OSF 2023 Undergraduate Scholarship Winner

Rachel Gras from Seaforth Ontario was the recipient of the 2023 OSF Undergraduate Scholarship. A copy of her written submission of the future of the Sheep Industry is below.

When looking at my future in the sheep industry a common question is how my management style will look, and how I will choose to run my flock. One thing I never questioned though was accelerated lambing in a commercial flock. Growing up with 65 hobby ewes one of our farms management styles was accelerating lambing.

The obvious benefits of accelerating lambing includes higher lamb per year per year, increased market time, and the ability to hit many holidays. Although it also comes with negatives such as having to have breeds that are better for out of season breeding such as dorsets and rambouillets, and sometimes having to use hormonal control such as CIDRS. Then the decision of your rate of accelerated lambing also comes into play: three lamb crops per year, or the STAR (5 lamb crops per three years).

I believe I will choose the three lamb crop per year as it can be less intense on the ewes and the STAR system, and is associated with decreased labor cost. The star system also comes with more work involved due to the fact that one group of ewes is almost always lambing, or lactating. Choosing to lamb three times every two years also gives ewes a chance of lactating longer, which also means that lambs have a longer chance of being on milk. With also having a breeding period of around 51 days compared to STAR which is around 30 days, there is a higher chance of the ewes being bred.

Although accelerated lambing seems great overall, annual lambing also has its pros and cons. Annual lambing is normally done in two times of the year january- february, and april-may. Lambing january-february reduces parasite presents, and has a higher revenue potential being able to hit the easter market but can also increase the risk of lamb mortality and higher housing cost. This is because both the ewes and

Continued on page 26.

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Continued from page 25 ~ **OSF UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP WINNER**

lambs need to be inside to help control body temperatures and other things. Having lambs april-may reduce housing cost, and lamb mortality but reduces your risk of hitting high market time for lambs.

Annual lambing is something that I would consider if I ever own a purebred flock. This is because it has less unpredictable actions and can be easier to control compared to accelerating lambings. What time of year I would choose to lamb is something that I am unaware of. If the lambs are being used as show lambs most commonly january lambs are wanted, but there is also a reduced pressure from the market as most would be privately sold so you don't have that con of april-may lambing. April-May also has many pros that out way the pros of lambing in january-february when market price is not the main concern. Although both accelerated and annual lambing have pros and cons unless I was to have a purebred herd I would choose my flock management style as accelerated lambing at 3 times every 2 years. Although I don't plan on owning my own flock until after school I am excited to learn more about the pros and cons of each and get to discuss with other industry professionals about their opinions and experiences in both of these management styles. **OSN**



Attention Ontario Sheep Farmers!

Ontario Sheep Producers without email now have more options to know what's happening in Ontario's Sheep industry:

OSF phone line now offers 2 **NEW** options to choose from:

NEW - Upcoming Events
(updated every Monday listing events for the week)

NEW - Industry News
(updated as required)

Market Reports
(updated every Wednesday)

Call OSF at 519-836-0043

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press 6 for Industry News
press 4 for Market Reports



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National Sheep Network

The NSN is a national collaboration to create an effective national voice for the business of sheep farming in Canada.

The National Sheep Network was established in November 2016 and formalised their collaboration with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in the fall of 2018. The three members of the NSN are the provincial sheep organizations in Alberta, Quebec and Ontario that collectively represent over 70% of Canada's sheep production and over 80% of sheep and lamb processing.

Over the past year, the NSN has met to share information of national interest including the SunGold plant sale, sheep and lamb pricing trends and the changes to sheep traceability requirements. The NSN is a member of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and has been an active supporter of Bill C-234, to extend the carbon tax exemption for qualifying farming fuel to marketable natural gas and propane. Quebec has taken the lead on a project to develop subscription-based national market insights for the sheep industry that will be available to producers in 2024. The NSN will meet to set goals for 2024 in late January. More information can be found on the NSN website at nationalsheepnetwork.com.

There was some concern from a member of OSF at our Annual Meeting that the National Sheep Network is

controlled by Ontario. The governance document (MOU) requires that the NSN elect a chair and vice chair annually from one of the boards of the member organizations with a maximum of three consecutive one-year terms per person. These positions cannot both be held by the same organization. And when participating in government advocacy, at least two individuals representing two NSN members must be present to ensure decisions on the position of NSN are not left up to an individual and to show a collective approach. There are no membership fees in the organization, and all members share costs equitably. The staff from each organization support the NSN with equal time – Ontario providing secretarial duties, Alberta liaising with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and Quebec undertaking a market information and data gathering project and scheduling the meetings.

The current chair of the NSN is Pierre Lessard from Quebec and the Vice Chair is John Hemsted from Ontario. This will change after elections at the next meeting, as both men are no longer on their respective boards. It is important to note, that with only three members of the NSN, Ontario will hold an executive position in most years. OSF does not want to control the organization, we want to be an active participant. **OSN**

Speaker Series Returns this January in a Monthly Webinar Series

Topics include:

- Managing my cost of production – producers share how they control costs with annual pasture and accelerated lambing systems
- Lamb survival with outdoor lambing – two-part webinar
- Part 1 research findings on different types of shelter and limiting group size;
- Part 2 producers sharing their strategies on lamb survival and dealing with less-than-ideal weather conditions
- Attracting workers /team-mates to your farm business & setting them up for success

Held over Zoom on Wednesdays January 10, February 7, March 6 and April 10.

Webinars will be at 7:30 pm or noon dependent on speaker location.

Look for details in the Messenger, Upcoming Events on OSF website and the Upcoming Events Phone Line 519-836-0043 extension 5. **OSN**



2023 OSF Convention Snapshot

Convention Highlights

The return of the 2023 Ontario Sheep Farmers (OSF) convention was well received by many producers and exhibitors. The in-person, as well as online hybrid event kicked off the two-day OSF Convention and Annual General Meeting at the Nottawasaga Resort in Alliston Ontario.

The convention started with an overview summary of the live lamb and carcass data from the carcass competition by OSF's Anita O'Brien. It was followed by a prerecorded video presentation of the Lamb Carcass Competition which was filmed at the Centre for Meat Innovation Technology (CMIT) with a lamb processor and buyer evaluating competition lambs and their carcasses a few weeks prior to the convention.



This year, OSF was excited to add a live Butcher Demo to the program which focused on maximizing retail cuts and optimizing consumer cuts. This session was hosted by Brent Harrington, of Herrington's Quality Butchers who was also 2019 Ontario's Finest Butcher and member of Team Canada. Brent



provided great insight into the butchery side of the meat industry and what butchers look for in lamb carcasses, Great feedback was received by OSF from attendees.

The morning session also hosted the return of the research poster competition. It was nice to see the researchers, hear what they are working on and give them the opportunity to speak with producers about their ongoing research.

Continued on page 30.

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DR. MARK YOUNG

WHERE DO SHEEP FIT INTO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS OF THE FUTURE?

DR. MARK YOUNG

CULTIVATING TOMORROW: UNDERSTANDING AGROLEDGER'S POTENTIAL FOR PRODUCERS

CORLENA PATTERSON

OSF UPDATE

ERIN MORGAN

OLPC UPDATE

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We are pleased to partner with Joanne and Ted Skinner in providing a Rideau Arcott ram with our own Charollais rams for the Dueck family.



Thank-you to all who assisted and supported this export endeavour.

Wishing the Harold Dueck family continued success with their sheep breeding operation



The afternoon session included a market panel discussion with the processor and buyer discussing what their clients want in lamb. The panel discussion included Wahab Zamani, Simcoe Street Meats and Bill McCutcheon, Ontario Lamb Marketing.



The Honorable Lisa Thompson, Ontario Agricultural joined producers virtually where she announced the province's plans for the Veterinary Incentive Program. This project will encourage newly licensed veterinarians to practice in northern and underserved communities in the province. The intake window opens today and provides grants of up

to \$50,000 over five years to veterinarians who provide care to livestock and poultry in these communities. The news of this announcement was met with applause from the attendees. Through this program, up to 100 newly licensed veterinarians will be incentivized to provide specialized care to animals such as cattle, sheep, goats, and poultry in underserved locations of the province. It is being delivered by the Agricultural Adaptation Council (AAC). Program details, eligibility requirements and information on how to apply will be available on the AAC website.

This year, there were several concurrent educational sessions on the following topics "Increasing Demand for Wool" with Jane Underhill, from Laine OA Wool; "Tips for Lowering Cost of Production" with OSF's Anita O'Brien; "What is Maedi Visna costing you?" with International Sheep Veterinarian Association Paula Menzies; and "Economy of Scale Strategies for Smaller Flocks" with OSF's Anita O'Brien. All sessions were well attended, and participants engaged in discussion with presenters.

Many of the convention presentations were recorded and uploaded to the OSF YouTube channel which can be found by visiting www.youtube.com/@OntarioSheep.

The Large Flock Operators (LFO), as well as the Canadian Sheep Breeders Association (CSBA) hosted their members' meeting as part of the Convention. **OSN**

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International Wool Textile Organization Hosts First Canadian Meeting

In December 2023 for the first time ever, the International Wool Textile Organization, held a meeting of the global wool industry in Canada with the Canadian Wool Council (CWC) as the co-hosts. Amongst the 70+ participants at the Montreal Roundtable, 28 Canadian delegates participated (a record for an IWTO meeting), with presentations from Canadian wool producers, manufacturers, designers, and retailers.

Details about the program can be found here. Representing Ontario Sheep Farms (OSF) was OSF's Industry Relations Specialist Tom Lewis

The CWC secured Canada's first ever seat at the IWTO in 2021 and were successful in persuading the group to come to Canada for 2023. All in support of our strategic goal to Give Canadian Wool a Voice on the International Stage. [OSN](#)



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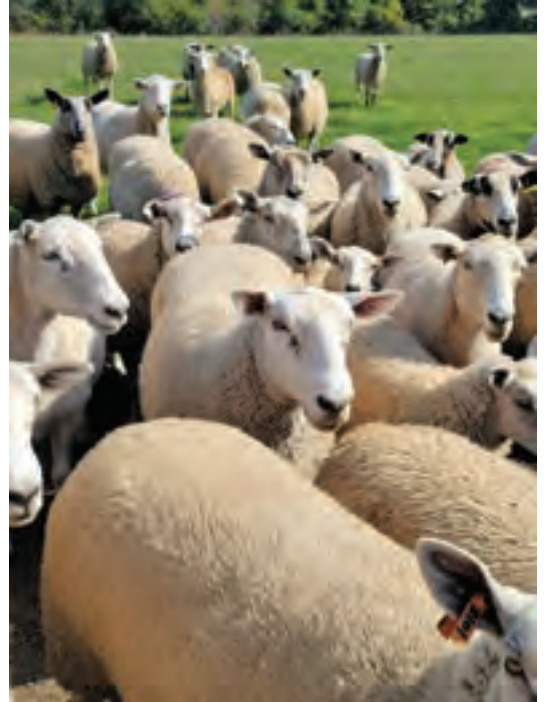
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OSF 2023 Photo Contest Winners

Many Ontario Sheep producers have had a great eye for capturing spectacular moments and sharing them in the annual OSF Photo Contest. In the contest, OSF looks for photo submissions of flocks, activities around the sheep farm, wool, and Ontario sheep farmers. The OSF contest is open to everyone, and we thank those who participated.

The winners of this year's 2023 photo contest below. Congratulations to the 2023 Photo Contest Winners! Get your Camera's ready for 2023/24! For more details visit ontariosheep.org **OSN**



Grand Prize Winner

Submitted by Farrah Fererau



All About Wool Category

Submitted by Rosemary Oliver



Sheep Farmer Category

Submitted by Deborah Wilkinson



Flock Shot Category

Submitted by Deborah Wilkinson



Around the Sheep Farm

Submitted by Rosemary Oliver



Fan Favourite Category

Submitted by Jennifer Burrow
(This category was picked at the 2023 OSF Convention and AGM by participating attendees)

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THE 2024 ONTARIO LAMB MARKET CALENDAR

Year	Holiday	Consumption Preferences	Market Processor Needs	Public Auction Market Impact
January 6	Feast of the Epiphany (Christian)	Lamb is featured in many celebration meals.	Recently weaned and milk-fed lambs are preferred.	Lower market volumes generally.
January 7	Orthodox Christmas	Lamb is featured in many celebration meals.	Recently weaned and milk fed lambs are preferred.	
February 10	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.
March 10 to April 9	Ramadan (Islam) (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.
March 31	Western Easter	Roast lamb is a main dish in festival meals for Mediterranean (Italian, Portuguese, and Greek) heritages	Healthy young lambs. (under 60 pounds live weight; ideally milk-fed and fat). Number of lambs under 65 pounds begins to increase in the 3 weeks prior to Easter, and often peaks during the week before Easter. Number of 65-to-79-pound lambs will also increase during this time.	Higher market demand in the 2-to-3-week period preceding holiday. Check local auction schedules for “special” Easter sale dates. A peak sale period in the year.
April 9-10	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.
April 22-30	Passover (Pesach) Jewish	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.
May		Start of barbeque season which more frequently featuring Ontario lamb.	Moderate demand. Processors see an increase in BBQ lamb demand from May to August.	Commonly higher supply and slightly higher but still moderate demand.
May 5	Orthodox Easter	Roast lamb is a main dish in festival meals for Mediterranean (Italian, Portuguese, and Greek) heritages	Healthy young lambs. (under 60 pounds live weight; ideally milk-fed and fat). Number of lambs under 65 pounds begins to increase in the 3 weeks prior to Easter, and often peaks during the week before Easter. Volume of 65-to-79-pound lambs will also increase during this time.	Higher market demand in the 2-to-3-week period preceding holiday. Check local auction schedules for “special” Easter sale dates. A peak sale period in the year.
June 14-19	The Hajj (Islam)			
June 16-19	Eid al Adha (Festival of Sacrifice, Eid)	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. Some prefer lambs older than six months. Blemishes may include wounds, torn ears, or any 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.
July 7	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 27	Mawlid al-Nabi (Birthday of the Prophet Muhammad)			
October 2-4	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 14	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 25, 2024 to January 2, 2025	Hanukkah (Festival of Rededication) Jewish	Traditionally meats 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)	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. A peak sale period of the year.

This calendar and the 5 year calendar is also available on the OSF website at www.ontariosheep.org/religious-ethnic-market-calendar.

The Ontario Wool Map

Find Wool & Wool Products

Find A Mill To Process Wool

Register On The Ontario Wool Map



www.ontariosheep.org/wool-map

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 \$2.20 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 \$2.20 PER HEAD PLUS 13% HST

Producer # _____ Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov.: _____ Postal Code: _____

Date of Sale: _____ Date Remitted: _____

of sheep/lamb sold: _____ Lic. Fees (x \$2.20=) \$ _____

PAY BY PHONE USING VISA OR MASTERCARD Plus 13% HST \$ _____

519-836-0043 **TOTAL REMITTED** \$ _____

HST# 107800823

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 admin@ontariosheep.org.

CURRENT PRODUCERS ENROLLED IN THE GENOVIS PROGRAM (AS OF DECEMBER 2023)

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
Emke Livestock • Craig Emke • (519) 901-2519
Emily McKague • (519) 599-2348
Ewenique Farm • Nathalie Labelle • (613) 290-5405
Fare Vewe Acres • Mark & Betty Bearinger • (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
Greendale Farms • Tyler Jackson • (905) 622-3377
Halfway Farms • Hiske MacKay • (519) 281-3725
H D Livestock • Heidi Kristufek • (519) 803-4194
Howes Family Farm • Rob & Anita Howes • (519) 859-3700
Injasuti • Yvonne Marot • (905) 569-9667
J & J Farms • Ross & Clementine Savasi • (705) 652-7477

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
Kolgje Ltd • Maria Stock • (519) 275-4988
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
Parker Agriculture Ltd. • Jeanne Parker • (204) 730-0597
Pasture Hill Farms • Wanda Cook • (705) 647-7160
Q Farm • Vinod Gorantla • (416) 605-2469
Rising Oak Farm • Laura Mosley • (705) 305-9275
Rocky Lane Farm • Allison & Luke de Vos • (705) 308-3284
Shadow Ridge Acres • Zabrina Bielaskie • (613) 433-6199
Schuyler Farms Ltd. • Brett Schuyler • (519) 427-9696
Sheep View Farms • Enos Martin • (226) 751-6990
Shepherd's Grove • Harv & Christine Breman • (519) 879-6579
Shillalah Farm • Florence Pullen • (519) 233-7896
Southgate Sheep Inc. • Jesse Bauman • (226) 752-7170
Spring Hill • Cameron Murphy • (705) 313-0631
Stonehill Sheep • Paul Dick • (519) 794-3732
Todd Sheep Company Inc. • Keith Todd • (519) 528-2650
Tome Charollais • Nelson Tome • (416) 677-1862
Tulach Ard Farm • Sean McKenzie • (905) 786-2476
Twin Shores Farm • Brian Voith • (343) 364-4095
Wigmana Farms Ltd. • Dorothy Frankland • (519) 923-5974
Wooldrift Farm • Chris Buschbeck & Axel Meister • (519) 538-2844

FLOCKS WHO HAVE ACHIEVED "A" STATUS ON THE MAEDI VISNA PROGRAM (AS OF DECEMBER 2023)

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Blackie's Suffolks • James & Cecile Blackie • (506) 392-6263
Bonfire Hill Farm • Lisa Schultes • (902) 326-1195
Cedar Creek Charollais • Ted & Joanne Skinner • (905) 263-2102
Cursio Farms and Arkell Valley
Frank & Caitlin Cursio, Ned Curiso • (519) 766-3012
Earl Brubacher • (519) 321-8016
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
Stonehill Sheep • Paul Dick • (519) 794-3732
Tania & Peter Lise • (519) 440-1076
Trailblaze Farm • Perry, Sharon & Valerie Robinson • (519) 794-4837
Walnut Ridge Dorsets • Howard & Denise Wideman • (519) 335-6124

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Allinbrook Farms • Neil Allin • (905) 983-5791
Knollbrook Farms • James Masters • (519) 362-6444

Rocky Lane Farm • Allison & Luke de Vos • (705) 308-3284
Shadow Ridge Acres • Zabrina Bielaskie • (613) 433-6199

FLOCKS WHO HAVE ACHIEVED "ENROLLED NEG" STATUS ON THE MAEDI VISNA PROGRAM (AS OF DECEMBER 2023)

Forest Creek Farmhouse • Angela McClary • forestcreekfarmhouse@gmail.com
Highway Seven Farms • John Davis • (705) 930-1720
Huron Grove Farms • Michael & Fraser Hodgson • (519) 918-4159

Leslie Dymont • (705) 359-1376
Stitch and Steel Homestead • Sam Sheehan • (647) 546-8906

CURRENT PRODUCERS ENROLLED IN ONTARIO SHEEP HEALTH PROGRAM (AS OF DECEMBER 2023)

Asphodel Sheep Company • Todd & Jennifer Payne • (705) 875-5904

Kettle Crest Farm • Art & Sandra Alblas • (519) 637-0050

SHEEP PRODUCERS ON THE SCRAPIE PROGRAM (AS OF DECEMBER 2023)

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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

For more information visit scrapiecanada.ca/vsfcp/vsfcp-enrolled-producers/.

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
Almarwa Halal Meat Packers	St. Ann's	(365) 777-4932
Al Madina Halal Meat Packers	Brinston	(613) 652-1301
Aman's Abattoir	Wellington	(613) 399-2173
Bachert Meats	Walton	(519) 887-9328
Belle Vallee Meats & Abattoir	Belle Vallee	(705) 647-7419
Bentlnck 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
Bluewater Meat Packers	Wyoming	(437) 994-4744
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	Pictou	(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
Dufferin County Meats	Amaranth	(519) 939-8068
Elora Road Meats	Mildmay	(519) 367-2261
Ewe Dell Family Farm	Woodslee	(519) 723-4456
Farmersville Community Abattoir	Athens	(613) 924-0400
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
Henderson Meats	Chesterville	(613) 448-3471
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
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
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
Pine Ridge Meat Packer	Little Britain	705-786-9970
Rainy River District Regional Abattoir Inc.	Emo	(807) 482-3028
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
Townsend Butchers	Simcoe	(519) 426-6750
Vanessa Meats & Deli	Vanessa	(519) 446-3897
VG Packers	Simcoe	(519) 426-2000
Wall's Pork Shop	Oxdrift	(807) 937-4357
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

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District Contacts

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

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Director	Art Alblas	519.637.0050
Chair	Sandra Alblas	519.637.0050
Vice Chair	Jeff Swain	519.431.0850
Secretary	Kacey Wilson	519.521.6742
Treasurer	Jennifer Van Hooydork	519.520.7970

District 2

Counties of Grey and Bruce

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Chair	Jason Emke	519.379.8778
Vice Chair	Petra Aeberhard	519.655.2017
Secretary	Dennis Thompson	519.881.3174
Treasurer	Oliver Garceau	519.477.1305

District 3

Counties of Huron, Perth, Waterloo and Oxford

Director	Keith Todd	519.528.2650
Chair	Susan Martin	519.669.8066
Vice Chair	Ron Follings	519.625.8809
Secretary	Bonnie DeWeerd	519.502.1389
Treasurer	Rick Zimak	519.284.0533

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Chair	Jay Mycroft	905.957.1114
Vice Chair	Jacque Mac Cormack	226.567.0719
Treasurer	Monica Roberts	519.755.7487

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

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Secretary	Romy Schill	519.699.4146
Treasurer	Bill McCutcheon	519.766.7905

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Chair	Rachel Brooks	705.828.0059
Vice Chair	Shelagh Finn	647.932.7102

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Chair	Todd Payne	705.875.5904
Vice Chair	Tracey Werry	289.385.6804
Secretary	Kim Schneider	905.404.7811
Treasurer	Jenny Carnaghan	905.261.1658

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Chair	Phil Botden	613.358.2676
Vice Chair	Brad Davis	613.659.3347
Secretary/Treasurer	Jennifer Nash	613.477.1908

District 9

Counties of Renfrew and Lanark, and the Township of West Carleton and the City of Kanata in the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton

Director	Wesley Godden	647.244.4768
Chair	Simon Deschamps	simcor.contracting@gmail.com
Vice Chair	Sarah Loten	613.821.0438
Secretary	Lyndsey Smith	204.807.5897
Treasurer	Katie Ward Chiasson	613.797.0601

District 10

Counties of Russell, Prescott, Glengarry Stormont, Dundas and Grenville, and the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, except the Township of West Carleton and the City of Kanata

Director	Devon Wensink	613.330.8014
Chair	Fred Baker	613.327.8508
Vice Chair	Yvonne Seeley	613.330.0272
Secretary	Colleen Acres	613.826.2330
Treasurer	Sarah Jean Campbell	613.330.8014

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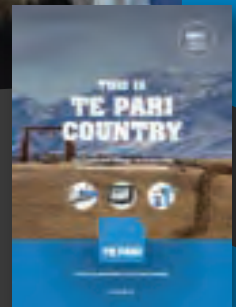
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