

ONTARIO SHEEP NEWS

Vol. 40 - Issue 2 Summer 2022

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

COVER PHOTO: FFC Payne Farm Tour

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DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING TO ONTARIO SHEEP NEWS:

March Issue - February 3rd • June Issue - May 4th • September Issue - August 3rd • December Issue - November 2nd

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New Financing Option Available to Ontario Sheep Farmers

I am excited to be able to provide you details about a new funding program that Ontario Sheep Farmers (OSF) recently announced in partnership with one of our sponsors Scotiabank. This brand-new, one-of-a-kind program allows Ontario sheep producers the ability to access short-term financing when looking to expand flocks.

The Scotiabank Yield More Financing™ program allows Ontario sheep farmers the ability to access funds that can be used to purchase ewes. This works as a revolving line of credit with a simple application and approval process. This partnership offers further financing tools and solutions for our producer members. The program is open to all Ontario sheep farmers with at least two years of experience in sheep production. There are no security requirements, however, credit scores are required. Check out page 22 of this publication for more information on the program.

Why this Matters to You

Over the past few weeks we have seen lamb prices soften and we are anticipating that prices will continue to fall through the summer as they usually do, and especially as demand wanes following Quirbani. However, the drop in prices coupled with rising input costs may have some of you looking to liquidate your lambs to help cover cashflow.

At the same time, we know that many of our producers are eager to expand their operations because of the optimism

and opportunities in the sheep industry for protein, dairy, and wool. This program will help with that process. The OSF team worked swiftly and strategically with Scotiabank to create this opportunity and are pleased to also share that it is first of its kind for the Ontario livestock sector. This new financial tool provides an additional option for Ontario sheep producers, and compliments existing financing options like the Advanced Payment Program and the Risk Management Program.

As of September 1st, Ontario sheep farmers looking to access funding through this program may contact the OSF office and work with one of our staff to complete the application form. Applications may also be completed directly with Scotiabank the choice is up to the individual producer. Information is available at www.ontariosheep.org under the "Programs" tab "Farm Finance and Business Programs", or by calling OSF directly at 519.836.0043. Interested sheep farmers may also choose to contact Scotiabank directly by email at yieldmorefinancing@scotiabank.com or call 1.866.603.4188.

This is a great program that will help address some of the needs our producers face when trying to expand operations. OSF is pleased to have helped make it happen with Scotiabank, and we hope that many Ontario sheep producers take advantage of this timely new resource. **OSN**

On behalf of Ontario Sheep Farmers and our entire sheep sector, we thank Jenn MacTavish for her dedication to the industry. For more than 20 years, Jenn has led the sheep sector at the national and provincial levels. She was instrumental in so many initiatives, programs and successes. Her passion and leadership will be missed.

Thank you Jenn.

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



Thank you

I've been avoiding writing this. Every time I sat down to start writing this editorial, something else – anything else – suddenly became more important. But it's time.

It's hard to believe that I've spent 20 years working in the sheep industry; my exit always felt like something way off in the distance.

So much has happened over the past 20 years that has put the sheep industry on the map.

Many of the projects I've been proud to work on were ahead of their time, like creating the first private livestock insurance program for blue tongue. Projects like this one proved that private livestock insurance was viable. It also set the tone for how the sheep industry could be creative about how it approached industry challenges and that we would be punching above our weight.

When I look back at all the hard work our industry initiated over the past 15-20 years, I'm proud to say that, again, I was part of that heavy-lifting that has enabled our sector to realize the progress it's making. Today, there are more commercial flocks in Ontario than ever before, greater innovation, more enthusiasm and more talk about wool and dairy.

Ensuring the continuation of the provincial risk management program and that sheep are invited to the table when governments talk about financial protection programs has been a serious achievement for OSF, and another one that I take pride in.

I'm also proud of how far we've come to prioritize the health and wellness of our farming members. OSF was the first agricultural organization to support Dr. Andrea Jones-Bitton and the development of a farmer mental health program. I personally took up this cause, speaking to fellow provincial commodity and agricultural groups to bring them on board.

There was once a time when our sector didn't have an industry roundtable, something that, at a federal level, was vital to our progress. I was part of the successful lobbying efforts for the sheep industry to establish a sheep roundtable.

Since announcing my decision to leave Ontario Sheep Farmers the process of letting go – and saying goodbye – has been humbling.

I've been on the receiving end of so many kind, thoughtful, funny and touching thank yous, leaving me speechless. While I have tried to be gracious, what I really want to say in response is "are you kidding me? Thank you!"

Thank you, for welcoming me into your industry and teaching me how to love sheep and farming, and how to become a passionate advocate for the industry (and for agriculture).

Thank you, for giving me room to grow, and challenging me to do better – to be better. Thank you for hearing me out when I called saying "I have an idea" or "what would happen if..." or to ask what may have been a naive question.

Thank you to those who answered my call when I needed someone to walk me through a rough patch. So many of you were so generous with your time, patience, wisdom, and encouragement. It's hard to find the words to fully express my deep sense of gratitude.

Thank you, to the exceptional people I've worked with as board members, staff, committees and working group members. You all taught me what it means to be a "boss", a "leader" and a "strategic thinker". And how to balance the work that must get done for the industry with the work that has to get done to care for its people. And how sometimes the only way to move the industry forward is to care for each other.

The sheep industry has so much potential, and it contributes so much to our economy and environment, not to mention feeding and clothing Ontarians. I encourage everyone to remember that, like your own farms, the sheep industry is a business. So, act accordingly, and be professional. And take the time to listen to what new entrants and young farmers have to say. The future of our industry requires us to make space for new and diverse voices. To everyone who is part of the Ontario sheep sector – be intentional about where our industry needs to go, not just where you think it should go.

Thank you to everyone I've crossed paths with. I look forward to watching Ontario's sheep industry continue to grow from the sidelines. And remember: the industry needs more data and sheep will save the world. **OSN**

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New Ontario Standards of Care for Outdoor Dogs now in Effect

As of July 1st, there are new rule(s) for the care of outdoor dogs including Livestock Guardian Dogs. The new standards of care for outdoor dogs include additional requirements for housing, safeguarding, protection from the elements, freedom of movement and more. Ontario Sheep Farmers (OSF) worked with the Ministry of the Solicitor General to advocate for the unique conditions that these dogs work/live under.

The new regulations clarify the definition of “outdoor dog” – one that is outdoors for more than 60 minutes in a 24-hour period without its owner/keeper present. New standards require that sufficient shade, shelter, and protection is provided, including providing a dog shelter that meets specific requirements set out in the regulations. Livestock Guardian Dogs and dogs with access to a structurally sound building used to house livestock do not require a dog shelter as they likely receive warmth and protection from the elements while living alongside the livestock when outdoors, and for dogs with access to a barn warmed by other livestock animals. Additional standards include that food must meet daily caloric requirements, be free of contaminants including dirt, and must be fit for consumption. Access to water must be available all the time and it cannot be frozen, it must also be refreshed at least once every 24 hours. Daily welfare and health checks are required, and grooming must be provided as necessary. The regulations also set out the maximum amount of time that a dog may be tethered outdoors in a 24-hour period. Tethers used to constrain dogs must meet certain length, and collar and harness requirements.

Currently, the Ministry of the Solicitor General is developing a guidance document to help impacted owners and custodians understand the updated standards and set out additional, recommended best practices to assist in meeting the new requirements. This will be communicated to producers once published.

OSF recently hosted a webinar with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) and the Ministry of the Solicitor General – a recording is on the OSF YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/OntarioSheep. OSF also compiled a resource page on the website to ensure that producer members have easy access to the updated changes to understand their regulatory responsibility. Visit www.ontariosheep.org/Working/Guardian%20Dogs to find an infographic that summarizes the regulation, a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document and a link to the new regulations. Complete requirements for dogs kept outdoors can be found www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r22351. Registered producers may also call the OSF office (519-836-0043) if you want a hard copy of these resources mailed to you.

OSF encourage all producers and dog owners to review the resources provided to ensure that you are compliant with the regulations. Please check out the fact sheets located on page 14 of this issue.

We hope that you enjoy the many articles and advertisements in the summer issue of *Ontario Sheep News* (OSN) and have a safe, and enjoyable summer! OSN

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ARE WELCOME

The OSN welcomes letters to the editor.

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

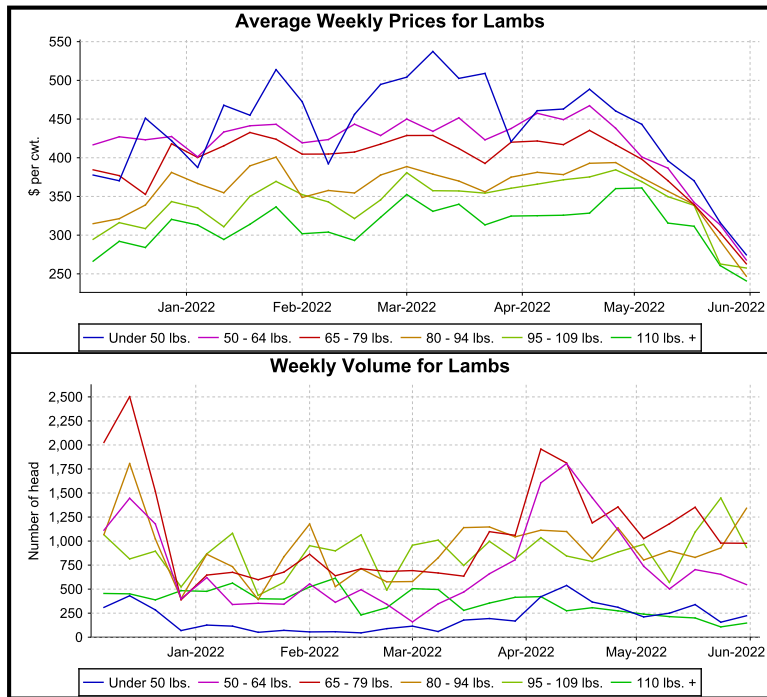
Ontario Sheep News, 130 Malcolm Road, Guelph ON N1K 1B1.

PRIDE



The Ontario Market Report

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



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

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

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2022 OSF Awards and Scholarships

Applications are now open! The application deadline is September 14th.



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

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

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

Application Forms

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

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

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

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

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

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Lamb Trade Good or Bad?

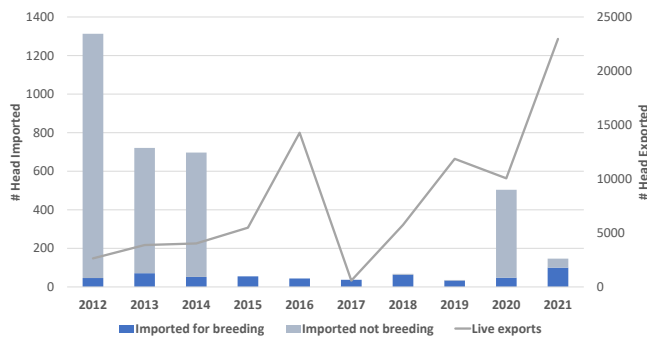
By: Delma Kennedy, Sheep Specialist, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

International trade is a hard thing to quantify as good or bad. It can be positive or negative depending on how you look at it. For example, it is good to have the choice of buying fresh fruit in the winter but difficult for local fruit to compete for shelf space when it is available in the short season that we have here in Ontario. International trade is further complicated by the fact that it is often affected by politics, and trade agreements for some products made to secure access to other products. International trade can be a threat if other countries can produce the product at lower prices than products produced domestically. International trade can be an opportunity if businesses can export product for higher prices or to a larger market. As a result, it is important to be aware of sheep and lamb import and export to assess potential business opportunities and risks.

Live Animal Trade

The trade of live animals between Ontario and countries outside of Canada is shown in Figure 1. The total number of head imported into Ontario is divided between animals imported for breeding and animals imported for reasons other than breeding and is shown on the bars of the graph. The number of head imported is variable with 147 head imported in 2021.

Figure 1. Ontario Live Animal Trade in Numbers of Head



Data Source: Statistics Canada. Canadian International Merchandise Trade Web Application
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/71-607-x/71-607-x2021004-eng.htm>
Accessed date: 2022-05-24

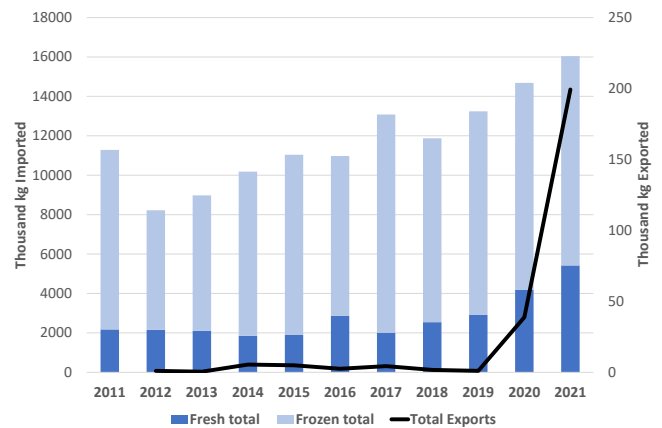
The number of head exported from Ontario is higher than the number imported and is shown by the line on the graph. Note that the scale for exports is more than eighteen times bigger than the scale for imports. 2017 had the smallest number of exports at 591 head and 2021 had the largest number of animals exported at 22,969 head. Exports could have been feeder sheep as the average value per head was reported as less than \$100 per head, with most exported live

sheep going to the United States. Prior to Jan 3, 2022, the US would only accept slaughter or feeder sheep under 12 months of age from Canada. It looks like there are one or more Ontario businesses who have developed an opportunity to export live animals.

Meat Trade

The trade of meat between Ontario and other countries is shown in Figure 2. The bars on the graph correspond to imports and the units on the left of the graph. The line on the graph corresponds to exports and the units on the right side of the graph. Note the Imported scale is about 70 times larger than the exported scale. Ontario imports more sheep meat than it exports. Between 2019 and 2021 the kilograms of sheep meat imported increased by close to 3 million kilograms. 90% of this increase was in fresh or chilled product primarily in the form of bone in or boneless cuts.

Figure 2. Ontario Imports and Exports of Sheep Meat by Year



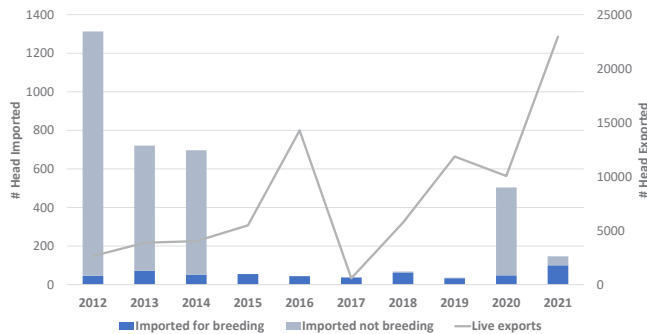
Data source: Statistics Canada. Canadian International Merchandise Trade Web Application
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/71-607-x/71-607-x2021004-eng.htm>
Accessed date: 2022-05-24

From 2012 to 2019, exports of sheep meat ranged from 1 to 5 thousand kilograms per year in the form of fresh and frozen lamb carcasses. In 2020 and 2021, there was a significant increase in exported product. In 2020, the increase was in the form of fresh lamb carcasses to the United States and in 2021, the large increase was in the form of frozen lamb carcasses to New Zealand.

Supply

The supply of lamb and mutton in Canada is shown in Figure 3. Although the supply numbers are not readily available for Ontario, it is expected that the supply graph would look similar to that for Canada. Figure 2 showed an increase in imports to Ontario in 2021. Even accounting for potential carcass weights of live lambs exported and the increase in exported meat, imports are still 470 thousand kg higher in 2021 in Ontario than in 2020. Figure 3 shows

Figure 3. Supply of lamb and mutton in Canada by year compared to average price 80-94lb lambs.



Data source: Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0053-01 Supply and disposition of food in Canada and Agriculture Canada Red Meat Weighted average price report.



that this did not impact the average 80-94lb price for lambs at auction. Average prices in 2021 were above \$300 per hundred weight.

Conclusions

Sheep meat supply seems to be increasing and prices have never been better. Some businesses have been able to take advantage of new opportunities in the last two years and have exported more live lambs and lamb carcasses. Although sheep producers must continually work on cost of production to remain competitive, an increase in imported product has not caused our sheep meat prices to decrease in the past two years. OSN




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Farming with the Land and Wildlife



What do you have in common with Jeanette Heffernan and Katie Sherrat, operators of Topsy Willow Farm in Indian River, Ontario, 15 minutes east of Peterborough?

Maybe your mom grew up in Scotland, herding a flock of 1,500 sheep on the Isle of Arran, like Jeanette's did. Or maybe you were born in Toronto, grew up in Belleville and found your way to farming randomly, like Katie.

Or maybe you share their philosophy, one that's centered on the importance of the land, how their sheep interact with that landscape and how the interdependence of sheep and land are key to their operation's success.

"The sheep are just such an amazing animal. As we do rotational grazing, the sheep run through the fields and their little hooves, which I call high heels, aerate the ground. They're just great," says Jeanette.

Maybe you practice rotational grazing, maybe not.

"Rotational grazing's under the umbrella of regenerative agriculture, which is the big buzz word right now," says Katie. "We practice it, but we practice it because Jeanette's mom has been doing it forever."

When Jeanette's mom came to Canada, "she brought rotational pasturing, where you have the animals on a certain part of the field for a day or two and then you have them move on," says Jeanette. "That helps with the health of the soil, the health of the plants, the

health of the animals, because there are fewer parasites."

This is at the core of Jeanette and Katie's philosophy, giving back to the land. It's not about buzz words.

"We really believe in farming with the land, with wildlife around us," says Katie.

"If you have happy animals, you have a happy, healthy product," adds Jeanette.

Really, Katie and Jeanette are practical producers. Topsy Willow Farm is a diversified operation.

"The sheep represent about seventy to seventy-five percent of our revenue, the pigs would be next and a little bit of water buffalo," says Katie.

After butchering, they sell their lambs directly to customers at market or through their farmstand. They will also sell some to sales barns in bulk.

This must sound familiar. Like most producers, Katie and Jeanette are sensible and are tuned in. They're constantly working to improve the effectiveness of their operation and the health of their livestock based on the knowledge and resources available to them. And they recognize the vital role that the environment plays in achieving their goals. That's why they want to plant more trees. More windbreaks will benefit their haying in the long-term.

"It was the way people wanted to crop was to pull trees, whereas all we want to do is plant windbreaks and create a healthier land. If we plant a windbreak, we take away soil erosion, and that can give more hay to us," says Katie.

That's what lead Jeanette and Katie to work with ALUS.

"We started working with ALUS Peterborough in 2019 at our last site, and we're hoping to continue working with them at this site..." says Katie.

"...establishing more fence rows, making more wildlife corridors..." continues Jeanette.

"...and we're working with ALUS and Ducks Unlimited Canada to try and rehabilitate a wetland, which is our other dream," Katie concludes.

ALUS has been a good fit for Katie and Jeanette. You probably have this in common with them. ALUS helps farmers and ranchers enhance and restore ecosystems on their land, offering up-front cost sharing and long-term

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management and maintenance payments. In communities throughout Ontario, ALUS programs are helping producers put their philosophy first and overcome the challenges of bolstering the ecological function of their land.

Local ALUS programs are community-driven and farmer-delivered. This means local priorities come first and that the landowner's knowledge of their land is at the centre of project decisions at the outset and for the life of the project. It's a framework that's meaningful and recognizable in how Jeannette and Katie have conceived and brought Tipsy Willow to fruition.

"We took a field we couldn't use and did a grassland project with ALUS. It was a smaller, wet field that we couldn't get equipment on and the hay wouldn't dry properly," says Katie. "So, it wasn't worth it to keep trying to get the equipment in there when it could be a beautiful grassland that could attract wildlife. And we love wildlife."

This is the food, fibre and ecosystem movement. Producers have always provided their communities with these products. ALUS helps them get there. It's where agriculture and nature meet.

Visit Tipsy Willow Farm at tipsywillow.ca and learn more about ALUS at ALUS.ca. **OSN**



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Standards of Care for Outdoor Dogs Fact Sheets

Fact Sheet: Standards of Care for Dogs Kept Outdoors under the PAWS Act – Summary of Requirements (As of July 1, 2022)

Shade, Shelter and Protection from the Elements:



Sufficient protection from the elements to prevent heat or cold-related distress, and **shade** as required by the weather, including to protect from direct sunlight



A **dog shelter**, available at all times, that:

- Is waterproof and provides protection from the elements
- Is structurally sound and does not cause injury
- Has an insulated roof, a level, elevated and dry floor, and is ventilated
- Has a doorway free from obstructions
- Has bedding at least 3 inches thick, changed as needed to stay clean, dry, comfortable and unsoiled

A dog “kept outdoors” is a dog that is outdoors for more than 60 minutes without its owner or custodian present



Size of the shelter must allow all dogs using it to turn around, lie down with their legs extended and stand with their heads held at normal height



Livestock guardian dogs and dogs with access to a structurally sound building used to house livestock do not require a dog shelter

Food and Water:



Food that meets daily caloric requirements, is fit for consumption, not spoiled and does not contain dirt, feces, urine or toxic substances



Water at all times that is not frozen, does not contain dirt, feces, urine or toxic substances, and is replaced at least once every 24 hours

Food and water containers must be constructed to avoid injury and difficulty accessing food and water

Health and Grooming:



Daily health and welfare checks

Isolation from other healthy dogs if the dog is at high risk of or suffering from a contagious disease (with exceptions)

Dogs must not be kept outdoors if they have an injury or illness that affects their ability to regulate temperature or restricts mobility (with exceptions)



Grooming, as needed, of nails and to avoid matting of the dog's coat or accumulation of ice or mud on its coat or under its paws

The full text of the regulation is available at the [Ontario e-Laws website](https://www.ontario.ca/laws). This document is intended to provide a summary only and is not legal advice. If there is any conflict between this document and the regulation, the regulation is the final authority. Produced April 2022.



Fact Sheet: Standards of Care for Dogs Kept Outdoors under the PAWS Act – Summary of Requirements (As of July 1, 2022)

Tethers:



Tethers must:

- Permit 3 metres of horizontal movement
- Allow the dog to move about safely
- Be a size, type and weight that won't cause discomfort or injury
- Have a swivel at both ends
- Be in good condition and well-attached to prevent escape



Collars and harnesses used with a tether must be of a size, type, design and fit that won't cause discomfort or injury

When tethering a dog kept outdoors, an owner/custodian must not:

- ⊗ Use a **choke, pinch, prong, slip, head halter or martingale collar**
- ⊗ Tether **dogs under 6 months or that are in heat, whelping or nursing**
- ⊗ **Cause undue distress**, including because of the age, health or reproductive status of the dog or objects or hazards they can reach

Housing Pens:



Use of housing pens must not **cause undue distress** and housing pens must be constructed to prevent escape and provide protection from predators.

Housing pen minimum size must be scaled to the height of the dog (measured at shoulder):

- **1.5m²** for each additional dog housed in the same pen (with exceptions)

Height (cm)	Area (m ²)
70 or greater	15
>= 40 and < 70	10
>= 20 and < 40	6
less than 20	4

Aggressive dogs must not be housed together, and **dogs in heat or coming into heat** must not be housed with male dogs (with exceptions)

Housing Pen and Tether Area:



Must provide enough space for **natural behaviours** and **distinct areas** for feeding and drinking and defecating and urinating



Dog must not be forced to stand, sit or lie in feces, urine, mud or water; area must be cleaned as needed to prevent the accumulation of waste; **keep sanitary and minimize parasites**

Additional Standards for Dogs Tethered Outdoors:



Dogs tethered outdoors for 23 hours in a 24-hour period, whether the 23 hours are consecutive or not, must be taken off the tether for at least 60 continuous minutes to allow for exercise and enrichment (with exceptions)

Note: the definition of “kept outdoors” does not apply to this requirement

The full text of the regulation is available at the [Ontario e-Laws website](https://www.ontario.ca/laws). This document is intended to provide a summary only and is not legal advice. If there is any conflict between this document and the regulation, the regulation is the final authority. Produced April 2022.



This can also be downloaded by visiting www.ontariosheep.org/Working/Guardian%20Dogs



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2022 OSF PHOTO CONTEST IS NOW OPEN

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

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

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

CATEGORIES

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

PRIZES

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

SUBMISSIONS

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

The deadline for entries is September 14th, 2022.

Include the following information with your submission:

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

CONTEST RULES

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



2022 Ontario Sheep Farmers (OSF) Virtual Annual General Meeting



Plans are underway for a virtual 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be held over the Zoom platform on October 28th, 2022, at 1pm. Further details will be announced in the coming weeks. This year's AGM will follow

a similar format to the previous virtual AGM's. Watch for updates in The Messenger, Ontario Sheep News, and social media. We look forward to seeing you in attendance!

OSF District AGM's

2022 District Executive Positions

OSF district annual meetings will be taking place later this summer and early fall. If you are looking for an opportunity to develop leadership skills or become more involved in the Ontario Sheep industry, consider joining your district executive. OSF helps the committee through regular meetings, updates from the Board, training, district portal on website.

Becoming active at your district level helps you and fellow farmers promote the products you have to offer to producers and consumers; be it breeding stock, lamb, wool, or dairy products.

Each district executive is comprised of a Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary/Treasurer. Elections for these positions take place at each district AGM and the term for each position is for one year. The following positions are explained below.

District Chair

This position provides leadership to district sheep producers and ensures open two-way communication between districts producers and the OSF board of directors to promote the best interest of the entire sheep industry in Ontario.

District Vice Chair

This position provides support for the district chair and steps in for the chair when necessary. This person should be a strong committee member and aid wherever it is needed.

Secretary/Treasurer

This person can be two positions or combined into one. The secretary is responsible for keeping meeting minutes and district correspondence and is the liaison between the OSF office and the district committee. The treasurer is responsible for keeping the district finances in order.

To find out when your District AGM is taking place, please see chart below. For additional details please visit <https://www.ontariosheep.org/events> or contact your District Secretary which can be found on page 30 of this publication.

District	Date
1	September 8th
2	September 8th
3	August 30th
4	July 20th
5	August 19th
6	September 6th
7	September 6th
8	September 15th
9	August 31st
10	September 14th
11	September 8th

Watch for updates in The Messenger, Ontario Sheep News, Twitter, and Facebook.

District AGM schedule as of June 1st, 2022. Please note these dates are subject to change. For up-to-date info visit www.ontariosheep.org/events

This year OSF Districts 2, 5, 8 & 11 will be electing a District Director at their AGM. **OSN**



Now Serving - Lamb Cost of Production Prepared Three Ways

By: John Molenhuis, Business Analysis and Cost of Production Specialist

While preparing lamb three ways may be more typically associated with cooking, it can also apply to cost of production (COP).

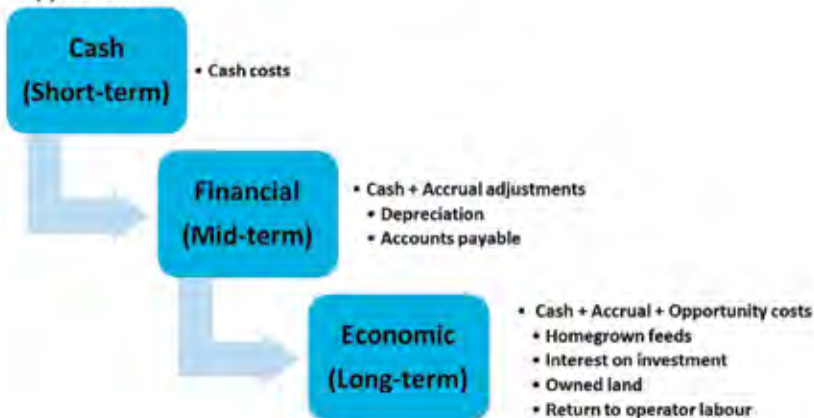
With the current state of input costs there is value in knowing cost of production on more than one level. It's looking at COP in a step wise approach to help you identify and manage costs.

The three levels are outlined in Figure 1: cash or short-term, financial or medium-term and economic or long-term. Each level builds on each other and gives you more insight into farm financial performance.

Cash, as it implies, looks at actual cash costs, financial then includes the non-cash costs with depreciation being the main cost and economic considers the opportunity costs of your labour, homegrown feed costs, owned land, and the equity portion of your investments.

Figure 1. Cost of Production Data

Approaches



Budgeting economic or long-term profitability is ideal, however, in times with significant cost increases or market price uncertainty there is some survival mode that kicks in, for at least the short-term. This is where it is useful to also understand your short-term profit and medium-term profit position.

Cash – Short-term Profit

Important in assessing cash flow, cash profit looks at the cash going out in expenses and cash coming in as sales. It helps answer the immediate question, 'can I pay my bills today?' As input costs put the squeeze on margins it is key to have an answer. Especially in times where cash is tight, cash comes first, and non-cash and opportunity costs come later.

Feed costs, purchased and homegrown, represent around 40 per cent of the total costs of ewe flock so it makes sense to concentrate planning time on knowing your feed costs. Current feed prices also prompt attention to this cost category. Purchased feeds are straightforward, but how do you account for homegrown feed?

There are one of two ways to handle homegrown feed costs; they can be valued at cost (or cash) or market value.

Homegrown feed cash costs will be spread across all the crop-related costs like seed, fertilizer, fuel, labour, machinery insurance and interest.

To arrive at your sheep cost of production the simplest approach would be to keep all the homegrown crop cash costs in your sheep budget. Be sure to exclude any costs related to any cash crops sold.

A more involved process would be to complete a cost of production for each feed crop and add them to your sheep cost of production. This has the advantage of having a COP for all your enterprises and being able to assess whether it is better for you to grow your own crops or to buy in.

Financial – Medium-term Profit

Medium-term costs includes cash, but also non-cash costs also known as accrual adjustments. If there are any bills currently due but not paid, include them as accounts payable. Depreciation is typically the biggest non-cash cost factor and recognizes that assets like machinery and buildings decrease in value over time and will at some

point need to be replaced. Profit after medium-term costs gives the farm an indication if it can reinvest in its capital infrastructure when machinery or buildings are due to be replaced.

Economic – Long-term Profit

Opportunity cost is what you could have received if you chose the next best alternative. Homegrown feed could be sold at market value, so you are giving up the market value sale by feeding the crops. You could work off farm so the opportunity cost is what you could be paid working off farm. Land can be rented out instead of being used for the sheep operation. Your equity could be invested in other farm or non-farm investments.

Back to our homegrown feed discussion, using the market value approach involves removing all the homegrown crop expenses out of the sheep enterprise and “selling” the crops to the sheep enterprise at market value. Market value represents the opportunity cost of feeding the crops to livestock rather than what you would have received selling them.

Many commodities do cover short and medium-term costs but depending on the year can struggle to cover opportunity costs. From an economic perspective, long-term profits are expected to be close to zero. This statement typically doesn't sit well since it seems to suggest there should be no farm profitability. That is not the case and looking at what is included in the long-term costs explains why. With long term profits you have covered your labour, your equity investment in owned land and capital with interest on investment and it covers the opportunity cost of feeding your homegrown crops instead of selling them at market prices. Economic profits well above zero attracts expansion in the industry.

It is becoming more common for farms and farm groups to want cost of production expressed in economic terms. This will give an indication of long-term viability of the farm and of the sector. However, knowing COP on a cash and financial level can tell you if your farm can ride out current cash flow pressure or can reinvest in the sheep enterprise. **OSN**



Wellness check-in

As you prepare for the busy summer season, OFA wants to remind Ontario Sheep farmers to prioritize their mental health and well-being.

Think of mental health and wellness as a dashboard using these helpful tips:

- ✓ Check your own levels - are you close to 'empty' on energy, patience, sleep, hydration... or cruising close to burnout?
- ✓ Find ways to recharge - hobbies, staycations, breaks from everyday farm tasks.
- ✓ Do a circle check of your network - check in on neighbours, friends and family. When you ask how they are doing, really listen.
- ✓ Don't hesitate to reach out for help - some issues need outside expertise. Look for help from a specialist if the situation is overwhelming.

Just as you look out for the well-being of your flock, remember to look out for yourself and your community. For mental health resources and help lines, visit ofa.on.ca/mental-health.

OFA: Looking out for the farm's most valuable resource.... the farmer.

Ontario GenOvis Recognition Awards

Highlighting Excellent Breeders

By Amélie St-Pierre, GenOvis technical support and development, CEPOQ

The GenOvis Recognition Awards aim to recognize breeders who believe in the GenOvis genetic evaluation program and apply good genetic practices to improve genetic gain. For this second edition, new barns stand out. Let's discover what these farms are doing better in order to be part of the awardees.

Purebred Awards (maternal/prolific/terminal breeds) aim to recognize good genetic practices and are determined based on a combination of five criteria:

Maternal – Prolific – Terminal Breed Awards: Good Genetic Practices

- Genetic Selection Index (20%)
- Dissemination Rate (20%)
- Percentage of Animals Evaluated (20%)
- Average Rams Age at Lambing (20%)
- Number of rams used (# lambings per ram) (20%)

To be eligible, breeders must evaluate at least 20 purebred lambs of terminal, maternal or prolific breeds having 50-day and 100-day weights within the eligible time period (12 months).

The Productivity Award is determined by the ewes' productivity (flock's average of kilograms weaned/lambing/year). Productivity is defined as the average 50d weights of commercial litters produced within the considered year.

The percentage of animals evaluated varies from 36% to 100% for this edition of the contest. A high percentage reflects an excellent on-farm data entry and is related with higher accuracy of the breeding values.

Crossbred Productivity Awards: Ewes' Performance

- Average weaning weights per litter of commercial lambs produced within the considered period.

To be eligible, commercial producers must evaluate a minimum of 250 commercial lambs having 50-day and 100-day weights within the eligible time period (12 months).

The eligible time period covers August 1st, 2020 to July 31st, 2021.

Maternal Breed Awards: Good Genetic Practices

In maternal breeds, **Rising Oak Dorsets (1st)**, Dorset breeder, stands by the high average of her lambs' genetic selection index (91%) and her excellent on-farm data entry (overall 89% - 72% of her lambs are measured for loin and fat).

Leahy Hill Farm (2nd), Icelandic breeder, is highlighted by the high average of her lambs' genetic selection index (90%) and the use of young rams as sires (below the recommended ram age of of 730 days at lambing). Finally, **Cursio Farms & Arkell Valley (3rd)**, Dorset breeder, has an excellent percentage of lambs evaluated (overall 90% - close to 70% of his lambs are measured for loin and fat) and uses a low number of ewes bred per ram to keep a good genetic diversity.

Prolific Breed Awards: Good Genetic Practices

In prolific breeds, **Lamb Lady Farm (1st)**, Rideau breeder, stands by the remarkable average genetic selection index of her lambs (95.6%).

Tulach Ard Farm (2nd), Rideau breeder, is highlighted by the low number of lambings per ram to preserve a high genetic diversity. Finally, **Craigmore Farm (3rd)**, Rideau & Romanov breeder, works hard to keep a good genetic diversity and increase the genetic progress rate by using young rams as sires.

Terminal Breed Awards – Good Genetic Practices

In terminal breeds, **Stonehill Sheep (1st)**, Suffolk breeder, stands by his outstanding percentage of lambs evaluated (100% - all weights, loin and fat), the use of young rams to increase the genetic gain and the low number of ewes bred per ram. Moreover, he contributes to create genetic links with other flocks buying outside genetics and selling rams to other farms.

Codan Suffolks (2nd), Suffolk breeder, is highlighted by his outstanding percentage of lambs evaluated (100% - all weights, loin and fat) and the use of very young rams to increase the genetic gain by reducing the generation interval. Also, he has a high genetic average of his lambs' selection index (95%). Furthermore, he sells genetics to other barns. **Todd Sheep Company (3rd)**, Ile-de-France, Southdown and Suffolk breeder, has a noticeable on-farm data collection (93%) for the 3 breeds considered in this contest. Loin and fat measurements are taken on the lambs and significant genetic connections are made between flocks by selling rams and introducing new rams to his own flock.

Crossbred Productivity: Ewes' Performance

Brubacher Ovine (1st) stands out this year with the kg of lamb weaned per ewe based on the 181 lambings considered. **Fare Vewe Acres** (391 lambings) and **Asphodel Sheep Co** (297 lambings) are respectively second and third. The number of lambings varies from 181 to 452 within this category.

Congratulations to all the winners and finalists! Thank you for applying good genetic practices to generate more genetic gain. This is beneficial for the whole industry. The winners of each category will represent Ontario at the All Canada GenOvis Awards that will take place next December. Will Rising Oak Dorsets, Lamb Lady Farm, Stonehill Sheep and/or Brubacher Ovine win the All-Canada GenOvis Recognition Awards this year? **OSN**

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Who is eligible for this line of credit?

- OSF members interested in purchasing ewes and/or feeder lambs who have been sheep farming for at least two years.

How much credit can I apply for?

- A maximum credit of \$50,000 is available.

What is the interest rate?

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When does the program year start?

- The program runs from September 1 to August 31.

Do I have to make month payments?

- No monthly payments are required. The balance can be paid off at any time without penalty.

When is payment due?

- Payment is required on February 28 and must be 100% of outstanding balance as of August 31 plus accrued interest.

How long does it take to approve an application?

- Typically, within 24-48 hours after a signed application is received by Scotiabank.

When can I apply?

- Applications will be accepted starting on September 1, 2022.
- OSF members are encouraged to apply any time. The sooner we get paperwork in place and approvals completed for the line of credit, the sooner producers will be to purchase their ewes/feeder lambs.

How do I apply?

- Contact OSF to complete an application at 519.836.0043 or admin@ontariosheep.org
- Or you can contact Scotiabank at yieldmorefinancing@scotiabank.com



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Whose Business is Cache Valley Virus?

By: Michelle Bergevin

Whose business is Cache Valley virus (CVV)? Certainly, shepherds across Ontario want to know. Outbreaks of severely deformed newborn lambs are on the rise, and it is unclear whether that is a result of:

- Heightened awareness of clinical signs that implicate CVV as the cause?
- Environmental changes including weather patterns that trigger explosive growth of infected mosquito populations?
- More virulent strains of CVV circulating in these regions?
- Farm management practices that are unintentionally increasing CVV exposure to flocks?
- Or the perfect storm of numerous contributing factors?

At this stage, we are unsure. However, what is known is that sheep are a valuable commodity, more so at specific times of the year when demand and price are high. To satiate the appetite for early spring lambs, ewes are often bred in the late summer and early fall. This is, consequently when virus levels in mosquitoes are at their highest. The question remains, how can the risk of Cache Valley disease be lowered while still meeting market demands and maximizing economic gain? Well, considering the weather cannot be precisely controlled, it is necessary to identify other CVV risk factors that can be manipulated. The literature reports that the percentage of sheep within a flock having CVV antibodies (i.e., “seropositivity”, an indicator of previous exposure to the virus) is highly variable both across flocks and geographic regions. Still, it remains unknown why some flocks are more susceptible to Cache Valley disease. Researchers at the University of Guelph are exploring farm management factors that may be associated with CVV exposure here in Ontario. As a first step, two focus topics being explored are breeding schedule and housing, since previous research suggests that these management practices affect virus exposure risk.

CVV Ecology

Cache Valley disease is a mosquito-borne zoonotic infection endemic to North America that causes meningoencephalitis (inflammation of the brain) in humans and lethal congenital deformities in animals, primarily lambs and occasionally goat kids. No vaccine against, or treatment for, CVV exists in humans or animals. Sheep specifically, are at greatest risk of developing Cache Valley disease as fetuses in early pregnancy when carried by dams that have not been previously exposed to the virus. CVV does not cause illness in adult sheep, nor does it affect fetuses after about 50 days of gestation. Their immune systems will mount antibodies against CVV that in turn offer long-term protection. Hence, CVV poses the greatest threat to fetuses within the first trimester of pregnancy. During this crucial time, the virus targets the musculoskeletal and neurological systems, resulting in fetal

death or birth at term with severe and most-often fatal congenital defects.

The seasonal exposure period is typically from mid-July to mid-October with peak risk ranging from August through September. Consequently, Cache Valley disease is commonly observed in December and January in newborn lambs, typically presenting with multiple birth defects, i.e., fused joints with twisted limbs, severely twisted or humped spines, and loss of brain tissue. CVV has been isolated from 41 species of mosquitoes, 30 of which are established in Ontario. The virus is maintained in nature via multiple pathways: most commonly, between mosquitoes taking bloodmeals from deer, but also from infected female mosquitoes to offspring, and from infected male to female mosquitoes during mating. Interestingly, deer mount an immune response approximately 3 days following CVV infection, thereby establishing long-term immunity. However, unlike other animals and humans, during this short infectious period, viremia occurs at such high levels that mosquitoes feeding on the infected deer will readily become infected and will pass on the virus to other animals at subsequent bloodmeals. This serves as the main pathway for CVV preservation in nature. Unlike deer, sheep do not infect mosquitoes and do not pass the virus to other sheep.

CVV Epidemiology

What we have seen in Ontario is that cases of Cache Valley disease occur sporadically from year to year. Some shepherds may be unaware that CVV is affecting their flock if case numbers are low – a deformed lamb may be treated as “one of those things”. Other producers do submit every suspected case to the Animal Health Laboratory at the University of Guelph, and these diagnoses form the basis of our estimates of the level of Cache Valley disease in Ontario flocks, likely an underestimate of true CVV losses. Accurate prevalence data though, is scarce for several reasons. First, Cache Valley disease is not reportable and therefore, definitive or possible cases are not required to be communicated to government health agencies. Second, commercial testing is extremely limited, quite expensive, and labor intensive, thereby deterring veterinarians from recommending such, particularly in cases where clinical signs strongly suggest CVV as the cause of disease. Third, among the tests that are available, interpretation of results is greatly limited. For example, obtaining a positive test result from direct virus testing is remarkably rare because by the latter part of pregnancy, the fetus has developed an immune system that is able to clear the virus, despite the clinical damage caused by the virus during the first trimester. Obtaining a positive serological sample only concludes exposure to the virus at some point in the past. However, if a fetus, or lamb pre-first colostrum

has a CVV seropositive result, it is strongly suggestive that CVV was the cause of disease. Hence the timing and type of test are equally important to consider for the diagnosis of a suspect case.

To date, only two CVV seroprevalence surveys have been conducted on Ontario sheep flocks, both by University of Guelph researchers. The first in 2010, although not published, identified 21 of 26 flocks positive to CVV exposure, of which the proportion of sheep within a flock that had CVV antibodies ranged from 10% to 80%. The second CVV serosurvey was conducted in 2021 by our research team and is part of an ongoing study on farm management CVV risk factors. We identified 16 out of 18 flocks as seropositive, with the proportion of CVV seropositive sheep on exposed farms ranging from 5% to 90%. Further, 11 of the 18 flocks reported a history of CVV disease, based on definitive lab results or classic clinical signs. The wide variance in CVV exposure both within and across flocks suggests that natural inoculation against CVV by purposely exposing sheep to potentially infected mosquitoes is not a guaranteed method of protection.

Risk factor data for our study was captured through a questionnaire that covered a wide range of topics including breeding schedule, shearing routine, flock housing, daytime movement on the farm, and surrounding landscape features. Great similarity across farms was found for shearing routine, the surrounding landscape, and multiple aspects of the

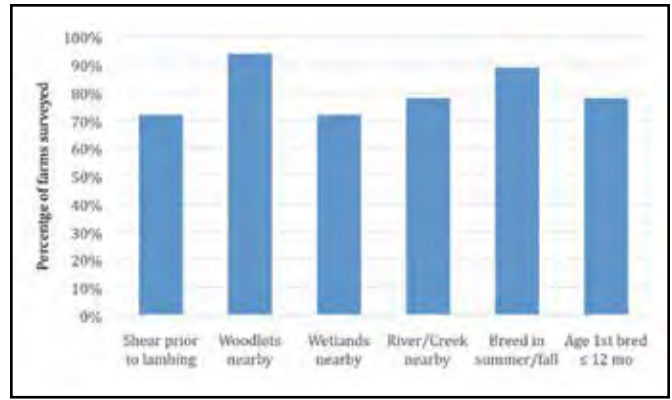


Figure 1. Similarity in sheep farm management practices in Ontario. Results from a questionnaire conducted in summer 2021 at 18 sheep farms selected from Districts 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7.

breeding schedule; see Figure 1 for more details. However, there was great variation reported in the housing practices of sheep during the mosquito season, ranging from 100% confinement to 100% pasture with various combinations in between that included dry lot access.

We are currently analyzing the farm management risk factors in relation to CVV exposure status to determine whether there are statistically significant associations as opposed to coincidental observations. Although the statistical

Continued on page 26.

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regression analysis is premature to report at this time, two potential risk factors have demonstrated trends that are top priorities in the analysis: breeding schedule and nighttime housing during mosquito season.

Descriptive analysis of our data thus far suggests that breeding schedule is associated with Cache Valley disease. In examining those farms that breed sheep during summer or fall (i.e., mosquito season), we compared those that first breed ewe-lambs at 12 months of age or younger to those that first breed between 12 and 24 months of age. Among those farms that breed \leq 12 months of age, 75% reported a history of Cache Valley disease in the flock and 83% of the flocks were CVV seropositive. For the latter group, the farms that first breed ewes between 12 and 24 months of age, only 50% reported a history of Cache Valley disease and 100% of those flocks were CVV seropositive. The data also demonstrated that seropositivity of ewes increases with age, as expected since there is more opportunity for exposure to the virus. These findings indicate a benefit to breeding at a later age in CVV endemic regions.

Published literature also implicates housing with CVV exposure risk, which is further supported by the recent serosurvey data. Specifically, of the ewes housed at nighttime

during summer and fall in either a barn or dry lot, 68% had CVV antibodies. Conversely, of the ewes housed at nighttime in either a barn and/or pasture, or a combination of barn, pasture, and dry lot over the ewe's lifetime, the percent of ewes with CVV antibodies was significantly reduced, ranging from 20% to 28%. While these results suggest that dry lots may be an important source of risk for CVV exposure, unfortunately there were no flocks housed exclusively in dry lots at nighttime to factor into the analysis.

CVV was discovered more than half a century ago and presently, exposure is widely distributed across southern Ontario. Despite this, there is much we do not know or understand about Cache Valley disease in sheep, and importantly, in humans as well. In our study, further analysis must be performed to properly interpret our data and in turn, report statistically significant findings and communicate our results to a wide array of stakeholders. In the meantime, sheep producers can contribute to our knowledge base by reporting suspected CVV cases to their flock veterinarian and follow-up with proper diagnostic investigation. This information can aid in assessing the true burden of CVV disease in Ontario.. **OSN**



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Summary of the Coyote Information Session

By: Danie Glanc - OFA Policy

Coyotes can be a significant problem for livestock producers in Ontario. On April 12, 2022, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and Ontario Sheep Farmers hosted a Coyote Information Session. Our groups were joined by Brent Patterson, Senior Research Scientist, Wildlife Research and Monitoring Section for the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources, and Forestry. Brent's current research focuses on the population dynamics of wolves, coyotes, and their prey in temperate and boreal regions. He has published extensively on wolves, coyotes, caribou, and moose in Ontario and beyond.

Brent discussed the ecology of coyotes and provided an overview of coyote research he and his team has conducted in Ontario. Additionally, Brent discussed the problem of livestock depredation by coyotes, provided advice on how to avoid conflict with coyotes, and engaged in a Q&A session afterwards with attendees.

Key takeaways from the session included that coyotes are smart, highly adaptable, and here to stay. Coyotes are not inherently bad nor good, but are just trying to survive and reproduce like all other animals. Coyotes prey on livestock due to energetics. Livestock are attractive prey as they pose less risk to hunt, and less energy needs to be expended by the coyote to get the most amount of calories compared to hunting wildlife.

The main idea to prevent livestock predation on your farm is to make it either more dangerous, more energy expensive, or more difficult for coyotes to prey on farm animals relative to them going out and pursuing a wild, free-range diet. Steps need to be taken to prevent livestock losses, including non-lethal deterrents. Lethal removal has little impact on coyote population density or livestock depredation. Attempt lethal control only when and where necessary. As coyotes are smart and hard to trap in the first place, trapping should be done by highly trained individuals. Once educated, coyotes become very difficult to capture. Non-lethal deterrents must be used during key times of the year, as depredation is mostly attributed to breeding males providing for their mate and pups. Additional, non-lethal deterrents must be used sparingly. Coyotes are intelligent and highly adaptable, which means these means will be short-lived.

If it's not broken, don't fix it! Not all coyotes are involved in livestock depredation; If you're not experiencing problems with coyotes and livestock depredation, it is good advice to keep those resident coyotes there and healthy. If not, they can be replaced with ones that might choose to hunt your livestock.

Link to the webinar can be found here: youtu.be/jtcCauRP1qg

More information on coyotes can be found here: www.ontario.ca/page/preventing-and-managing-conflicts-coyotes OSN



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OSF Education Day at the 2022 All-Canada Classic

Genetics & Greenhouse Gas Emissions



Ontario Sheep Farmers (OSF) is pleased to be a sponsor of the Purebred Sheep Breeders of Ontario (PSBO) 2022 All Canada Classic being hosted in Ancaster ON from July 7th – 9th, 2022. During this three-day event OSF will be hosting a series of educational seminars and talks on the Friday and Saturday. The educational component is free of charge and no registration is required. Please see the speaker list below.

Friday, July 8th, 2022		
9:30 am	Mature Ewe Body Size – how big is too big?	Delma Kennedy, Sheep Specialist, OMAFRA
10:15 am	Research updates: 1&2 Applying Genomics to Improve the Resistance of Sheep to Gastrointestinal Nematodes and Carbohydrate larval antigen - (CarLA) testing in Canada: the search for parasite resistant sheep	Olivia Willoughby, Samla Cunha, – 30 mins – Samla and Olivia University of Guelph –Brad DeWolf University of Guelph
11:15 am	Can genetics play a role in GHG Emission Reduction?	Delma Kennedy, Sheep Specialist, OMAFRA
Lunch Break		
1:15 pm	Small actions can result in Large Impacts. Three 3 things you can do to reduce GHG emissions	Christoph Wand, Livestock Sustainability Specialist OMAFRA
2:15 pm	Does your pasture need a fertility plan / Choosing a species	Christine O'Reilly, Forage and Pasture Specialist, OMAFRA
Saturday, July 9th, 2022		
9:00 am	Using Genovis Data when selecting your Replacement Ram	Fredric Fortin, CEPO and or Amelie St Pierre CEPOQ

For more information on the 2022 All-Canada Classic visit www.ontariosheep.org/events. OSN

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THE 2022 ONTARIO LAMB MARKET CALENDAR

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

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

How Big is Too Big?

By Delma Kennedy, Sheep Specialist, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

What does this even mean? I am talking about mature sheep size. Ontario is home to many sheep breeds of many different sizes. There can also be significant variation in size within breeds. It is important to consider a number of factors when thinking about what mature size will work best for your operation.

Environmental Concerns

Concerns have been raised in the past few years about the effect of livestock farming on our environment. One of the primary concerns is related to the contribution of ruminants to greenhouse gas. Methane is produced by sheep during the fermentation of feed in the rumen. The amount of methane produced is related to genetics, feed quality and feed intake. This means that larger animals that eat more will produce more methane.

Production Factors

There are efficiencies in meat production with larger animals. Larger animals will have larger birth weights, faster growth and can produce lean carcasses at heavier weights

than smaller animals. In the early 2000s, Chris Logan from the University of Lincoln, New Zealand presented data collected from their research farm showing the difference in performance between small and large commercial ewes. These results are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Small and large twin bearing ewes sourced from commercial farms and lambed together at research farm over a 3-year period.

Trait	Small	Large
Ewe Weight (kg)	59.9	69.5
Lambs born/ewe joined	1.67	1.77
Lambs weaned/lamb alive	.90	.91
Birth weight (kg)	4.8	5.0
Weaning weight (kg)	24.3	26.3
Litter weaning weight (kg)	40.3	45.2

Source: Chris Logan, Lincoln University, Ewe Efficiency Handout.

The larger ewes had more lambs that were larger and grew faster resulting in a litter weaning weight of 45.2kg compared to a litter weaning weight of 40.3kg for the small ewes.

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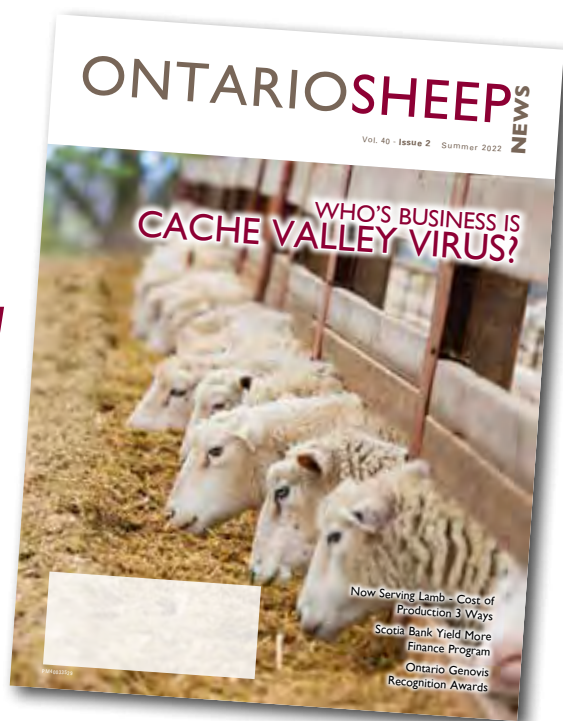
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Creating a System

The production system for an individual farm is determined by farm specific factors such as: access to feed sources, climate, topography, buildings, labour and market opportunities. This means that there is not one right answer for every farm. Each farm must assess its own resources and determine the best choice for their operation. Smaller ewes require less feed for maintenance and take up less space in buildings. But this must be balanced against production capacity, growth rates and market weights. Crossbreeding programs can utilize smaller ewes and larger terminal sires to save on maintenance feed costs and still capture some of the advantages of faster growth and carcass size.

Ewe Efficiency

One method of balancing the benefits and challenges with size is to calculate a ewe efficiency number. A common calculation is average total weight of lamb weaned divided by average mature ewe weight. Looking at table 1, if you do that calculation, the small ewes are weaning 67% of their weight and the large ewes are weaning 65% of their weight. Chris Logan also presented the overall performance of the small and large ewes shown in Table 2.

In this second table, feed is balanced against production by showing the performance per hectare. When you look at performance per hectare, the small ewes produced more

Table 2. Overall performance per hectare of the ewes shown in table 1.

Trait	Small	Large
Stocking rate (ewes/ha)	10	8.6
Lambs weaned	15	13
Weaning weight (kg)	403	390
Carcass weight (tonnes)	245	217
Wool (kg)	34	31

Source: Chris Logan, Lincoln University, Ewe Efficiency Handout.

weaning weight and carcass weight than the large ewes. As a result, even though the larger ewes produced more, they were not as efficient as the smaller ewes. It is worthwhile to evaluate your ewes based on efficiency.

Conclusions

These are not all the factors that might need to be considered. You need to decide what traits will work best in your operation. It is important to monitor production against costs. Ewe efficiency is something that needs to be considered as an indicator of profitability. One way of starting to benchmark this for a meat operation is to monitor the kilograms of feed required to produce a kilogram of meat on your farm. I will be talking about this more at the Canadian Sheep Breeders Association Classic show and sale in Ancaster on Friday July 8, 2022. Come to the education day and join the discussion. **OSN**

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Brian Atkinson • (705) 924-3043

James & Cecile Blackie • (506) 392-6263
Tania Lise • (519) 440-1076

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

Bonfire Hill Farm • Lisa Schultes • (902) 326-1195
Knollbrook Farms • James Masters • (519) 362-6444

Shadow Ridge Acres • Zabrina Bielaskie • (613) 433-6199

SHEEP PRODUCERS ON THE SCRAPIE PROGRAM (AS OF JUNE 2022)

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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

Auction Markets and Abattoirs

ABATTOIRS		
NAME	CITY	PHONE NO
Abattoir Lefavre Inc.	Lefavre	(613) 679-4698
Afghan Halal Meat Suppliers	Schomberg	(416) 894-1802
Agram 2005 Meats Inc.	Georgetown	(905) 877-6082
Al Madina Halal Meat Packers	Brinston	(613) 652-1301
Aman's Abattoir	Wellington	(613) 399-2173
Bachert Meats	Walton	(519) 887-9328
Belle Vallee Meats & Abattoir	Belle Vallee	(705) 647-7419
Bentinck Packers Ltd.	Hanover	(519) 364-3538
Beverly Creek Farm	Hamilton	(905) 690-8111
*Bilal Farms Inc.	Clarence Creek	(613) 488-2268
Birch Lake Abattoir	Massey	(705) 865-3395
Brian Quinn's Meats Ltd.	Yarker	(613) 377-6430
Burt Farm Country Meats	Gore Bay	(705) 282-0328
Caledon Halal Meat Packers	Bolton	(416) 999-9999
Charles Quality Meats Ltd.	St. Agatha	(519) 886-7931
Cloverbelt Country Meats Co-operative	Oxdrift	(807) 937-6716
Cole Bros. Meat Processing	Picton	(613) 476-6955
Country Fresh Packers	Tilbury	(519) 682-2222
Creative Meats	Warren	(705) 967-2006
Desormeaux Slaughter-house & Meats Inc.	Crysler	(613) 987-2148
Dresden Meat Packers Ltd.	Dresden	(519) 683-2585
Elora Road Meats	Mildmay	(519) 367-2261
Ewe Dell Family Farm	Woodslee	(519) 723-4456
Farmersville Community Abattoir	Athens	(613) 924-0400
FGO Organic Processing Ltd.	Ingersoll	(519) 236-7717
Gord's Abattoir Ltd.	Leamington	(519) 326-2503
Green's Meat Market & Abattoir Ltd.	Wingham	(519) 357-2912
Grey County Meats	Maxwell	(519) 922-2400
Hank De Koning Ltd.	Port Dover	(519) 583-0115
Harriston Packing Company Ltd.	Harriston	(519) 338-3330
Hastings Meat Market	Stirling	(613) 395-0505
Hay's Custom Cutting Ltd.	Campbellford	(705) 653-3388
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Len and Patti Butcher Block	Lindsay	(705) 328-2100
Matar Meats	Osgoode	(613) 821-7929
McGarroch of Micksburg Custom Butchering	Pembroke	(613) 732-7181
Miedema's Country Meats	Exeter	(519) 235-4978
Miedema's Meat Market Ltd.	Embro	(519) 475-4010
Millgrove Packers Ltd.	Waterdown	(905) 689-6184
Mr. Beef Inc.	Pakenham	(613) 624-5222
Mount Brydges Abattoir Ltd.	Mount Brydges	(519) 264-1873
Newmarket Meat Packers Ltd.	Newmarket	(416) 364-2671

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Norwich Packers Ltd.	Norwich	(519) 468-3617
Ontario Halal Meat Packers Inc.	Milton	(905) 875-0270
Otonabee Meat Packers Ltd.	Peterborough	(705) 743-8547
Palmateer's Abattoir Ltd.	Tweed	(613) 478-3801
Parkhill Meats	Parkhill	(519) 293-3000
Peel Sausage Abattoir	Drayton	(519) 638-3446
Penokean Hills Farms	Bruce Mines	(705) 782-4224
Rainy River District Regional Abattoir Inc.	Emo	(807) 482-3028
Ralph Bos Meats Ltd.	Strathroy	(519) 245-1574
Reiche Meat Products Ltd.	Pembroke	(613) 732-3773
Rua Meats Ltd.	Foxboro	(613) 962-7915
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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
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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
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WHITE DORPER

Proud Ewe Hair Sheep Patricia Skinner & Pat Curry, Monte Lake, BC. (250) 375-2528 proudewe@gmail.com. Registered purebred, clean genetics, closed healthy farm. Very robust with impressive bulk, rapid growth, clean genetics, excellent conformation, parasite tolerance, out of season breeding. Foundation breeding stock and commercial lambs for sale. All sound with excellent conformation.



Master Shepherd's Course

2022 Master Shepherd's Course - applications being accepted now.

By the time you read this edition of Ontario Sheep News, full details of the MSC will have been finalized.

The course will again be offered primarily in an on-line learning format, with Module 4 Business Planning (and possibly Module 12) being in person. A 2-day Farm Tour rounds out the course.

The course schedule, cost and application form can be accessed on the website, or sent to you by emailing: mastershepherd@ontariosheep.org or calling the OSF office 519-836-0043.

1-866-216-4113

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double poly cover /roll up sides
30x 72 **\$7224**

FARMER WELLNESS INITIATIVE

New program offers tailored mental health support for farmers

Earlier this year, a new province-wide initiative was launched to deliver tailored mental health support and resources to all Ontario farmers and their families. Together, we can break the silence.

Funded by the governments of Canada and Ontario, the Farmer Wellness Initiative provides free counselling sessions with a mental health professional. Each mental health professional has received training to understand the unique needs of the farming community.

The Farmer Wellness Initiative is supported by the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) – Ontario Division, in partnership with OFA, and aims to protect and enhance the mental well-being of farmers and their families. Counselling services provided by LifeWorks.

This program will provide valuable support for the agricultural community by giving farmers easy access to a comprehensive network of mental health counselling and crisis services.

Accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week, every day of the year, in English and French. Reach out and call anytime at

1-866-267-6255

Paid for in part by the governments of Canada and Ontario and through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (the Partnership), a five-year federal-provincial-territorial initiative.