



2025-26 Schedule

*Note: dates of sessions are subject to change. Refer to www.OntarioSheep.org/master-shepherds-course for the most up-to-date information.

	Module theme – key topic areas	*Date Tuesday & Thursday evenings 7:30 – 9:15 pm
Module 1 Industry dynamics and governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lamb industry overview – Global, North American, Ontario perspectives Lamb production systems Lamb supply and price cycles Sheep industry governance Sustainable sheep production 	January 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30 and February 4, 6, 2025
Module 2 Flock productivity and Reproduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reproduction, seasonality of estrus, conception rates Optimizing out-of-season breeding programs ram management for optimal reproductive success Culling strategies for improved productivity 	February 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27 and March 4, 6, 2025
Module 3 Lambing and lamb rearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimizing lamb mortality – causes, prevention Management tips and protocols (confined and pasture) Artificial rearing systems Managing health issues – abortion, mastitis, vaccination 	March 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27, and April 1, 3 2025
Module 4 Business planning <i>In person</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing business plans Cost of production and key performance indicators Production monitoring and record keeping Financial monitoring and record keeping 	<i>In person – April 9 & 10, 2025 & farm visit</i>
Module 5 Ewe flock nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nutritional demands throughout the production cycle Monitoring response to feeding programs How ruminants utilize protein and carbohydrates Impact of genetics and production systems Effectively using feed analysis and ration balancing 	April 22, 24, 29 and May 1, 6, 8, 13, 15, 2025
FARM TOUR		June or September 2025
Module 6 Predation and Pasture Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coyote behaviour and biology; raven behaviour and biology Options for managing predation / what can I do legally? Deadstock disposal methods Wildlife Damage Compensation Program Pasture management / pasture infrastructure Extended grazing options Managing pastures to manage parasites 	September 16, 18, 23, 25, 30 and October 2, 7, 9, 2025



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Module 7 Genetics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritability of economically important traits • Genetic selection principles • Crossbreeding schemes • Hybrid vigour & inbreeding • Genetic improvement programs 	October 14, 16, 28, 30 and November 4, 6, 11, 13, 2025
Module 8 Infrastructure & Feeding systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning efficient farmstead layouts • Ventilation, watering systems, supplementary heat • Handling systems, sheep behaviour • Nutrient management • Feed storage, Feed delivery systems and infrastructure • Pasture Infrastructure • Feed delivery machinery 	November 18, 20, 25, 27 and December 2, 4, 9, 11 2025
Module 9 Effective flock health management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flock health programs / using vet diagnostic services • Avoid production limiting diseases • Vaccinations and immunity /Role of nutrition in flock health • Parasite Management / Biosecurity /On-Farm Euthanasia 	January 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29 2026
Module 10 Lamb feedlots and dairy sheep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lamb feeding rations, feed delivery systems • Feedlot health, monitoring growth, carcass quality • Dairy sheep industry outlook • Dairy flock health, regulatory requirements 	February 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26, 2026
Module 11 Marketing and wool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing principles • Marketing methods - live auction, private sales, direct to consumer - farmers markets, online • Product branding • Marketing costs, product shrink, marketing risks • Fit for transport 	March 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26, 2026
Module 12 Business Plan presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each full-time participant will present their business plan to the rest of the class 	April 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30, 2026

Questions? Email: mastershepherd@ontariosheep.org or Phone: 519.836.0043 x322

Register for single modules at learning-ontariosheep.thinkific.com