

# ONTARIO SHEEP NEWS

Vol. 42 - Issue 2 Summer 2024

## SELENIUM SUPPLEMENTATION STUDY



Farm Dog Parasites,  
Carcass Condemnations  
Enhancing Sheep Barn Ventilation  
Profile on Brent Herrington:  
Master Butcher



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Photo credit: Matt Gordon, submitted to our 2023 Photo Contest

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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: Photograph by A. Zettel; submitted by Kevin Hundt for our 2023 Photo Contest

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### DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING TO ONTARIO SHEEP NEWS:

Spring Issue - February 3rd • Summer Issue - May 4th • Fall Issue - August 3rd • Winter Issue - November 2nd

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# Introductions & Invitations

**T**hank you for reading the summer edition of Ontario Sheep News. It's a pleasure to be taking over the responsibilities as Editor of the OSN as the new Industry Relations Specialist with Ontario Sheep Farmers

A little about myself: I've had the privilege of holding several diverse roles within the Canadian agricultural sector. After studying Biology at the University of Guelph I worked for both Monsanto and Pioneer, doing fieldwork for their Soybean and Canola breeding programs. In a role with BASF's AgSolution's team, I spoke to thousands of farmers across Canada, answering their crop protection related questions and helping them solve problems. I've since worked for several marketing agencies alongside Canadian agriculture companies like ADAMA Canada and Corteva Agriscience.

I also spent time as AgScape's (Ag in the Classroom Ontario) Communications and Marketing Manager. Most recently I worked at Glacier Farm Media as part of the team that orchestrates both Ag in Motion and Canada's Outdoor Farm Show.

In my first few months in this role, I've had several opportunities to meet with sheep farmers across Ontario. On my second day at our Dairy Sheep Symposium in Floradale, Ontario, I greeted over 50 sheep farmers. All the producers I met were eager to take in a day packed with panelist discussions, keynote presentations, and an encouraging showing of sheep organizations and companies at the tradeshow.



At the Elmira Maple Syrup Festival, I greeted thousands of members of the public – mostly families – who were also eager to learn more about sheep and the role we play in the larger Canadian agricultural sector.

My biggest takeaway in my career: farmers are some of my favourite people to work with. Why? Because few people will be as honest and straightforward as farmers. You will rarely question where you stand with farmers – they will let you know. There's a refreshing candor and openness in the farming community that I truly appreciate.

Farmers are also some of the most generous, willing to share their experiences, knowledge, and stories. This spirit of sharing is what makes our community strong and resilient. I encourage all our members to reach out

and share their thoughts, experiences, and insights with us. Whether it's a letter to the editor, a phone call, an email, or an in-person discussion - your input is invaluable. Your stories and feedback help us create a publication that truly reflects the interests and concerns of Ontario sheep farmers.

I'm so excited about the coming months – from the many great conversations Erin Morgan and I have had on the Flock Talk podcast, the Lamb Recipe summer BBQ campaign currently underway, to the planning of our AGM and Convention this October. I'm so proud to be part of a team focused on bringing value to our sheep farmer members across this province.

Thank you for welcoming me into this vibrant community. I look forward to hearing from you and working together to make Ontario Sheep News an even more valuable resource for all of you. **OSN**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ARE WELCOME

The OSN welcomes letters to the editor.

Please email: [tlewis@ontariosheep.org](mailto:tlewis@ontariosheep.org) or mail to:

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

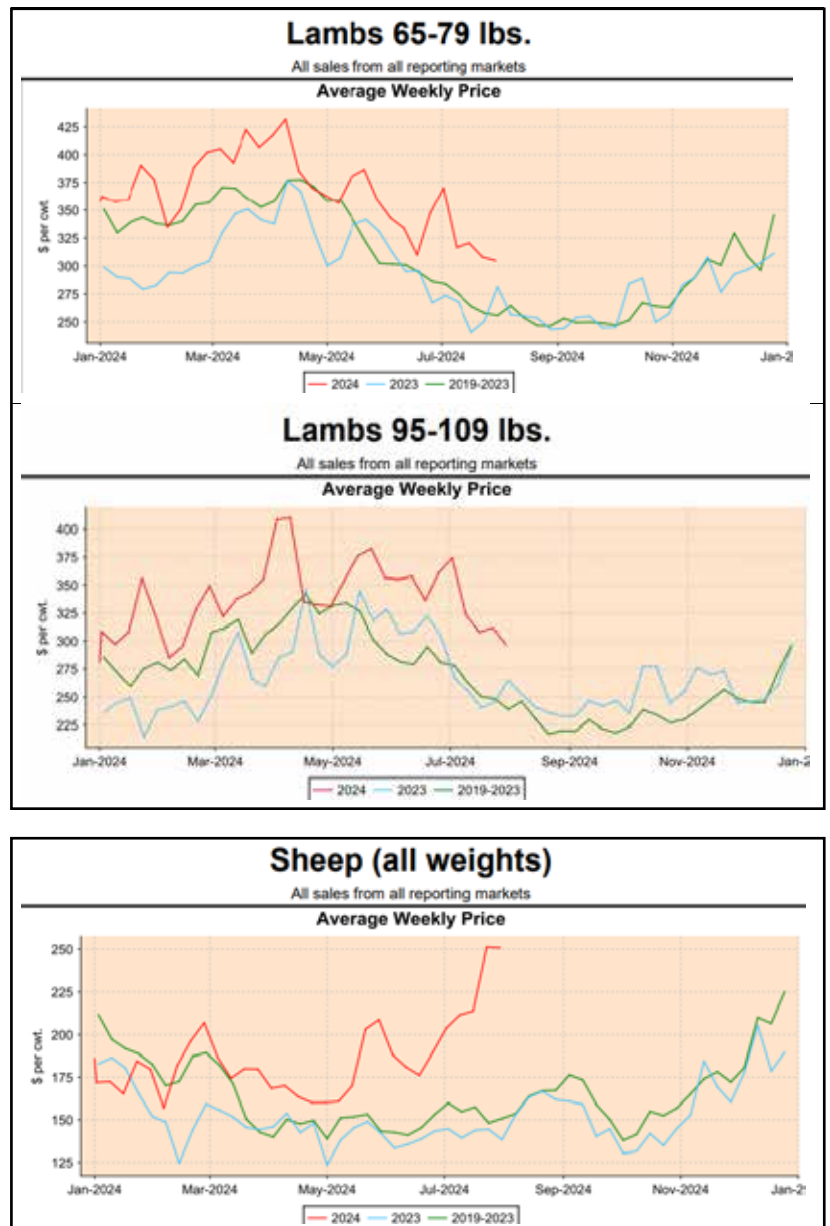
## For Week 31 Ending July 30th, 2024

All future market reports will be posted several hours later than previously due to time zone differences, as the market data now comes from CanFax in Alberta.

- For the week ending July 30th, total reported volume of lambs through live auction sales was higher from last week, with average price falling back across all but one lamb weight category, while cull sheep price was steady to last week.
- Reported weekly volume of 5,464 head of lambs was 39 percent higher than a week ago and 54 percent higher than the same week in 2023.
- Volume of sheep, at 1,353 head was 32 percent higher than a week ago and 16.3 percent higher compared to the same week in 2023.
- Year-to-date (YTD) volume lambs at 143,293 head is 7.7 percent higher than the YTD2023 volume, while cull sheep YTD volume at 36,189 head is tracking 3.5 percent lower than YTD2023 volume.
- Average price was lower from last week across all but one lamb weight category: less-than-50-pounds -20.9 percent, 50-to-64-pound +4.4 percent, 65-to-79-pound -1.0 percent, 80-to-94-pound - 4.3 percent, 95-to-109-pound 5.0 percent and plus-110-pound -13.3 percent.
- Compared to the same week in 2023, average price was 3.5 to 21 percent higher across lamb weight categories.
- Average price for cull sheep price at \$250.83 was steady to last week and is tracking 81 percent higher than the same week in 2023.
- Average price for all lamb weight categories remains above the 5-year average price.
- Average price of cull sheep remains above the 5-year average price.
- Upcoming ethnic celebrations:
  - Mawlid al-Nabi (Birthday of the Prophet Muhammad) September 27
  - Rosh Hashanah Jewish New Year October 2-4
  - Thanksgiving October 14
  - the 2024 and 5-year ethnic market calendars can be accessed at <https://www.ontariosheep.org/religious-ethnic-market-calendar>

Full market reports are updated weekly and can be found on the OSF website. If you want to receive this weekly market update, subscribe to receive the Messenger by email [www.ontariosheep.org/the-messenger-newsletter-subscribe](http://www.ontariosheep.org/the-messenger-newsletter-subscribe)

The graphs below show weekly average price trends for 2024 compared to 2023 and the 5-year average price for lambs 65-to-79 pounds, lambs 95-to-109 pounds and sheep categories from the All Markets Weekly Graphs. v can be found on the OSF website. **OSN**



# Supplementation With Organic Versus Inorganic Selenium During Pregnancy and Postpartum to Support Ewe and Lamb Health

Nicole Moran, Ph.D. Student, University of Guelph  
 Dr. Niel A. Karrow, Professor, University of Guelph

Globally, lamb mortalities can reach up to 40%, with anything over 10% considered detrimental to farm profits<sup>(1)</sup>. Ontario sheep production is impeded by consistent lamb mortalities of just over 15%<sup>(2)</sup>. Ewe health is one of the biggest predictors of lamb mortality since it greatly affects pregnancy viability and lamb health outcomes<sup>(3)</sup>. Nutritional supplementation of key minerals such as selenium (Se) to ewes not only improves ewe health but can also subsequently promote lamb growth and survival<sup>(4)</sup>. Se is a vital nutrient for sheep, playing a crucial role in various biological functions, particularly as an antioxidant. Se is deficient in soils throughout parts of Ontario and pastures grown in these regions<sup>(5)</sup>. This means that in order to provide sufficient Se in sheep diets, supplements are required, and current provincial standards dictate that newborn lambs should be injected with a selenium/vitamin E mixture to ensure optimal Se levels<sup>(6)</sup>.

Se supplementation is available in organic and inorganic forms. Organic forms of Se include selenomethionine, selenocysteine, and selenocystine, and inorganic forms include selenates, selenides and selenites<sup>(7)</sup>. While inorganic Se is typically used to supplement sheep, due to lower cost, organic Se is more bioavailable and there is less risk of toxicity. Organic Se can be absorbed and incorporated into endogenous muscle proteins better than



Nicole pictured with her research sheep, prepping for blood collection.




## Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program

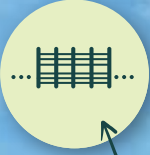
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inorganic sources of Se<sup>(6)</sup> and is better at promoting microbial metabolites that are beneficial for gut health<sup>(8)</sup>. Although the health benefits of Se in sheep production are well known, the impact of organic Se supplementation on ewe and lamb health as compared to inorganic Se supplementation has not been well researched.

Researchers in the Department of Animal Biosciences at the University of Guelph have been comparing the effects of organic and inorganic Se supplementation to late-gestation ewes in terms of ewe and lamb health. Nicole Moran, a PhD student in the Karrow lab, says the goal is to investigate if providing adequate maternal Se supplementation, comparing organic versus inorganic Se forms, can reduce the need for post-birth Se injections and produce healthier lambs. A feeding trial utilizing 110 pregnant ewes was carried out at the Ontario Sheep Research Centre, starting on gestation day (gd) 110 and ending on postpartum day (ppd) 50. The ewes consumed Se-deficient hay and Se-free pelleted feed and were divided into four experimental groups: no supplemented Se, 0.3 mg/head/day of sodium selenite, 0.3 mg/head/day or 0.6 mg/head/day of selenomethionine. The Se supplements were provided daily using an oral syringe containing sugar water. Serum samples were taken on gd 110, 130, and 140, as well as on ppd 10 and 49 to determine Se concentrations. Lambs were weighted biweekly from 0 day of birth to 100 days of age to track growth. A subset of lambs was also euthanized on 10 days of age, and muscle samples were extracted to confirm Se transfer from ewe to lamb.

Serum analysis showed that ewes that were not supplemented with Se had progressively lower Se concentrations throughout the duration of the feeding trial compared to levels measured at the trial start date, and by the end of the study, concentrations were less than optimal, which is considered within 0.12 and 0.5 ug/mL<sup>(9)</sup>. In contrast, supplementation with both organic and inorganic forms of Se maintained optimal ewe serum Se levels, with organic Se being most effective by the end of the feeding trial. Analysis of Se concentration in lamb muscle tissues revealed that only organic Se was able to significantly enrich lamb muscle tissues. Future analysis of colostrum Se levels will help determine if enrichment is occurring in utero, during nursing, or both.



Lambs were kept in individual housing with their ewes until 10 days of age.

Dr. Karrow noted that it was interesting none of the ewes, regardless of Se treatment, had above normal lamb mortalities, and deformities such as “spider leg syndrome”, which is known to



The study housed ewes in individual pens for ease of supplement administration. On the right, one can see the prepared Se doses in sugar water.

be caused by Se deficiency. There was also not a significant difference across treatments in the growth of lambs. Nicole is currently assessing more sensitive indicators of ewe and lamb health, including immune function and responsiveness to stress, and gut microbiota diversity, and will make those results available after she has completed her analyses. These preliminary results demonstrate that organic Se is most bioavailable Se supplement for ewes and their lambs, and that when ewes are provided sufficient Se during pregnancy, lamb Se injections may not be required. Although organic forms of Se are more expensive, their higher bioavailability and reduced risk of toxicity may make it worthwhile for sheep farmers to consider them to support the health and productivity of their sheep flocks. **OSN**

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# 2024 OSF PHOTO CONTEST

## ARE YOU A MASTER AT FRAMING FLOCKS? OUR PHOTO CONTEST IS CALLING!

Entries are now open for the 2024 Ontario Sheep Photo Contest. Whether you're a seasoned photographer or an amateur enthusiast, this is your chance to showcase the beauty of Ontario's sheep and the vibrant life on its farms.

Winners of the contest will be announced at the 2024 Annual General Meeting.

### CATEGORIES

- **Flock Shots:** Capture the essence of a flock, with a minimum of 20 sheep.
- **Around the Farm:** From pastoral landscapes to bustling barns, show us the heart of sheep farming.
- **Sheep Farmers:** Candid moments of farmers at work or the warmth of farm family life.
- **All About Wool:** Highlighting the pride of Ontario's wool production.
- **Fan Favourite:** Farm landscape, outside/inside barn or pasture, shearing day – your choice!

### PRIZES

Top photos in each category will receive a \$100 cash prize, with an additional \$250 grand prize. Plus, every submission stands a chance to win the \$100 Fan Favorite award.

### SUBMISSIONS

Email your entries in JPEG format to [admin@ontariosheep.org](mailto:admin@ontariosheep.org) with the subject line "2024 Photo Contest." Images must be at least 200 dpi and 1 MB in size. Only Canadian entries will be considered.

**The deadline for entries is September 30th, 2024.**

Include the following information with your submission:

- Photo title (optional)
- Contact information: mailing address, phone number, email
- Photographer's name (if different from the submitter)
- Chosen category

### CONTEST RULES

- All submitted photos become property of Ontario Sheep Farmers (OSF) and may be used or reproduced by OSF, with credit to the photographer where possible.
- If the submitter is not the photographer, the photographer's name must be provided.
- Each photographer may submit up to two entries per category.
- Participation in the sheep industry is not a requirement for entry.





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# Enhancing Sheep Barn Ventilation: Insights from Steve Beadle, P. Eng.

In a recent episode of “Flock Talk,” we spoke with Steve Beadle, an engineering specialist from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, about the critical importance of proper ventilation in sheep barns. Steve provided valuable insights into how ventilation impacts flock health, well-being, and productivity.

## The Role of Ventilation

Proper ventilation is essential in maintaining an optimal barn environment, which directly influences sheep health and productivity. Effective ventilation systems provide fresh air, regulate temperature, remove moisture, and eliminate odors and harmful gases like ammonia. Steve emphasized that good indoor air quality allows sheep to expend their energy on growth and reproduction rather than on coping with environmental stressors.

## Common Ventilation Challenges

- **Lack of Ventilation Systems:** Many smaller farms may not have dedicated ventilation systems due to the initial investment cost. Steve stressed that a well-managed ventilation system can pay for itself through increased productivity and lower production costs.
- **Winter Ventilation:** Farmers often close off ventilation in winter to keep barns warm, leading to higher humidity levels, which are more damaging than cold temperatures. Sheep can tolerate cold well but suffer from respiratory issues and other health problems due to high humidity.
- **Husbandry Practices:** Ensuring newborn lambs are dried off, providing ample dry bedding, and reducing drafts are crucial in maintaining a healthy environment.

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## Respiratory Diseases and Humidity

Poor ventilation can lead to respiratory diseases, especially in young stock, due to high humidity and ammonia levels. Maintaining humidity between 60% and 75% is ideal. Low humidity can also be problematic, creating dusty conditions and drying out the animals' mucus membranes. Good bedding management and continuous air changes (three to four per hour) are necessary to control humidity and ammonia levels.

## Choosing the Right Ventilation System

There are three main types of ventilation systems:

**Negative Pressure:** Fans draw air out of the barn, creating a slight drop in pressure that pulls in fresh air through inlets.

**Positive Pressure:** Fans blow air into the barn, and stale air exits through building inconsistencies or dedicated outlets.

**Natural Ventilation:** Uses roof and sidewall openings to move air naturally.



Automated Ventilation Controllers

Most Ontario producers prefer natural ventilation, but the choice depends on location, management style, and seasonal temperatures. Steve suggested considering a hybrid system combining natural and mechanical ventilation for different times of the year. Automated ventilation controllers, regardless of ventilation type, are vital for maintaining consistent air quality without constant manual adjustments.

## Practical Tips for Barn Location and Ventilation

**Location:** Position barns to take advantage of prevailing summer winds to aid natural ventilation.

**Capacity:** Ensure the ventilation system can handle the barn's air volume and is uniformly distributed to avoid dead air spots.

**Control Systems:** Automated controllers range from simple temperature-based systems to advanced models that monitor humidity, ammonia, and carbon dioxide levels.

## Winter Ventilation Strategies

Maintaining proper ventilation in winter is crucial to prevent high humidity and respiratory issues. Options include using chimney fans and positive pressure ventilation tubes to ensure adequate air movement without drafts. Steve advised focusing on keeping barns dry rather than warm and suggested using heated water bowls and providing heated creep areas for lambs as needed.



Lamb Creep Area with Supplemental Heat

## Summer Ventilation for Older Barns

Older or modified barns can pose ventilation challenges in summer. Opening all available openings and using downdraft or circulation fans can help manage heat. Insulation under the roof can reduce heat gain from the sun, making barns more comfortable for sheep.

*Continued on page 12.*

## Monitoring Tools and Sensors

To effectively manage ventilation, farmers should use various tools and sensors:

- **Maximum-Minimum Thermometers:** Track temperature ranges.



Litmus Paper-Style Ammonia Strips

- **Handheld Temperature and Humidity Sensors:** Provide real-time readings.
- **Ammonia Sensors:** Handheld versions or litmus paper-style strips can monitor ammonia levels.

## Recognizing Ventilation Issues

Signs of poor ventilation include: unthrifty sheep, shivering, condensation in the barn, and reduced feed intake or weight gain in summer. Addressing these issues promptly can prevent health problems and maintain productivity.

## Expert Advice and Resources

For further assistance, farmers can consult ventilation suppliers, the Canadian Farm Builders Association, ventilation designers, and OMAFA publications. Steve Beadle is also available for guidance.

Proper barn ventilation is a cornerstone of successful sheep farming. By prioritizing air quality and utilizing appropriate systems and practices, farmers can ensure the health and productivity of their flocks year-round. **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:

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*(updated every Monday listing events for the week)*

**NEW - Industry News**

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**Market Reports**

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# Farm Dog Parasites, Carcass Condemnations

Anita O'Brien, On-Farm Program Lead, OSF

If you are new to sheep farming, you may not know that some dog parasites can be the cause of carcass condemnation at slaughter.

Sheep farmers spend considerable time managing parasites to minimize their impact on the sheep flock. Equally important for those that use livestock guardian dogs and or stock dogs is management of dog parasites, in particular tapeworms, especially since they can result in carcass condemnations and the subsequent economic loss.

Several dog and wild canid (foxes, coyotes, wolves) tapeworms can infect your sheep, causing cysts in carcasses that result in partial or complete carcass condemnations. In Ontario these include *Taenia hydatigenia*, *Taenia ovis* (sheep measles), and *Echinococcus granulosus* (hydatid disease)<sup>(1)</sup>.

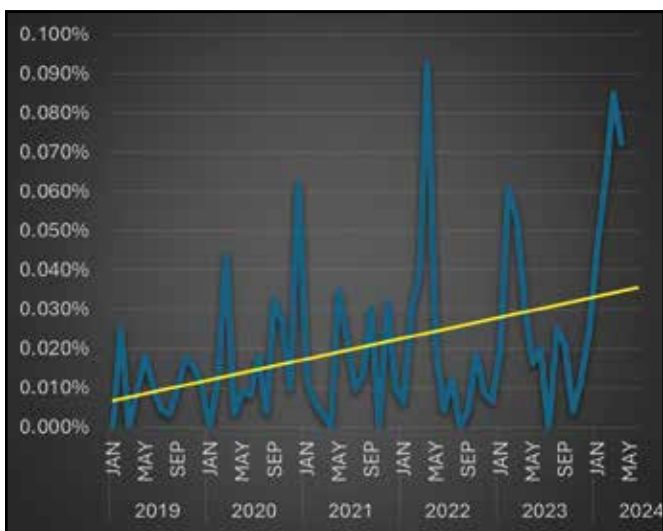


Figure 1. *C. ovis* carcass condemnations (percent of provincial inspected sheep and lamb slaughter)

Condemnations of partial and whole sheep and lamb carcasses cost the industry. The loss not only includes the value of the whole and partial carcasses and organs condemned, but also the transportation cost to slaughter, the cost of disposal of condemned carcasses, as well as the labour cost of dressing those carcasses.

Carcass condemnations in provincially inspected plants in Ontario are tracked and reported by Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

Condemnation rates of whole carcasses due to *Cysticercus ovis* (sheep measles) have been 0.01 to 0.02 percent of

total sheep and lamb slaughter during the period of 2019 through 2023.

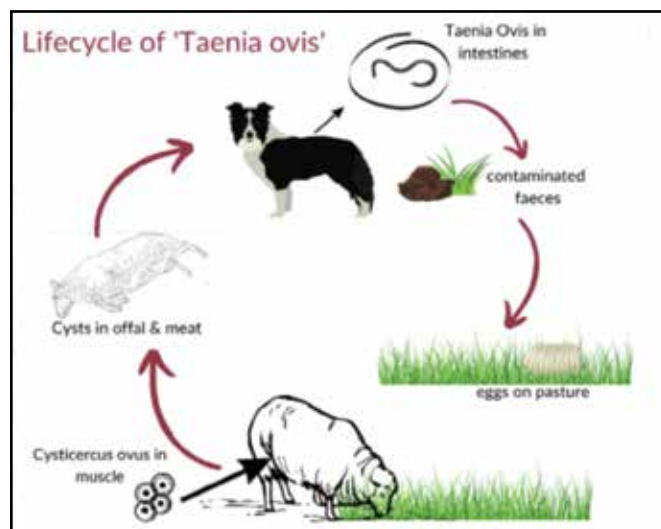
Condemnation rates for *C. ovis* (the larval stage of *Taenia ovis*) appear to be trending upwards in the past several years as shown in Figure 1. Changing this trend requires sheep farmers to vigilantly assess and address risk factors on their farms.

Understanding the life cycle of canid tapeworms helps identify those risk factors for sheep becoming infected and management strategies to minimize those risks.

## Tapeworm Lifecycle

Tapeworms have indirect life cycles that require their passage through at least one intermediate host (insects, mites, mammals). Sheep are intermediate hosts for some of the canid tapeworms mentioned above while voles and deer mice are the intermediate host for others.

Dogs and other canids become infected when eating meat and organs contaminated with cysts. Once in the dog's gut, the cysts release the young tapeworms, which attach to the gut wall and start producing segments. Within 5 to 8 weeks (prepatent period) the tapeworms mature and start shedding segments, with each segment containing thousands of eggs<sup>(2)</sup>. These segments are excreted in the dog feces and can also be found on its coat especially near the rectum.



Credit: <https://www.torchfarmandequine.co.uk>

Sheep become infected when ingesting pasture, stored feed or water contaminated with eggs or gravid segments of the tapeworm.

Once ingested by sheep, the young larvae hatch out in the gut, go through the intestinal wall, reach the blood stream and migrate to their target tissue, where they encyst. When dogs or other canids eat the tissues containing these cysts, the larval tapeworm completes development to an adult tapeworm in the dog's intestine and the cycle repeats itself. The larval cysts may remain infective for dogs for up to one year.

The tapeworms of primary concern in Ontario where sheep are an intermediate host include <sup>(3)</sup>:

- **Taenia hydatigena** a tapeworm parasite of dogs and other canids (coyotes, wolves, foxes, very occasionally cats, etc.). Intermediate hosts include sheep, goats, cattle, deer and other wild ruminants, occasionally horses. Its larval stage (cyst) is known as *Cysticercus tenuicollis*. Target tissue in sheep is primarily the liver <sup>(2)</sup>;
- **Taenia ovis** another tapeworm parasite of dogs and other canids (coyotes, wolves, foxes, very occasionally cats, etc.). Intermediate hosts include sheep and goats as well as various wild ruminants. *Cysticercus ovis*, also known as sheep measles, is the larval stage of *T. ovis*. These cysts can appear as active clear fluid-filled cysts or degenerated firm nodules with scar/calcified tissue. Usually found in the heart, diaphragm, oesophagus, tongue, head muscles and/or in the carcass muscles. <sup>(4)</sup>;
- **Echinococcus granulosus** (also known as *E. canadensis* and hydatid worm). Wildlife intermediate hosts include cervids (moose, elk, caribou, deer). Domestic intermediate hosts include cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, and horses. *E. granulosus* is present throughout Canada where suitable wildlife hosts (wolves, coyotes, cervids, domestic mammals) exist <sup>(1)</sup>. Target tissue in sheep are primarily the liver and lungs <sup>(2)</sup>.

## Managing On-farm Risk Factors

There is no treatment that will kill or remove cysts in infected sheep. Control efforts, therefore, should focus on minimizing known on-farm risks and regular treatment of all farm dogs for tapeworms being very important. Research investigating the epidemiology and control of *Cysticercus ovis* infection on Canadian sheep farms involving trace-back of 237 carcasses condemned in Ontario, between 2009 and 2011, revealed they originated from 133 farms across Canada. This study found that farm dogs scavenging deadstock and failing to dispose of deadstock properly were significantly associated with condemnations in multivariable analyses <sup>(5)</sup>

- **on-farm deadstock management** needs to prevent scavenging by dogs and wildlife. This becomes especially important if you've had sheep diagnosed with tapeworm cysts. Once the local population of wild canids is infected with these parasites, it will be increasingly difficult to prevent grazing sheep from becoming infected.

- **how and what we feed our dogs and sheep.** Not feeding farm dogs (and cats) raw, incompletely cooked, or incompletely frozen meat and other tissues from infected intermediate hosts. Meat and organs from livestock and wildlife should always be thoroughly cooked or frozen to prevent transmission. Recommended best practice is to only feed commercial dry dog food or thoroughly cook (to 72°C core temperature) or deep freeze meat before feeding it to dogs. Australia recommendations are freezing for 21 days. New Zealand recommendations are meat frozen for at least 10 days at meat core temperature of minus 10°C. Although challenging with grazing flocks, prevent dogs from defecating in sheep feeders and where sheep feed is stored. Where that's not possible, prompt removal and disposal will help reduce the exposure risk.
- **receiving protocol for new dogs.** All new dogs need to be isolated and treated for tapeworms and held in isolation for at least 3 days.
- **visiting dogs.** Confirm with owners that the dogs have been treated with a wormer that is effective against tapeworms. The treatment must have been given between 3 and 30 days before their arrival <sup>(6)</sup>
- **infected wild canid and wild ungulate presence on farm.** Once the local population of wild canids is infected with these parasites, it will be increasingly difficult to prevent grazing sheep from becoming infected.

Continued on page 16.

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## Other Tapeworm to be Aware Of

Although not known to infect sheep, another zoonotic canid tapeworm to be aware of is *Echinococcus multilocularis*. Previously thought to be rare in Ontario, *E. multilocularis* is now considered endemic in Ontario becoming a reportable disease as of January 2018 <sup>(7)</sup>. This due to findings of a research project that evaluated 460 coyotes and foxes carcasses collected from southern Ontario trappers from November 2015 through March 2017. Overall, 24% of coyotes and 21% of foxes tested positive for *E. multilocularis* <sup>(8)</sup>. Wildlife intermediate hosts for *E. multilocularis* include rodents (lemmings, voles, deer mice), while dogs and humans can serve as aberrant intermediate hosts <sup>(1)</sup>.

Dogs that become infected with *Echinococcus granulosus* and *E. multilocularis*, are rarely diagnosed in part because the eggs are indistinguishable from each other and from the eggs of *Taenia* species <sup>(1)</sup>. Being zoonotic, people can also be aberrant intermediate hosts for both species of *Echinococcus*.

## Treatment Strategies for Dogs

The goal of treating farm dogs for tapeworms is to reduce environmental contamination with eggs.

Not all dog wormers are effective against tapeworms.

There are several products approved in Canada for treating tapeworms in dogs and cats. The Ontario Animal Health Network maintains an excellent reference list of anti-parasitics for cats and dogs and the type of parasite they treat. [www.oahn.ca/resources/anti-parasitics-table-for-cats-and-dogs](http://www.oahn.ca/resources/anti-parasitics-table-for-cats-and-dogs) <sup>(10)</sup>.

Because livestock guardian dogs and stock dogs have free-range while working, they should be considered as high risk for consumption of wildlife - rodents and other small mammals and possibly deer carcasses. Therefore, such animals should be treated regularly (monthly in regions endemic for *E. multilocularis*) with praziquantel, year-round <sup>(1)</sup>. Please note that only some praziquantel products are specifically labeled for treatment of *Echinococcus* spp. <sup>(11)</sup>.

Work with your flock veterinarian to develop a farm-specific treatment strategy for your farm dogs.

## Protect Yourself

*E. granulosus* and *E. multilocularis* are zoonotic and can infect humans, although diagnosed disease in Ontario is considered low. Dog owners should practice the following preventative measures <sup>(12)</sup>:

- Wash hands with soap and warm water after handling pets, and before handling food.

# Processor Links

Connecting farmers and processors

## Important Update

### Attention Farmers!

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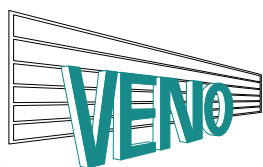




- Teach children the importance of washing hands to prevent infection.
- Wash fruits and vegetables prior to eating them.
- Wash hands after handling soil.
- Pick up pet feces promptly and wash your hands thoroughly afterwards.
- Laboratory or veterinary clinic employees handling fecal samples should wear gloves **OSN**

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# Grassland birds in Ontario

## Balancing agriculture and conservation

Birds that nest exclusively in grassland are an important part of Ontario's biodiversity. These migratory species nest in Canada and the USA, and winter in the south. Between 1970 and 2017, the number of grassland birds across North America decreased by 53%,<sup>1</sup> with some species experiencing steep declines. The three species below are listed as at risk in Ontario and Canada.



Hayfields and pastures provide the majority of grassland bird nesting habitat in Ontario. Because grassland birds build their nests directly on the ground, nests are vulnerable to trampling by livestock, destruction by farm machinery, and exposure to predators after heavy grazing and hay harvesting. Population declines are linked to the loss of nesting habitat and intensification of farming practices.

### Suitable habitat

Medium to large grass-dominated fields with few shrubs, adjacent to open areas. Vegetation preferences vary by species. Bobolinks typically nest in grasslands with tall, dense vegetation; whereas, grasshopper sparrows prefer shorter and sparser vegetation. All three species sometimes nest in the same field.



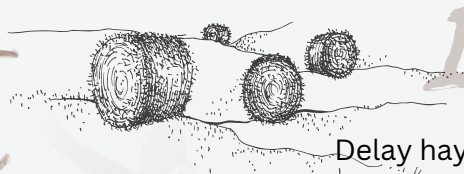
This project was undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada.  
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier du gouvernement du Canada.

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# Conservation on farms

Fact sheet designed by Sunny Tseng  
Illustration by Emily S. Damstra  
& Sunny Tseng

Farmers who manage agricultural grassland are integral to grassland bird conservation. The actions below aim to balance farm management with providing grassland bird species at risk time and space to raise young in some actively-farmed areas. Targeting areas with the most nesting birds (or most suitable habitat) for conservation actions will have the greatest positive impact.



## Hayfields

Delay haying until **mid-July** or later

### Alternatives

- Delay as long as possible (even early July is better than mid-June)
- Cut perimeters first, delay interior cut
- Cut fields with high bird abundance last
- Cut large fields last



## Pastures

Create a nesting refuge: delay grazing until **mid-July** or later

### Alternatives

- Delay as long as possible (even early July provides some birds a chance to raise young)
- Light grazing from late May to the beginning of June (bobolink will stay and renest if enough vegetation remains), then rest paddock until mid-July
- Lengthen rest period after grazing to at least 40 days (if vegetation is short after grazing, bobolink will disperse, but eastern meadowlark and grasshopper sparrow will likely stay and renest)
- Reduce grazing pressure during peak nesting in fields with high bird abundance



↑ peak nesting



Eastern meadowlark

↶ arrival

Attempts 2 broods

↶ breeding

↶ post-breeding & migration



Grasshopper sparrow

Attempts 2 broods

Bobolink and eastern meadowlark breeding territories frequently contain more than 1 nesting female; whereas, grasshopper sparrows pair with only 1 mate.



Bobolink

Attempts 1 brood

# Brent Herrington: Master Butcher and Canadian Butchery Team Member

In a recent episode of “Flock Talk,” we had the pleasure of speaking with Brent Herrington, owner of Herrington’s Quality Butchers and a member of the Canadian Butchery Team. Brent’s expertise in butchery and his passion for high-quality Ontario lamb have made him a prominent figure in the industry. Here’s a closer look at his journey, business, and involvement with the Canadian Butchery Team.

## A Butcher’s Journey

Brent Herrington is the owner-operator of Herrington’s Quality Butchers, located in the heart of downtown Port Perry. This fall, his store will celebrate its 25th anniversary. Brent’s dedication to his craft and his commitment to providing the finest cuts of meat have earned him a loyal customer base and a reputation for excellence.

“I’ve always said to my customers that you eat with your eyes before you actually eat with your mouth,” Brent shared. His attention to detail in butchering and presenting meat ensures that every product in his store looks as appetizing as it tastes.

## The Art of Butchery

The role of a butcher is pivotal in enhancing the quality and marketability of lamb meat. Brent emphasizes the importance of proper butchering techniques, which can significantly impact the final product. He prefers using knives over band saws to avoid bone dust and preserve the meat’s integrity. Techniques like Frenching a rack of lamb—cleaning all the meat off the bones—are essential for creating visually appealing and high-quality cuts.

“Having someone behind the counter who can explain what to do and being able to butcher it properly so that it looks really appetizing takes it to the next level,” Brent explained. His store’s success is built on the foundation of good Ontario lamb and strong relationships with local farmers and provincially licensed abattoirs.

## Trends and Challenges

In the world of butchery, trends such as grilling, smoking, and slow cooking are gaining popularity. Brent notes that lamb shoulder done on a smoker is especially delightful. However, he also highlights a challenge: the lack of skilled butchers who can transform a lamb into a product that consumers would want to entertain with.

“The Ontario lamb that we sell in our stores is second to none. Educated butchers and informed consumers are key to making the most of this excellent product,” Brent said.

## The Canadian Butchery Team

Brent’s involvement with the Canadian Butchery Team has been a significant milestone in his career. In 2019, he won Ontario’s Finest Butcher competition, earning a seat on the team. The World Butcher Challenge requires teams to complete a daunting task: breaking down half a beef, half a pig, a whole lamb, and five chickens into a full value-added retail display within three and a half hours.

“It is the hardest thing I have ever had to do in my 33 years of butchering,” Brent admitted. Despite the challenges, he has gained a renewed passion for his craft and met incredible people from around the world. The competition’s intensity and camaraderie have further fueled his dedication to butchery.

## Looking Ahead

Brent sees a bright future for the butchery trade, similar to the rise of the culinary arts in recent years. He advocates for making butchery a certified trade and encouraging young people to pursue it as a career. Programs like Skills Canada and high school co-op initiatives are essential in introducing the next generation to this vital craft.

For sheep farmers, Brent advises building strong relationships with local butchers and abattoirs. Consistent quality and feedback can help ensure that their lamb is processed and presented to the highest standards.

## Connect with Brent

Brent Herrington’s journey and contributions to the Canadian Butchery Team are inspiring. To follow his work and the team’s progress, you can find him on Instagram at @BrentHerrington and Herrington’s Quality Butchers on Facebook. The World Butcher Challenge competitions are also available on YouTube, offering a glimpse into the high-stakes world of competitive butchery.

As Brent continues to champion the craft of butchery and the excellence of Ontario lamb, his story serves as a testament to the dedication and skill that define this essential trade.

World Butchers Challenge takes place in March of 2025 in Paris, France, for more info and tickets, visit: [WorldButchersChallenge.com/buy-tickets](https://WorldButchersChallenge.com/buy-tickets) **OSN**



Photo provided courtesy of Peter Baarda, Captain, Butchery Team Canada



# OntarioSheep FARMERS

## AGM & Convention

Theme for the event:

# Unlocking Profit Potential

### FRIDAY OCTOBER 25

AGM - 1:30 PM - 5:00 PM  
BANQUET - 6:30 PM - 9:15 PM

#### Annual General Meeting & Tradeshow

*Important note - the AGM is only available at Cambridge in-person location and virtual by Zoom*

#### Ontario Lamb Banquet

- Address from Rob Flack, Ontario's Minister of Agriculture, Food & Agribusiness
- Announcement of Ontario Sheep Farmers Officers
- Ontario Sheep Farmers Awards Presentations

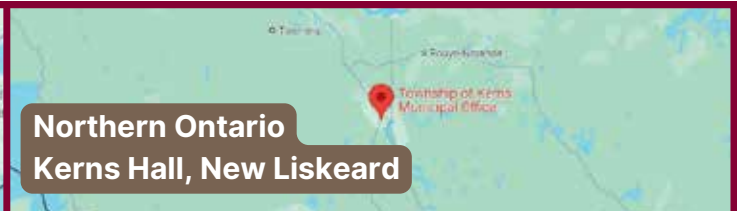
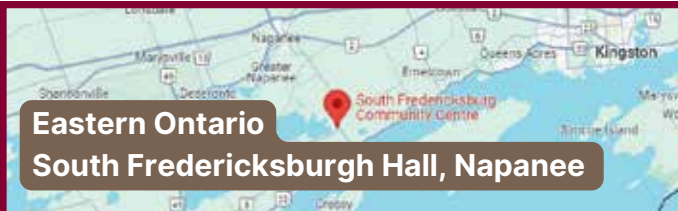
### SATURDAY OCTOBER 26

7:30 AM - 5:00 PM

#### Trade Show & Programming

- Keynote by NeXtgen Agri's Mark Ferguson 'Better Livestock Together'
- Panel with producers sharing their breeding goals and selection goals followed by an evaluation of their plans by experts
- Sheep Shorts - 12 minute presentations and audience Q&As
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► **Our event now features 2 satellite locations for Saturday's Convention** ◀



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# 2024 OSF Awards and Scholarships

Applications are now open!

Please see the list of awards/scholarships being offered by Ontario Sheep Farmers. Full details and applications/nomination forms can be found online by visiting [www.ontariosheep.org/communications](http://www.ontariosheep.org/communications)

**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.

**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 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.

For additional details on the 2024 OSF Awards and Scholarships please visit [www.ontariosheep.org/communications](http://www.ontariosheep.org/communications) or call the OSF office at (519) 836-0043. **OSN**

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- Michael Richards, MGR Sheep Farms, Ontario

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\*Depending on body weight and ration composition

# Ontario Sheep Farmers (OSF) District Annual General Meetings (AGM)



## 2024 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 OSF district executive. OSF helps the committee through regular meetings, updates from the Board, training, district portal on OSF 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 along with district AGM details.

### 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.

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

District AGM schedule below as of August 19, 2024.

This years OSF District \*7 & \*10 will be electing a District Director at their AGM. For more details visit [www.ontariosheepfarmers/events](http://www.ontariosheepfarmers/events) **OSN**

District	Date
2	September 5th
9	September 9th
*10	September 11th

### District 2 AGM

Sep 5, 2024, 7:30pm

Location: Lower Hall, Elmwood Community Center  
38 Conc Rd. 10  
Elmwood, ON

For more information please contact: Dennis Thompson  
ddthompson@explornet.ca

### District 9 AGM

Sep 9, 2024, 7pm

Location: Mississippi Mills Public Library  
(Pakenham Branch)  
128 MacFarlane St., Pakenham

For more information please contact: Wesley Godden at  
647-244-4768 or by email [info@fairside.ca](mailto:info@fairside.ca)

### District 10 AGM

Sep 11, 2024, 7:30pm

Location: Grenville Mutual Boardroom  
380 Colonnade Dr., Kemptville

Elections for Provincial Director to the Ontario Sheep Farmers (OSF) board of directors are being held in district 10 this year.

For more information please contact: District Secretary:  
613-826-2330 or email [acres@maplemeadows.ca](mailto:acres@maplemeadows.ca)



# OSF Producer Survey Results

Thank you to everyone who completed the producer survey this spring!

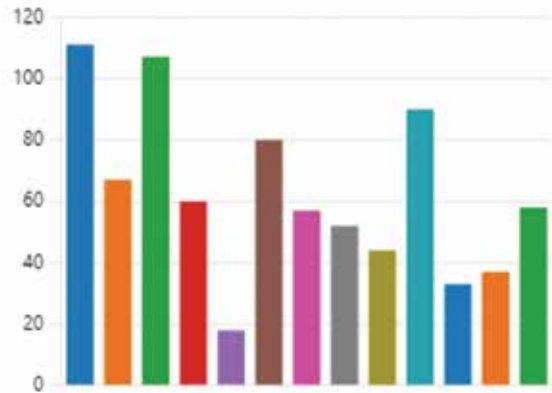


We received 248 responses from across all districts, representing a diverse range of ages and flock sizes.

Scan to view the full results of the Producer Survey

Some Key results from this survey:

- 43% of respondents have flock sizes under 50 ewes, while 30% have between 50 and 150 ewes.
- The majority of respondents consider sheep production either their primary business or a source of supplemental income, with only 14% identifying as hobby farms.
- Attendance at OSF events is fairly balanced, with 55% attending rarely or less than once per year and 45% attending annually or more frequently.
- The survey highlighted that 50% of producers rated OSF's communication as good or better, while the other half rated it fair or poor.
- Key barriers to event attendance include time constraints, distance, and lack of local events.
- Respondents expressed a desire for more district-level events with educational topics, online seminars, and promotion of the sheep industry at provincial and local agricultural events. **OSN**



- District level events with speakers and educational topics related to sheep production 111
- Online events and seminars led by OSF 107
- Promotion of the sheep industry at provincial level agricultural events (International Plowing Match, Ottawa Valley Farm Show, Royal Winter Fair, etc.) 90
- Promotion of the sheep industry at local fairs, 4h and ag events 80
- District level or online events related to financial planning for my sheep business 67
- Simple district level local socials such as a potluck or wings night meetup 60
- Family oriented local sheep events 58

## OSF Flock Talk Podcast

Discover Flock Talk, our podcast for Ontario Sheep Farmers, where we bring you insightful conversations with industry leaders, fellow producers, and experts on a wide variety of sheep farming subjects. Our goal is to support the sheep farming community in Ontario and beyond by providing valuable information on research, marketing, education, and more. From exploring cutting-edge innovations to discussing practical farm management tools, Flock Talk is your go-to resource for staying informed and connected. Whether you're a seasoned farmer or new to the industry, Flock Talk delivers the ideas and insights you need to succeed. Search Flock Talk on your podcast application of choice, YouTube, Spotify or wherever podcasts are found. **OSN**



**The Living Labs Project with Dr. Kim Schneider**  
**August 7, 2024 • 22 Minutes**  
 An overview of The Living Labs Project, improving soil & crops and the agronomic & environmental benefits... and more.

**Farmers Hub with Nabil Irfan**  
**July 31, 2024 • 22 Minutes**  
 CEO of Farmers Hub, Nabil Irfan talks about his journey that led him to starting Farmers Hub, the problems the mobile app solves, and it's overall mission.

**Ontario Food Terminal & Local Food Initiatives with Jackie Fraser**  
**July 31, 2024 • 22 Minutes**  
 Jackie Fraser, owner of Frabert's Fresh Food, provides an overview of the Ontario Food Terminal, its role in the local food supply chain and also shares her responsibilities as the newly appointed Vice Chair of the board.

# 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](http://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](http://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](http://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**

**519-836-0043**

HST# 107800823

Plus 13% HST \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL REMITTED \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

# 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](mailto:admin@ontariosheep.org).

## CURRENT PRODUCERS ENROLLED IN THE GENOVIS PROGRAM (AS OF JULY 2024)

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  
Breezy Ridge Farm • Philip & Elizabeth Smith • (905) 478-4280  
Brubacher Ovine • Earl Brubacher • (519) 321-8016  
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  
Cowan Acres • Grant Cowan • (705) 796-2236  
Craigmore Farm • Wayne Kreklewich • (416) 892-0664  
Cursio Farms & Arkell Valley • Frank & Ned Cursio • (519) 766-3378  
Emke Livestock • Craig Emke • (519) 901-2519  
Ewenique Farm • Nathalie Labelle • (613) 290-5405  
Fare Vewe Acres • Mark & Betty Beringer • (519) 323-1760  
Jim & Wendy Driscoll • (519) 638-5703  
G & L Brien • Gary & Luanne Brien • (519) 674-3846  
Gimlet Hill • Rob & Tracey Werry • (289) 385-6804  
Greendale Farms • Tyler Jackson • (905) 655-4469  
Halfway Farms • Hiske MacKay • (519) 281-3725  
J & J Farms • Ross & Clementine Savasi • (705) 652-7477

John & Holly Wallace • (519) 368-6540  
Keiton Moffat • Keiton Moffat • (705) 295-4354  
Kettle Crest Farm • Art & Sandra Alblas • (519) 637-0050  
Kolgie Ltd • Maria Stock • (519) 275-4988  
Lamb Lady Farm • Shelagh Finn • (647) 932-7102  
Lush Acres • Jenean & Jason Lush • (519) 538-2753  
Maple Meadow Farms • Colleen Acres & Dwayne Bazinet • (613) 826-2330  
Parker Agriculture Ltd. • Jeanne Parker • (204) 730-0597  
Q Farm • Vinod Gorantla • (416) 605-2469  
Rising Oak Farm • Laura Mosley • (705) 305-9275  
Rocky Lane Farm • Allison Brown • (705) 308-3284  
Shadow Ridge Acres • Zabrina Bielaskie • (613) 433-6199  
Schuyler Farms Ltd. • Brett Schuyler • (519) 427-9696  
Shepherd's Grove • Harv & Christine Breman • (519) 879-6579  
Shillalah Farm • Florence Pullen • (519) 233-7896  
Southgate Sheep Inc. • Jesse Bauman • (226) 752-7170  
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  
Wigmama 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 JULY 2024)

Allinbrook Farms • Neil Allin • (905) 983-5791  
Anchor A Farms • Tim Thomsen & Allison Lange • (506) 538-2835  
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  
Kettle Crest Farm • Art & Sandra Alblas • (519) 637-0050  
Knollbrook Farms • James Masters • (519) 362-6444

Mark Martin Dairy Sheep • Mark & Rosena Martin • 519 638 3644  
Robert Pennie • (705) 859-2671  
Rider Ridge Ranch • Jill & Tim DeClark • (519) 644-0766  
Rocky Lane Farm • Allison & Luke de Vos • (705) 308-3284  
Shadow Ridge Acres • Zabrina Bielaskie • (613) 433-6199  
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

## FLOCKS WHO HAVE ACHIEVED "B" STATUS ON THE MAEDI VISNA PROGRAM (AS OF JULY 2024)

Stitch and Steel Homestead  
Sam Sheehan & Andrew Sheehan • (647) 546-8906

## FLOCKS WHO HAVE ACHIEVED "ENROLLED NEG" STATUS ON THE MAEDI VISNA PROGRAM (AS OF JULY 2024)

Crow Hill Corriedales • Leslie Dymont • (705) 359-1376  
Huron Grove Farms • Michael & Fraser Hodgson • (519) 918-4159

Lakeside Sheep Company • Frank Jongert • (519) 854-6258  
Rainbow Woods • Eleanor & Sarah Reed • (705) 454-3167

## CURRENT PRODUCERS ENROLLED IN ONTARIO SHEEP HEALTH PROGRAM (AS OF JULY 2024)

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

## SHEEP PRODUCERS ON THE SCRAPIE PROGRAM (AS OF JULY 2024)

Century Lane Farm • Robert & Shirley Graves • 1 Certified  
Lamb Lady Farm • Shelagh Finn • 1 Certified

Parker Agriculture Ltd. • Jeanne & Rob Parker • 1 Certified  
WoolDrift Farm • Axel Meister • 1 Certified

For more information visit [scrapiecanada.ca/vsfc/vsfc-enrolled-producers/](http://scrapiecanada.ca/vsfc/vsfc-enrolled-producers/).



# Visit us at **CANADA'S** **Outdoor Farm Show**

**September 10-12th • Woodstock Ontario**

We are at Booth N-764, located in the livestock area.

Ontario Sheep Farmers have been working hard on bringing some amazing programming and hands-on demonstrations for producers to experience.

**9:00am – 10:00am**

Handling demo with Brussels Agri Services and Te Pari. You'll get to see firsthand how these systems work. We have experts like Delma Kennedy from OMAFA speaking on the dos and don'ts of setting up your system

**12:00pm – 1:00pm**

Delicious lamb samplers where the OSF team will be handing out free lamb spiedinis, barbecued right at our booth.

**1:00pm – 2:00pm**

market assessment evaluation at., where you will get a chance to work with the processors and learn to assess the amount of finish a market animal is carrying and whether or not they are ready to market. You, as an attendee, will get hands-on experience with live lambs. This does require you to pre-register with me, and you can email me at [mrichards@ontariosheep.org](mailto:mrichards@ontariosheep.org).

**2:00pm – 3:00pm**

Benefits of feeding a TMR - We will be having a live demo from with Jaylor Mini Mixers. We'll be doing a full ration from start to finish, followed up with Courtney from Vriens Nutrition. She will be analyzing the feed and performing a shaker box test to verify the quality of feed it produced and the benefits of it.

*We are looking forward to seeing you and engaging with you all at our booth. See you then!*



# District Contacts

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

## District 1

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

Director	Art Alblas	519.637.0050
Chair	Sandra Alblas	519.637.0050
Vice Chair	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*

Director	Jay Lennox	519.374.4055
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

## District 4

*County of Brant, Regional Municipalities of Hamilton-Wentworth, Haldimand-Norfolk and Niagara*

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

## District 5

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

Director	Ryan Schill	519.669.4146
Chair	Mike Swidersky	519.370.8586
Vice Chair	Heather Little	519.939.0408
Secretary	Romy Schill	519.699.4146
Treasurer	Bill McCutcheon	519.766.7905

## District 6

*County of Simcoe, District Municipality of Muskoka and the District of Parry Sound*

Director	Grant Cowan	705.436.2236
Chair	Rachel Brooks	705.828.0059
Vice Chair	Shelagh Finn	647.932.7102

## District 7

*City of Toronto, Regional Municipalities of York and Durham, City of Kawartha Lakes, and Counties of Peterborough and Northumberland*

Director	Ken Lamb	905.985.4247
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

## District 8

*Counties of Lennox and Addington, Hastings, Prince Edward, Frontenac and Leeds*

Director	Karen Davis	613.659.3347
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
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## 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
Treasure	Sarah Jean Campbell	613.330.8014

## District 11

*Districts of Kenora, Rainy River, Thunder Bay, Cochrane, Algoma, Sudbury, Temiskaming, Nipissing and Manitoulin*

Director	Jenna Wight	705.622.1774
Chair	Colleen Alloi	705.248.3287
Vice Chair	Mark Lenover	705.563.2966
Secretary	Trudy Reid	807.935.3224

# 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
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	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
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
Matar Meats	Osgoode	(613) 821-7929
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
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 Meat Packers	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
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