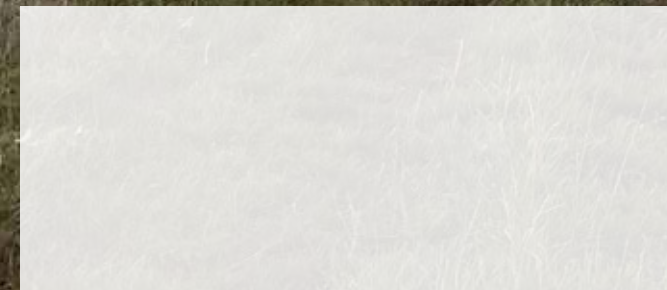


ONTARIO SHEEP NEWS

Vol. 42 - Issue 1 Spring 2024

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Ovipast Plus Vaccine Clinical
Trial - Final Report

2023 Lamb Carcass Competition

Farm Fire Prevention

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

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Towards a Better Future

The idiom, coined by Albert Einstein, “time flies when you are having fun,” describes the first four months of this OSF board’s mandate. It has been full of activity supporting our membership and developing new initiatives with an emphasis on good governance and a focus on creating value for our membership.

As sheep producers, we have enjoyed the strong lamb market prices the new year has delivered to us, in part, supported by the Chinese New Year, which began on Feb 10, 2024. The Year of the Dragon is a 15-day celebration where lamb is commonly consumed. Lamb is also eaten because, according to traditional Chinese medicine, eating lamb can help people resist the cold in the winter. Lamb also represents prosperity and wealth.

Going forward into 2024, our gross margins should continue to improve, considering the recent lows in the corn, soybean and wheat markets that drive our feed cost to finish market ready lambs. There will be market price fluctuations as we go forward which we will not control, however, a key tool for your risk management toolbox is to enroll in the provincial Risk Management Program (RMP). This program can help you manage through the lamb market price fluctuations or inflated input costs that impact cash flow. This management tool is effective for both new entrants to our industry and the seasoned sheep veteran.

The board has been focused on our 2024 business theme “Towards a Better Future - Forward Together”. We have streamlined our board meeting agenda to focus on the opportunities that may improve the well-being of our industry. The board also works with the various standing and ad hoc committees, that make recommendations to the board on emerging issues, opportunities and governance. We have included sheep producer members on these committees who bring expertise to boost the results and directives brought back to the board. The board appreciates this participation from our sheep producers. Please contact Erin Morgan, OSF Executive Director if you are willing to contribute by participating on one of our committees – the list is on our website under the “About Us” tab.

This year the board added a number of timely Ad hoc committees to enhance our support of the district committees and the membership as a whole. I am especially encouraged with the new Stakeholder Relations Committee that the board formed to improve communications with sheep

producers in Ontario who are members of more than one sheep production-focused group. OSF would like to facilitate a relationship with each group to better understand their annual goals and find ways to work together to benefit all of Ontario’s sheep farmers. This will encourage an informed approach to producer education along with the opportunity to bring new opportunities and issues to the OSF board. It is imperative that we all work together to meet the needs of sheep producers and capitalize on prospects the sheep industry has to offer.

Our exceptionally creative OSF staff have been extra busy developing educational programs, marketing strategies and marketing activities to enhance our probability of success. Have you tuned in to the Ontario Sheep Farmers “Flock Talk” podcast? This weekly discussion brings great insights into our business of raising sheep by featuring our fellow producers or industry specialists in a convenient way and that fits into your busy day.

OSF staff have also been engaging with our Ontario auction markets and processors, enjoying numerous site visits and having important discussions on how we, collectively can work together, share our resources and address market opportunities together for the benefit of our entire Ontario sheep industry. This process has been well received and has brought forth constructive concepts to develop.

In keeping with our “Building Strength for a better Future” strategic plan, the board has approved a targeted marketing pilot program currently being developed in collaboration with our processors to promote lamb in Ontario.

The board also approved sponsorship to 4-H Ontario to update the Sheep Club manual. This process will be supported by volunteer time by OSF board members and staff as advisors to this process. We believe this is an important step in attracting youth to the sheep industry.

On behalf of sheep producers, I would like to give a very special mention to Tom Lewis for all his efforts supporting our organization over the last 5 years and wish you the very best in your new challenge as Executive Director, Poultry Industry Council.

Thank you to all sheep producers for your support and commitment to the ongoing success of our industry. Together, we all achieve more. **OSN**

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



Marketing in 2024

Throughout the fall of 2023, OSF staff met with our processors and auctions across the province to discuss the opportunities and challenges facing the industry. We have also met with representatives from the sheep value chain for the last few years through the Sheep Industry Advisory Committee led by Farm Products Marketing Commission.

Generally, the feedback is positive. Our auctions and processors are doing a great job meeting demand for lamb, moving our product efficiently and identifying new market opportunities for lamb. Recently, at a processor meeting, we discussed improvements to technology to meet the needs of the value chain. Each of our processors has unique needs, so many are customizing existing solutions to address the complexities of their individual businesses. The goal moving forward is to work together with our value chain to develop ways to provide market-specific performance feedback to producers and support the growth of our processing industry.

The OSF board is prioritizing these marketing relationships in our strategic plan for 2024 and has allocated budget to three initiatives. The first was the outreach to auctions and processors described above. We hired a consultant with years of industry experience who reestablished relationships throughout the industry.

The second is an international and domestic market research project that will inform and guide the next phase of market development at OSF. Since most of the lamb consumed in Ontario is imported, there is significant opportunity to displace this product with domestic production. To capture these opportunities, we need to better understand current and emerging market trends, particularly in segments of domestic consumers who eat lamb as a significant part of their traditional or cultural diet. OSF will study global food trends in regions with a traditional preference for lamb that influence consumption in Ontario, particularly amongst consumers with cultural ties to those regions. Our project will undertake an international and domestic market scan to better understand the alignment of traditional diets and cultural preferences in countries where lamb is consumed heavily with new Canadian populations. We will also gather sources of

information and data that will inform effective production and processing business and production strategies. When the project is complete, OSF will have a market trend index that can be updated annually with global information to support our processors, retailers and restaurants when developing new products for the Canadian market.

The third priority for 2024 is a pilot BBQ promotion for July and August this year. OSF will work with key processors and retailers to pilot a summer BBQ promotion in the GTA to encourage people who love lamb at holiday times to put lamb on their BBQ as a summer treat. The promotion will target mid-July to mid-August sales when lamb volume is highest and the price to producers is typically lowest. OSF will film two YouTube videos highlighting new BBQ recipes and encourage people to click through to the LambRecipes.ca website to find the recipe where they will also be directed to their participating local retailers to purchase the lamb. At partner retailers, we will have signage at point of sale and recipe cards. We will work with our partners at Foodland Ontario to evaluate lamb pricing, promotion and sales before and during the promotion. We will also measure the number of people who view the video promotion and click through to the website as well as the uptake of promotional materials at point of sale. This information as well as the evaluation of lamb sales and pricing in years previous compared with during the promotion will help OSF evaluate the success of this type of lamb promotion and will inform future marketing investments.


At the end of 2024, OSF will work with our industry partners to evaluate our efforts and their return on investment to inform future marketing plans. **OSN**




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Reflecting on the Journey

It's hard to believe how fast five years has gone by. 2024 has brought considerable change to my life as I announced in January that I would be leaving the Ontario Sheep Farmers (OSF) organization for a new opportunity as the Executive Director with the Poultry Industry Council. By the time this publication hits producers' mailboxes, I will have already started in my new role, and no longer a dedicated advocate for the Ontario sheep industry or part of the OSF team.

I want to take the time to thank all of you for welcoming me into the sector when I first joined, and in the years that followed. I will always be grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the team, and to advocate as we worked together to advance the Ontario sheep sector. I am also grateful to OSF ED Erin Morgan and the past GM Jennifer MacTavish for the space for personal growth, pushing me to always improve and offering guidance and support. The OSF board/OSF leadership team and lastly, to the rest of the OSF staff team, you are all amazing and dedicated and I will miss working with each of you.

As I prepared to leave, I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on the time working with OSF and the many accomplishments we have achieved together. These accomplishments include:

- Successfully lobbied for increased investment of \$50 million into the provincial Risk Management program
- Moved several OSF Producer Education services to an online portal to better reach producers
- Supported Ontario Bill 156 Security from Trespass and Food Security Act
- Diversity and Equity training for producers and the OSF leadership team
- Worked with other livestock commodity groups, Ontario Federation of Agriculture and Provincial Government on Animal Welfare framework
- First Ontario commodity group to launch the revised OSF consumer website which is translated into 106 difference languages to reach our diverse customer base

It truly has been an honour to serve as a member of OSF team. I find myself inspired by the support, insight, and dedication of the many Ontario sheep farmers who are interested in working towards industry solutions. Recently, the Provincial Government has called for Agriculture to grow by 30% while at the same time the Federal Government has set aggressive immigration targets. Both policy directives are complementary to the Sheep sector and its future.

In the years to come, I will continue to follow the Ontario sheep sector and I am confident if the sector continues to look forward, being mindful of the past, that you will continue to grow and meet demands. Focus on where you are going, learn from the past and above all support and be kind to each other in all you do.

Sincerely,
Tom Lewis
Former OSF staff and Editor of OSN **OSN**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ARE WELCOME

The OSN welcomes letters to the editor.
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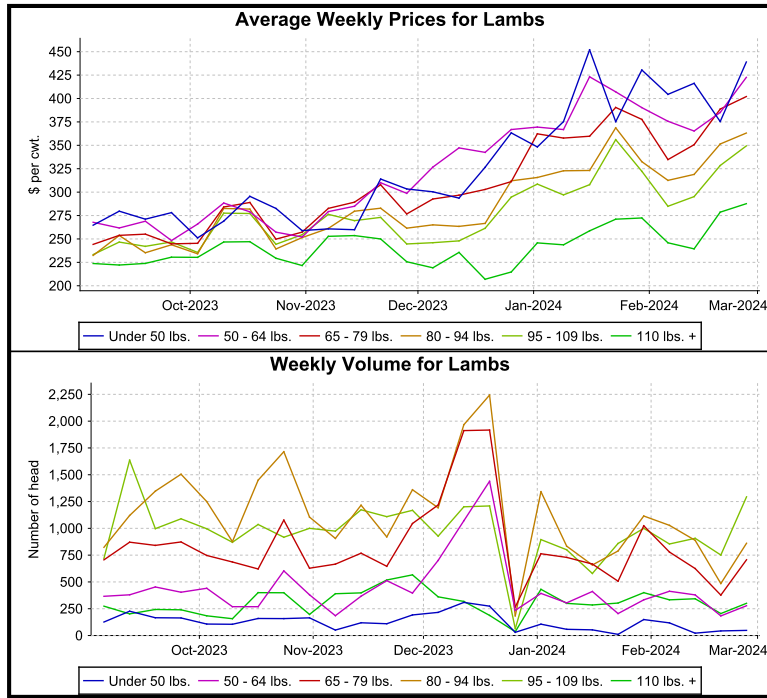
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The Ontario Market Report

Full market information can be found every week in the Ontario Farmer and online at www.OntarioSheep.org under "Market Information" The graphs here show the trends in pricing and volume of the last six months in Ontario. **OSN**



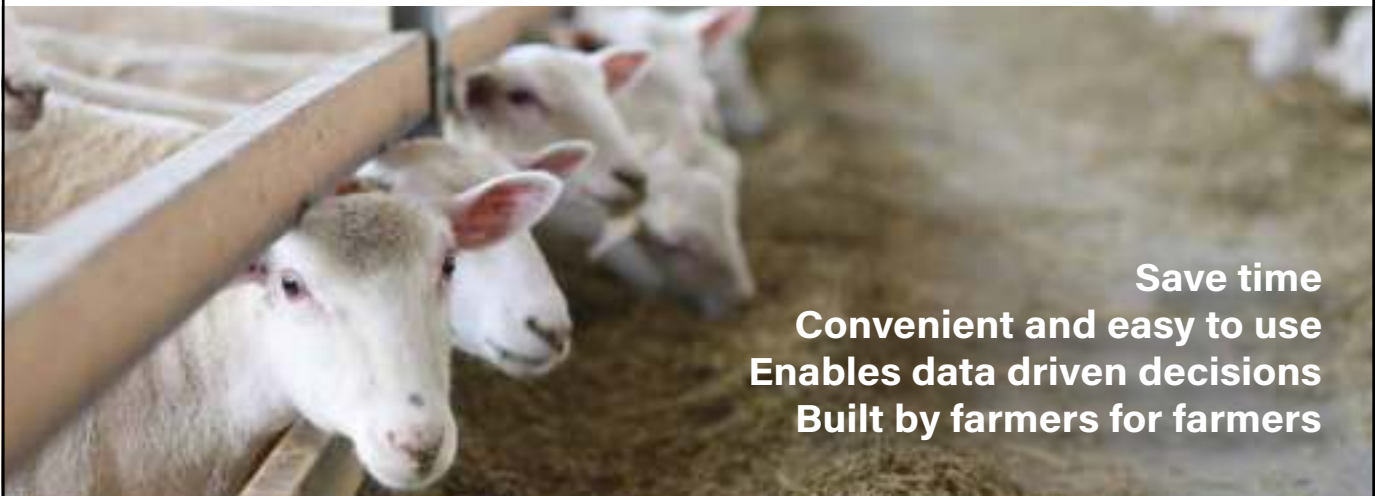
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Ovipast Plus Vaccine Clinical Trial - Final Report

By Megan Gardner and Dr. Cathy Bauman

This report is an addendum to previous interim reports and contains the finalized results from both the pre-weaning and post-weaning phases of the Ovipast Plus® bacterin trial.

Investigating the Efficacy of an Ovine Respiratory Vaccine in Reducing Mortality and Pneumonia-Associated Morbidity and Mortality in Pre-Weaned Lambs

The objective of this study was to determine the efficacy of an imported respiratory vaccine (Ovipast Plus®, Merck Animal Health/Intervet) in reducing overall mortality rates and pneumonia-specific morbidity and mortality rates, and in improving average daily gain (ADG) in pre-weaned and post-weaned lambs.

The vaccine trial was conducted on one sheep operation in Alberta to minimize variation in farm management practices. Pregnant ewes were enrolled weekly (groups of approximately ~260-300 sheep per week), and randomly assigned into 2 groups. One group was vaccinated with Ovipast Plus® bacterin (Merck) at approximately 6 and 2 weeks before their lambing dates and the other group was not vaccinated. The objective of vaccinating pregnant ewes was to increase colostrum antibodies to the bacteria *Mannheimia haemolytica* and *Biberstena trehalosi* to help prevent pneumonia from developing in the first 3-4 weeks of life for lambs. All vaccinated ewes were housed together in pens separate from the non-vaccinated ewes which helped to maximize the benefit of flock immunity. Postmortems were performed on all ewes and lambs that died during the study.

Continued on page 10.

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Ovipast Plus® - Trial Enrollment and Mortality Rates

A total of 5054 lambs (2543 unvaccinated and 2511 vaccinated) were enrolled into the trial between January 6th, 2022, and April 26th, 2022. Between two days of age and weaning, 711 lambs died (14.1% crude mortality rate; 350 unvaccinated, 361 vaccinated), and there was no difference in mortality rates between unvaccinated and vaccinated lambs ($P = 0.56$). Of those that died, the leading causes of death were: 1) starvation (23.9%), 2) enteritis (16.9%), and 3) diarrhea (16.5%). The pneumonia specific mortality rate in the pre-weaning phase was 1.4% (36 unvaccinated, 33 vaccinated) and there being no difference between unvaccinated and vaccinated lambs ($P = 0.85$). A total of 4214 lambs (2118 unvaccinated and 2096 vaccinated) were weaned, with the last trial lambs weaned on June 1st, 2022. Of the weaned lambs, 3928 lambs (1976 unvaccinated and 1952 vaccinated) were sent to slaughter. Between weaning and slaughter, 245 lambs died (5.8% crude mortality rate; 123 unvaccinated, 122 vaccinated) and there was no difference in mortality rates between unvaccinated and vaccinated lambs ($P = 1.00$). The leading cause of death during the post-weaning phase was pneumonia at 35% of total deaths (86/245). The pneumonia specific mortality rate during the post-weaning phase was 2.0% (44 unvaccinated, 42 vaccinated) and there was no difference in this rate between unvaccinated and vaccinated lambs ($P = 0.95$).

Ovipast Plus® - Pre-weaning Results

Overall mortality, pneumonia mortality, and pneumonia morbidity were not statistically different between vaccine groups. There was a statistically significant difference in weight gain from birth to weaning based on vaccine status, which was modified by (1) lamb birth weight and (2) if the lamb received additional antimicrobials to treat pneumonia. Overall, as birth weight increased, overall weight gain increased but vaccinated lambs born at a higher weight gained more than their unvaccinated counterparts i.e., for every 1 kg increase in birth weight, lambs that were vaccinated gained 0.25 kg more from birth to weaning than unvaccinated lambs of equal birth weight ($P = 0.01$). Lambs treated with antimicrobials gained overall less weight gain in the pre-weaning period than those not treated; however, vaccinated lambs had less of an impairment to their weight gain if treated with antimicrobials than unvaccinated lambs. This improvement in weight gain in the vaccinated group may suggest that, while vaccination does not prevent clinical disease, i.e., pneumonia treatment rates and mortality rates, it

may reduce the severity of subclinical disease (not observed by the human eye), resulting in less of a detriment to weight gain between birth and weaning.

Ovipast Plus® - Post-weaning Results

There were no differences in overall mortality, pneumonia mortality, pneumonia morbidity, or overall weight gain during the growing phase. There were no differences in overall mortality during the finishing phase, pneumonia morbidity, or days spent in the finishing phase (days on feed) between vaccinated and unvaccinated lambs.

Vaccinated lambs had a significantly increased odds of dying from pneumonia. This relationship was modified by lamb wean weight. Overall, an increase in weaning weight was associated with a decreased odds of dying from pneumonia but lambs that received the Ovipast Plus® vaccine had an increased odds of dying from pneumonia compared to their unvaccinated counterparts i.e., for the unvaccinated group, as weaning weight increased from ~11 kg to ~20 kg, the odds of dying from pneumonia decreased from ~1.8% to ~0.3% whereas for Ovipast Plus® lambs, the same change in weaning weight conversely increased the probability of dying from pneumonia from ~1.4% to ~1.5%. This relationship indicates that lambs that have a low weaning weight are at increased risk for pneumonia mortality in both vaccinated and unvaccinated groups, and vaccinated lambs are at higher risk of death due to pneumonia in general. Vaccinated lambs had 1.34 times, increased odds of being scored a YG1 carcass versus any other YG ($P = 0.01$). This relationship may suggest that vaccination reduced subclinical disease, as suggested above, which improved yield grades. Alternatively, this may indicate that lambs that received the Ovipast Plus® bacterin grew at a slightly slower rate, as YG directly correlated to carcass size (tissue depth), YG1 being the smallest range of 4-11 mm. This is further supported by the fact that average days spent in the finishing phase were not different between vaccine groups ($P = 0.80$). There was no difference in hot carcass weight between vaccine groups ($P = 0.14$: unvaccinated = 26.55 kg, vaccinated = 26.49 kg), but there was a difference in average fat cover at slaughter ($P < 0.001$: unvaccinated = 15.69 mm, vaccinated = 15.06 mm), with vaccinated lambs having less fat cover.

Ovipast Plus® - Conclusions

Based on the results from both phases of the trial, there is no significant welfare or economic benefits to vaccinating ewes or lambs with the Ovipast Plus® bacterin. **OSN**

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Summary of the 2023 Lamb Carcass Competition

Ontario Sheep Farmers hosted a carcass competition in 2023 in conjunction with the annual convention and AGM. This article provides an overview and results summary of the competition.

The purpose of the competition was to provide data and video footage for market focused educational material development. At the same time, providing an opportunity for OSF members to participate and get feedback on their lambs.

Producers were asked to nominate lambs in one or both lamb classes. Class 1 being live weights of 68 to 75 pounds targeting carcass weight of 30 to 35 pounds and Class 2 being live weights of 90 to 100 pounds targeting carcass weight of 42 to 46 pounds. The overall goal was to have lambs from all OSF districts. A total of sixteen lambs were entered into the competition – six in Class 1 and 10 in Class 2. Lambs were nominated from Districts 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10.

Data collected on lambs included: Lamb ID, breed of dam and sire, birth date, gender, on-farms weight and pre slaughter weight. Lambs were delivered to the Centre for Meat Innovation and Technology at the University of Guelph on October 10th, weighed and slaughtered the morning of October 11th, 2023. Calculated data included age at slaughter and transportation (market) shrink. Percent shrink was calculated as the difference between the on-farm weight and the pre-slaughter weight.



Candid shot of lambs in Class 1



Candid shot of lambs in Class 2

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OLIB Ewe Lambs

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Table 1: Summary of lamb carcass competition data

Lamb Class 1 Live weight range 68 - 75 pounds Target carcass weight range 38 - 45 pounds													
Lamb ID	Dam Breed	Sire Breed	Birth Date	Age in Days	Weight (pounds) On-Farm	Pre Slaughter	Shrink %	Warm Carcass WT	dress% farm	dress% slaughter	Average Conformation Score	Salable Meat Yield %	
375	Rideau x Dorset	Rideau	12-Aug-23	60	68	61.5	9.5%	32.4	47.7%	52.7%	14	3.00	75.53
248	Rideau x IDF	Rideau	23-Jul-23	60	81	76.1	6.1%	37.3	46.0%	49.0%	8	3.00	79.61
852	Rideau	Rideau	06-Jul-23	97	73	68.6	6.1%	32.4	44.4%	47.3%	6	3.00	79.61
339	Rideau	Rideau	25-Jul-23	83	72	67.5	6.3%	34.4	47.8%	51.0%	5	3.00	80.33
866	NC Cheviot	Dorper	20-Jul-23	83	80	82.0	-2.5%	48.1	60.1%	58.8%	9	3.87	78.31
688	Corn Alcott	Corn Alcott	11-Apr-23	183	72	68.6	7.5%	35.9	49.2%	54.0%	7	4.00	80.33
				minimum	60	68.0	8.5%	32.4	44.0%	47.3%	5	3.0	75.5
				maximum	183	81.0	8.5%	48.1	60.1%	58.8%	9	4.0	80.4
Lamb Class 2 Live weight range 90 - 100 pounds Target carcass weight range 42 - 46 pounds													
Lamb ID	Dam Breed	Sire Breed	Birth Date	Age in Days	Weight (pounds) On-Farm	Pre Slaughter	Shrink %	Warm Carcass WT	dress% farm	dress% slaughter	Average Conformation Score	Salable Meat Yield %	
646	Dorset	Suffolk	17-Jun-23	116	91	86.2	5.3%	41.8	46.0%	48.8%	11	3.00	77.1
641	Rideau	Rideau	04-Apr-23	190	108	106.5	-0.4%	44.3	41.0%	40.9%	3	2.33	86.1
552	Dorset/Rideau	Ile de France	03-Jun-23	130	100	97.4	2.6%	48.1	48.1%	49.5%	11	3.33	77.5
773	Rideau x IDF	Rideau	11-Jun-23	122	103	92.8	9.9%	45.8	44.5%	49.4%	8	2.67	78.2
101	Rideau x IDF	Ile de France	15-Jun-23	118	90	78.5	12.8%	44.5	49.5%	54.7%	8	3.33	79.0
848	P Dorset	P Dorset	08-Jun-23	125	98	88.0	10.2%	43.2	44.3%	49.1%	4	2.67	80.2
299	Rideau	Rideau	04-Jul-23	97	93.3	92.5	11.8%	47.2	50.5%	57.2%	5	3.00	80.1
582	Wooled	Dorsets	15-Feb-23	236	91	88.6	2.7%	32.4	35.6%	47.3%	3	2.67	80.7
034	Rideau	Dorset x prof	25-Jun-23	108	100	92.6	7.4%	49.4	49.6%	53.3%	11	3.33	77.5
484	Southdown	Southdown	30-May-23	140	90	88.6	1.5%	47.2	52.4%	53.3%	17	3.00	74.0
				minimum	97	90.0	6.6%	32.4	35.6%	40.9%	3	2.3	74.0
				maximum	238	108.0	10.5%	49.4	52.4%	57.2%	17	3.3	80.7

Carcass data collected on each lamb included: warm carcass weight, GR measurement, conformation score on hip, loin and shoulder. The following carcass data was generated for each lamb: dress percent using farm weight, dress percent using slaughter weight, average carcass conformation score and percent saleable meat yield.

Lamb carcass data was also used to assign carcass and yield classifications as outlined in the Canada Ovine Grading Standards¹ which were then used in calculating final scores

for each lamb in the competition. Tables 1 & 2 provide a summary of how competition lambs performed.

Comments on Data

It is important to note that these lambs came from varying production systems and feeding programs. One cannot compare the lamb performance by breed as sample size is too small.

Days of age at slaughter indicate very good average daily gains on the majority of these lambs.

Shrink percent indicates the amount of weight (primarily stomach content) that is lost between farm and market. The data shows a few outliers for shrink percent. Negative shrink results from pre-slaughter weight being higher than the on-farm weight. There was also one lamb with an unusually high shrink. The type of farm scale and calibration of farm scales were not stipulated in the competition rules. There should be no concern with the accuracy of the abattoir scale, as it is calibrated regularly. Also, the possibility of data entry or transposing errors cannot be ruled out, as both on-farm and pre-slaughter weights were reported manually.

Continued on page 14.



Eastern Sheep Expo

Saturday, April 13, 2024
9:00am – 3:00pm • \$10 Registration
South Mountain Agricultural Hall
2967 Lough Rd, South Mountain

10:00am Ontario Sheep Farmers – Chair Art Alblas
11:00am Why do Sheep Sometimes Die? – Dr. Emily Rätsep, Animal Health Lab Kemptville
11:45am Cost Share Funding Opportunities – France Lanthier, OMAFRA Livestock Specialist

LUNCH CANTEEN ON SITE

1:00pm How to Be More Sustainable with Sheep – Corlena Patterson, Canadian Sheep Federation
2:00pm Why do I need a Parasite Management Plan – Laurie Maus, The No-Sheep Sherlock

TRADE SHOW BOOTHS open 9:00am – 3:00pm

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NEW - Industry News
(updated as required)

Market Reports
(updated every Wednesday)

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Warm carcass weight – liver, lungs, heart and head were removed from lambs before weighing.

Dress percent – there is more variation in the dress percent using farm weight than that using pre-slaughter weight. As discussed previously, most likely as a result of the type of farm scale used and whether it was calibrated for accuracy and amount of gut fill. Dress percent for some lambs was also impacted by manure tags, degree of finish, and presence of tails.

Saleable meat yield contains both meat and fat trimmed to a market specification and can be used to value a carcass to predict retail yield of the carcass. The formula used was developed from research done at Lacombe Research Centre in Alberta. Saleable meat yield = $78.92 - 0.51(\text{gr}) + 1.25(\text{MS})$, where gr = tissue depth over the 12th rib 11 cm from the midline and MS = the average muscle score of the hip, loin and shoulder.

Final Score Calculation

To identify the winners in each lamb class, the following calculations were made.

Saleable Meat Yield² was used as the starting score.

- minus one point for each 2 pounds outside the target carcass weight range

- plus one point to the two carcasses in each category selected by the graders as their top two picks
- minus 5 points if a carcass did not meet the Canada AAA criteria (a minimum musculature score of 2 for each primal and a minimum average musculature score of 2.6, and tissue depth of not less than 4 mm at the GR measurement site)
- minus 1 point if a carcass fell into the Yield Class Canada2 criteria (GR tissue depth of 13 to 18.9 mm)
- minus 2 points if a carcass fell into the Yield Class Canada3 criteria (GR tissue depth of 19 to 24.9 mm)

Table 2: Lamb Carcass Competition Score Calculations

Lamb Class 1: Live weight range 68 - 75 pounds Target carcass weight range 30 - 35 pounds											
Lamb ID	Dam Breed	Sire Breed	Canada Grade	Yield Class	Warm Wt. (pounds)	Meat Yield %	Saleable		Grader Yield Class	Canada Final Grade	Final Score
							Carcass weight	Pick			
375	Rideau x Dorset	Rideau	AAA	Canada2	32.4	75.53	0		-1		74.5
240	Rideau x IDP	Rideau	AAA	Canada1	37.3	79.61	-1				78.6
852	Rideau	Rideau	AAA	Canada1	34.8	79.61	0				79.6
330	Rideau	Rideau	AAA	Canada1	34.4	80.12	0				80.1
806	NC Cheviot	Dorper	AAA	Canada1	48.1	78.91	-7	1			73.4
680	Cob Arcott	Cob Arcott	AAA	Canada1	35.9	80.25	-1	1			80.4

Lamb Class 2: Live weight range 90 - 100 pounds Target carcass weight range 42 - 46 pounds											
Lamb ID	Dam Breed	Sire Breed	Canada Grade	Yield Class	Warm Wt. (pounds)	Meat Yield %	Saleable		Grader Yield Class	Canada Final Grade	Final Score
							Carcass weight	Pick			
646	Dorset	Suffolk	AAA	Canada1	41.9	77.1	-1	1			77.1
643	Rideau	Rideau	C1		44.3	80.3				-5	75.3
552	Dorset x Rideau	Be de France	AAA	Canada1	48.1	77.5	-2				75.5
775	Rideau x IDP	Rideau	AAA	Canada1	45.9	78.2					78.2
101	Rideau x IDP	Be de France	AAA	Canada1	44.5	79.0		1			80.0
948	P Dorset	P Dorset	AAA	Canada1	43.2	80.2					80.2
396	Rideau	Rideau	AAA	Canada1	47.2	80.1	-1				79.1
582	ibred	Dorset	C1		32.4	80.7	-5				70.9
034	Rideau	Dorset x prol	AAA	Canada1	49.4	77.5	-2				75.5
404	Southdown	Southdown	AAA	Canada2	47.2	74.0	-1		-1		72.0

Carcass and yield classification were assigned using the criteria of the Canada Ovine Grading Standards to generate the scores used in the final calculations.

And the Winners Are...

Class 1: Live weight 68 -75 pounds & target carcass weight 30 – 35 pounds

- 3rd place lamb 852 with a final score of 79.6, Zachary Baker, District 10
- 2nd place lamb 330 with a final score of 80.1, Jeff Swain, District 1
- 1st place lamb 680 with a final score of 80.4, Petra & Andreas Aeberhard, District 2

Class 2: Live weight 90 – 100 pounds & target carcass weight 42 – 46 pounds

- 3rd place lamb 396 with a final score of 79.1, Zachary Baker, District 10
- 2nd place lamb 101 with a final score of 80.0, Robert Wilson, District 3
- 1st place lamb 948 with a final score of 80.2, Kim Schneider, District 7



McKeeman, D7 Rod Jones, D8 Philip & Melissa Botden, D10 Zachary Baker. Producer Participants Lamb Class 2: D1 Jessica Statham, Chris Yates, Kacey Wilson & Michael McCallum, D2 Steve & Lisa Ernewein, D3 Robert Wilson & Carl Zehr, D5 Matt Francisco & Brenna McKeeman, D6 Shelagh Finn, D7 Kim Schneider, D8 Philip & Melissa Botden, D10 Zachary Baker.

OSF greatly appreciates the time and expertise of Bill McCutcheon, Ontario Lamb Marketing and Wahab Zamani, Simcoe Street Meats contributed to the development of the lamb evaluation video and the program at the convention. **OSN**

A portion of the competition lambs carcasses

It was a very close competition with the final scores of the top three lambs in each category were within one point of each other.

OSF congratulates the winners and extends a heart-felt thank you to all of the producers that participated.

Producer Participants in Lamb Class 1: D1 Jeff Swain, D2 Andreas & Petra Aeberhard, D5 Matt Francisco & Brenna

1. Canada Ovine Carcass Grade Requirements <https://inspection.canada.ca/about-the-cfia/acts-and-regulations/listof-acts-and-regulations/documents-incorporated-by-reference/canadian-grade-compendium-volume-1/eng/1520878338783/1520878339422?chap=3>
2. Saleable Meat Yield formula = $78.92 - 0.51(\text{gr}) + 1.25(\text{MS})$, where gr = tissue depth over the 12th rib 11 cm from the midline and MS = the average score of the hip, loin and shoulder from *The prediction of saleable meat yield in lamb carcasses. 1996.* https://www.academia.edu/91994221/The_prediction_of_saleable_meat_yield_in_lamb_carcasses

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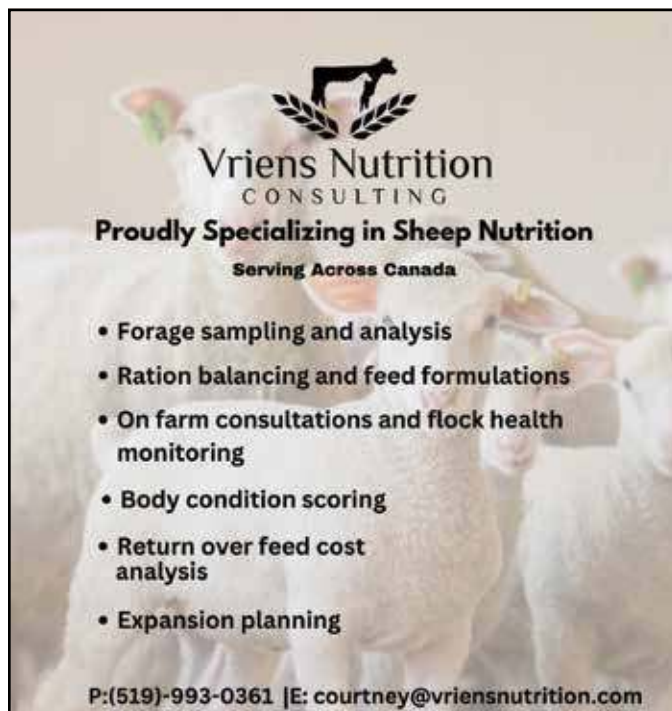
By Bruce Kelly, Program Consultant, Farm & Food Care Ontario

A farm fire is something no one wants to think about, but it's an ever-present risk to farming operations. As farm buildings have grown and the costs to build have increased, the need to take action to prevent farm fires has never been more critical. The good news is that new technology and improvements to electrical equipment can help reduce the chances of a farm fire if we adopt them in new and existing buildings.

Data on farm fires is challenging, but the general trend has seen a decreasing number of farm fires each year. The cost of replacement (buildings and livestock) continues to be estimated from 30 to 35 million annually. The trend towards specialty-built hay storage facilities has helped reduce the livestock losses once associated with fires in mixed-use buildings.

What are the leading causes of farm fires?

David Colyn of Trillium Mutual Insurance shares some observations from their claim experience over the past few years, "Although 72% of the fires were deemed as "cause undetermined," we know from eyewitness accounts the circumstances leading to those fires were electrical. The other 28% of fires were due to grinding/welding, charging batteries, and work with tractors, straw and other combustibles inside farm buildings."



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A few years ago, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) brought together several agencies and groups to address the potential for life and property loss by identifying best practices in the industry and potential regulation changes. The committee published several excellent resources worth sharing with family and staff: Reducing the risk of fire on your farm and an excellent factsheet and video series, 10 Ways to Reduce the Risk of Barn Fire.

In this short article, we will focus on five leading causes of fire:

1) Fires from accumulated dust and combustibles

Recommended maintenance and housekeeping

- Regularly use a leaf blower to remove highly combustible materials such as cobwebs and dust from light bulbs, building surfaces, equipment, etc.
- Regularly sweep up hay, straw and other loose combustibles.
- Routinely clean fans, grain augers and other motors with compressed air.
- No smoking in or around barns; have a designated metal bin for butts in a designated area.

2) Fires from corrosion of electrical equipment

- The Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) has investigated the challenges with electrical systems and commented that the corrosive environment found inside barns is the leading cause of degradation or failure of electrical equipment: moisture and corrosive gasses.

The degradation is typically corrosion of the exposed metal components such as electrical boxes and receptacles. Data from Trillium Mutual points to fires starting in and behind electrical panels that have corrosion or moisture issues, leading to resistance and overheating.

- An electrician should inspect electrical panels every few years as connections can corrode or become loose and cause heating.
- Inspecting electrical equipment with FLIR-style thermal imaging is a reliable way to indicate corrosion and arc heating in panels and receptacles without opening each one.

3) Fires from direct ignition from equipment sparks from welders, grinders

- Hot works such as arc welding, cutting with torches or grinding are common causes of fires, particularly inside farm buildings where combustible materials or

manure gases are present. Special care must go into the preparation of repair work and the direction of the inevitable sparks generated.

- Sparks from penning repairs falling into under-barn manure storages have caused explosions and fires in Ontario livestock barns.

4) Fires in hay storage (Summer)

Dan Carlow OMAFRA, Manager at the Innovation, Engineering and Program Delivery Unit, reported that in June and early July of 2023, there were several hay storage fires in the London and surrounding area.

- Spontaneous combustion may occur if the hay crop is stored above 20-25% moisture content and the heat does not dissipate. Lorne Lantz, a hay producer in the Wellesley area, reminds us to: “check the stalks for moisture.” Lorne reminds us to be patient and wait until they’re dry enough; his time-tested method of stalk moisture testing is to bite on a few stalks; if they’re crunchy like celery, they’re still too wet to bale. Lorne is also a big proponent of ventilation in the stack to dry the moisture out of newly stored hay if possible.
- A hay crop placed too wet into storage will heat rapidly. If air is restricted and the internal temperature rises above 130°F (55°C), a chemical reaction occurs and does not require oxygen. Still, the flammable gases produced are at a temperature above their ignition point. These gases will ignite when they come in contact with the air.

- Refrain from storing hay in a multi-use structure connected to a livestock barn. Although once thought convenient in our old bank barns, the history of fire has shown that separate structures for hay storage are a better long-term strategy.

5) Fires from tractor/generator block heaters and extension cords (Winter)

- Every winter, January fires can be traced directly to block heaters or their extension cords
- Inspect block, oil pan or rad hose heaters and their cords, check for cracks and wear marks and replace them regularly. Your tractor might last 20 years, but the cords in the hot engine bay will not and need to be replaced.
- Block heaters can draw 1,000 to 1,500 watts, creating a lot of heat in an extension cord. Use only short extension cords because of the load and ensure they are 12 gauge (best) or 14 gauge and certainly not light duty 16 gauge cords.
- Regular maintenance and some knowledge can help keep your block or oil-pan heater operating correctly and reduce the fire risk.
- Refrain from storing tractors in multi-use buildings connected to a livestock barn. (lessons learned from hay storage)

Continued on page 18.



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What have we learned?

We have learned that moving away from multi-use barns to specialized buildings for each specific purpose, livestock housing, hay storage, and machinery storage offers a better strategy for reducing fire damage in the long term. Specialized designs can identify and mitigate the risks associated with its use. Separate buildings provide a physical fire break as opposed to joined structures. Ontario Fire, Electrical and Building Codes codes govern farm building design and amenities. These codes all have special provisions for farm buildings as low occupancy structures, but as farm buildings increase in size, become more complex and have more staff, the need to improve health and safety is working its way into code changes for the future. Examples from recent electrical code updates include the adoption of more NEMA 4X electrical connections in barns.

What is NEMA-4X? – Gasketed door enclosure intended for indoor or outdoor use primarily protects against corrosion, windblown dust and rain, splashing water, and hose-directed water, undamaged by ice forming on the enclosure. NEMA4X are the most common enclosure in “food” environments. NEMA 4X plug ends and receptacles are less prone to corrosion over regular cord ends from moisture and barn gasses.

Changes to the Ontario Fire Code (OFC) will impact farm buildings:

Proposed changes to the Ontario Fire Code will impact new farm buildings which previously had an exemption as low occupancy structures. Proposed changes would introduce OFC compliance on new farm buildings over 600 sq. m. - a new authority having jurisdiction on farm properties; this would include OFC compliance on early detection and fire suppression systems and risk assessments of farm properties related to electrical/mechanical systems. For example, completing annual audits on such systems for fire prevention and considering storage, identification, and fire safety requirements for hazardous goods. (Canadian Farm Builders Association 2023)

How can new technology help reduce farm fires?

1. Better materials:

- a. NEMA 4X electrical equipment, plug ends, receptacles and enclosures use better metals and are much less prone to corrosion and, thus, the heat buildup of standard-grade receptacles.
- b. A better choice of non-flammable building materials (less wood) and plastic for wall and ceiling liners will preserve

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the integrity of the building. i.e. less truss plate corrosion and water intrusion (rot).

2. Know your electrical systems:

Consider monitoring the health of electrical systems. New monitoring systems from companies like PrevTech.ca; Maximus, Monitrol.com (FarmGuard) offer electrical system monitoring and anomaly detection.

The equipment installed at your electrical panel detects electrical anomalies and faults throughout your farm. This knowledge allows you to respond appropriately to reduce or eliminate the problem. The leakage of current from malfunctioning equipment and increases in the temperature of corroded electrical components can be an early indication of a fire risk.

Electrical current leakage is due to faulty equipment while overheating of an electrical panel is due to poor contact. Leaks of electricity and imbalances or spikes when a bad motor starts or stops can all indicate potential fire risk. Recent work with Ontario Mutual Insurance companies shows that this type of monitoring equipment has detected faults, some of which were critical and would have resulted in fires. Their clients now have impressive safety records. There is assurance in maintaining healthy electrical systems on-farm.

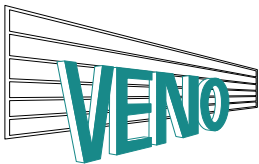
3. Look at new automatic fire suppression systems for specific high-risk areas:

Farm fires are often impossible to extinguish once they get established. Still, new extinguisher systems can protect enclosed spaces like tractor bays, workshops, engine compartments or electrical service areas to extinguish fires as early as possible. Several new systems are available to protect high-risk areas on the farm that can dispense suppression agents if triggered by heat from a fire.

The new system from Proteng.com offers heat-sensitive hoses filled with pressurized fire retardant. The product needs no electronics, ordered from the manufacturer in different lengths and melting temps.

Still, when melted by a fire, it will release a blast of suppression chemicals into the engine compartment, extinguishing a fire in its infancy. It minimizes fire damage by effectively extinguishing a fire at its initial stage by eliminating heat. It was designed to protect race car drivers and motor homes and can also work for engine compartments, generator rooms and electrical panels, solar inverters or battery areas. Proteng is a cost-effective solution for fire suppression that is non-toxic, non-corrosive and leaves no residue. It's the fire equipment that is always on standby.

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Other suppression systems by Tungus.ca are designed to suppress a fire in a larger shop/tractor bay. The system can be controlled with a manual panic button by the exit door or a thermal trigger on the ceiling-mounted unit. Tungus products are also designed to be on constant standby and do not need an electrical connection or batteries to release a burst of fire retardant onto a fire quickly. They are compact and sized for your application shop bay or garage.

Also new to the market and distributed by PREVTEC.ca is the ELIDE fire extinguishing ball, a self-activating extinguishing ball that provides far more advanced solutions than portable extinguishers. It's easy to use and self-activating in flame and can be mounted to a wall or ceiling in high-risk areas or tossed into a fire. It is also ideal for service rooms, engine compartments, generator rooms, fueling areas, shops, farm equipment storage areas or any other fire hazard area.

Timing is everything in trying to extinguish a fire, and these passive systems

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offer continuous protection for higher-risk areas of your farm and the ability to discharge fire suppression products directly on a fire in seconds. In addition to alarms, consider a passive fire suppression system for your service, electrical, boiler or pump room.

4. Use FLIR thermal imaging equipment to inspect your electrical system:

Through your insurance company or with a trained technician, you can use thermal imaging equipment to examine parts of the electrical system for heat buildup. Breakers, panels, motors, receptacles and wires can be inspected with this thermal technology and help determine where corrosion leads to resistance buildups that might become a fire hazard. FLIR can also be used for other maintenance purposes to look for overheating in motor bearings etc.

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With current wool prices at an all-time low, producers are exploring alternative marketing streams for their wool clip. Others may dispose of the wool on-farm. Regardless, most sheep will require shearing at least annually. Even if you shear your own sheep, consider these recommendations for making the day easier on you, your sheep and your shearer.

1. Keep Your Shearer in the Loop

Book shearing dates early; communicate group size and condition; contingency plan for inclement weather, especially sudden weather changes.

Background

- Effective communication requires equal commitment from both parties and we all have preferred methods of staying in touch.
- Don't expect your shearer to remember when your different groups lamb and how many sheep need shearing. Sharing this information as soon as breeding groups are decided helps ensure the shearer can allot adequate time in his/her schedule that best fits your schedule.

Recommended Practices

- Once you've mapped out your breeding plan, share lambing dates, group size and target shear dates with your shearer, by their preferred method of keeping in touch be that text, email or phone message.
- Touch base again at least a month and again a week ahead of planned shearing day.
- Give your shearer adequate notice if you cannot keep sheep dry.
- Build flexibility into your shearing schedule for unplanned delays due to weather, sickness etc.

2. Recognize (and plan for) the Impact of Shearing on Sheep's Nutritional and Shelter Needs

Background

- Shearing affects a sheep's thermoneutral zone, removing the insulating effect of their fleece, raising the temperature (defined as lower critical temperature) at which they must generate more heat to maintain their normal body temperature.
 - Lower critical temperature for sheep with 10-mm-thick wool has been found to be around 25 °C, for sheep with 50-mm-thick wool it is -5 °C and for sheep with 70-mm-thick wool it is -18 °C¹

- Freshly shorn sheep are at greater risk of hypothermia. Newly shorn sheep may have only 3 millimeters of wool remaining causing a three-fold increase in heat loss.
 - Sudden weather changes can further exacerbate the risk particularly for sheep in low body condition.
 - Shearing with cover/winter combs leaves more wool (at least 10 mm) and insulation on the sheep than regular combs.
 - It takes about two weeks for sheep to acclimatize after shearing.
- Energy requirements increase approximately 1.8 % for every 1°C below the critical temperature. Freshly shorn sheep with 10 mm fleece are 15°C below their LCT of 25°C when barn temperature is 10°C. Their energy requirements will be 25 to 27% higher than unshorn sheep.
- Forages produce a higher amount of heat than grains during digestion. Hence the recommendation that additional feed offered by primarily forages.

Recommended Practices

- Expect freshly shorn sheep to increase feed consumption by up to 40 percent to meet their higher energy needs.
- Have a contingency plan, including postponing shearing date, for severe cold snaps where shearing occurs in the winter months and for low temperatures combined with rain and wind when shearing during spring and summer months.
 - Doubling or tripling bedding depth can help housed sheep retain body heat as they will burrow /nest into the deep bedding
 - Shelterbelts and man-made windbreaks will help to reduce heat loss from wind for grazing flocks and provide direct shelter for them. Tall-growing open plantings will reduce wind speeds downwind for distances of 25 to 30 times the height of the barrier²
 - Some producers with smaller flocks have successfully managed through a sudden cold snap by coating individual sheep. Even a plastic coat made from a plastic garbage bag helps them retain body heat.

3. Preparing the Sheep

Ensure sheep are dry, empty, clean and sorted.

Background

- Wet or damp sheep are slippery increasing the risk of injury to the shearer and sheep.
- Wet or damp wool will mold and heat in packs.
- Outdoor sheep will often be damp/wet in early morning from dew, requiring several hours to dry before they will be ready for shearing.

Continued on page 22.

- Sheep that are full of feed struggle more during shearing due to increased pressure from full rumen. They also defecate and urinate more on the shearing board, increasing wool staining and risk of injury from slippery conditions.
- A full rumen/gut accounts for over 20% of a ewe's bodyweight (14 kg for a 70 kg ewe) which equates to an additional 1.4 tonnes for every 100 sheep that a shearer must catch, handle and tip up onto the shearing board.
- Clean sheep minimizes the amount of wool needing to be skirted from the fleece before packing, thereby increasing the value of the end-product.
- Sorting sheep by fleece (breed) type will make fleece preparation and packing easier and reduce risk of contamination from coloured or kempy fleeces.

Recommended Practices

- No access to feed and water for at least 12 hours before shearing. Fasting guidelines out of New Zealand have established minimum and maximums for time off feed of individual sheep by stage of production. These are shown in the table below.
- For sheep outdoors, house sheep the evening before shearing day ensures the sheep are empty and dry at the start of shearing day.
- Have sheep sorted into desired shearing groups.
 - Sheep with coloured, and kempy fleeces should be shorn last and fleeces packed separately from the main fleece line.
 - Sort by health status if you are trying to minimize the spread of particular disease(s) in your flock. Shear healthy animals and those least likely to be infected first. This may include shearing young animals before older animals³.
- Follow low-stress stock handling principles when handling / sorting sheep.

4. Have Shearing Area Ready Before Shearer Arrives

Animal flow to and from shearing area; infrastructure needs of shearing; fleece handling for quality end product.

Background

- Shearing is a specialized skill and is physically demanding. For every 100 “average” sized sheep shorn, your shearer is catching, tipping and shearing over 16,000 pounds of sheep. A well-prepared set-up avoids adding layers of challenges to getting the wool off your sheep.

Recommended Practice

- The shearing area should:
 - have adequate ventilation, be draft free,
 - have good lighting and ready access to a hydro outlet and
 - have adequate ceiling height to allow shearing machine setup.
 - If a shearing chute is not being used, then a small catch pen that holds up to 10 sheep.
 - Be level, clean floor (free of bedding and other potential wool contaminants)
- Provide a 4 X 8 sheet of plywood or cow matt to shear on where floors are concrete or earthen.
- Where shearing occurs in housing pens on a bedding pack, alternative setups need to be found.
- Have wool handling /sorting table and packing stands close to shearing area but out of the way of sheep leaving the shearing floor.
- Sheep exiting the shearing floor should have feed and water available in their holding area.

Recommended Minimum and Maximum Hours without Feed and Water Prior to Shearing (adapted from Fasting of Sheep Prior to Shearing booklet https://www.worksafe.govt.nz)				
	Minimum number of hours without feed	Maximum number of hours without feed	Minimum number of hours without water	Maximum number of hours without water
EWES AND ADULT MALES				
Non pregnant, non lactating	20	32	12	24
Early – mid-pregnancy	18	30	12	24
Late pregnancy & lactation	12	24	8	20
REPLACEMENTS (HOGGETS)				
Non pregnant, non lactating	18	30	12	24
Pregnancy & lactation	12	24	8	20
LAMBS				
Pre-weaning	6	24	6	20
Weaned	12	24	8	20

- Have adequate number of knowledgeable helpers available:
 - To keep catch pens full / sheep pushed up in shearing chute
 - To keep shearing floor free of wool, bedding, manure
 - To skirt, sort and pack fleeces
- Make provisions for rest/ hydration breaks for your shearer and others helping. Typical full-day shearing schedules would be a two-hour shear session followed by a one-half hour break, a second two-hour shearing session followed by a one-hour lunch break, a third two-hour session, half-hour break, then final two-hour session.

5. Wool Handling and Fleece Preparation

Where wool is being marketed into further processing channels, skirting sorting and packing ensures different classes of wool are packed separately and contamination minimized.

- Belly and topknot wool can be packed directly from the shearing board and should never go in with the main fleece.
- Sweeping the shearing board as soon as the fleece is removed, removes second cuts, manure and bedding and helps prevent contamination of the next fleece shorn.
- Fleece is thrown skin-side down onto the skirting table. A few gentle shakes ensure any second cuts are removed from the fleece. Skirting proceeds.
- Skirting involves removing stained, burry, short wool and tags from the fleece. Be sure to remove all paint marks, as few marking paints are fully scourable. In the ideal world, this wool should be packed separately for all other lines of wool. Some producers may decide to pack it along with the bellies and topknots.
- Avoid excess skirting with the goal to maximize the amount of wool moving into your main market lines.
- Skirted fleeces should be folded into thirds and then rolled from the rear of the fleece to the neck before packing. This is particularly important where grading is occurring at the wool depot or processor.
- A packing frame greatly enhances the ability to firmly pack the square international wool bags.
- Packing wool bags - To maximize the amount of wool packed into wool bags, be sure to stomp or tamp down fleeces regularly. Start with four fleeces, one in each corner of the bag, then continue to place fleeces in the corners. Tamping or stomping along the perimeter of the

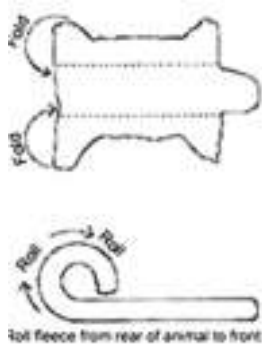


Diagram 1: Rolling the Fleece. Source: Shearing Your Sheep³

bag ensures bags are evenly packed. Tight packing also facilitates handling and transportation costs after it leaves the farm.

- Pack different wool types separately wherever possible or at the very least your main line of wool separate from other types. At the end of shearing, different wool types can be packed into one wool pack, but they need to be separated by sheets of newspaper with bags clearly marked.
- Mark each wool pack with producer name, year, wool type and bag number.
- Square wool packs can be closed using the metal clips. If closing wool packs by stitching or sewing, be sure to use a cotton / butcher twine. **DO NOT USE PLASTIC BALER TWINE.**
- Store wool packs indoors on pallets, planks or gates so they are off the floor. Wool will draw moisture from concrete, earthen floors and manure pack resulting in discoloration and spoilage.
- Do not store packaged wool outside in direct sunlight, if possible, and only for short periods if unavoidable (less than one day).⁵

For those wanting more detailed information on improving your wool quality, check out American Sheep Industry “Code of Practice for preparation of wool clips” on their research education page www.sheepusa.org.

6. Improvements in Wool Clip Quality Starts on Shearing Day

One of the greatest impacts on wool clip quality and yield is contamination from feed & bedding. Producers can minimize contamination of next year’s wool clip by reviewing and making adjustments to the following aspects of their management:

- forage feeding system
- pen bedding methods and materials
- Pasture management with emphasis on thistle and burdock control
- Paint branding
- Polypropylene contamination from baler twine /wrap, tarps and feed sacks
- Other fibre contaminants **OSN**

1. Farm Animal Behavior: characteristics for assessment of health and welfare, Ingvar Ekesbo. 2011
2. Hypothermia in Sheep 2018 <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/animal-welfare/hypothermia-sheep>
3. Shearing your sheep. 2007 <https://ablamb.ca/images/documents/factsheets/Shearing-Your-Sheep.pdf>
4. Using Paint and Markers to Identify Sheep. <https://wool.ca/images/uploads/files/preparation/Using-paint.pdf>
5. Code of practice for preparation of wool clips. 2021 <https://www.sheepusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/code-of-practice-2021.pdf>

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

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 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, 2023).

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

ONTARIO STOCKYARDS INC.



Box 1051, 3807 Hwy. 89, Cookstown, ON L0L 1L0
Office: 705.458.4000 Fax: 705.458.4100
E-mail: info@ontariostockyards.on.ca
Website: www.ontariostockyards.on.ca

BRIAN PASCOE
Res: 705.878.7026
Cell: 705.878.6918

Total Livestock Marketing

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 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 5th, 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.



OSF Out and About

NOFIA

Northern Ontario Farmers gathered in mid February for the Northern Ontario Ag Conference in Sudbury. We greeted many attendees at the OSF booth, including OSF producer members, producers from other commodities interested in sheep production and exchange students currently engaged in sheep production on family farms abroad. The conference program featured three successful OSF producers speaking about forages, grazing, and nutrition. Northern Ontario is a key area of potential industry expansion for sheep.



London Farm Show

Ontario Sheep Farmers had a booth at the London Farm Show, from March 6-8, 2024. The show had over 15,000 attendees and the OSF booth was well received by both new and existing producers. We were able to sign up many of the new sheep producers to stay connected with OSF, and this is an event we will definitely attend again in 2025. We would also like to extend a huge thanks to all the volunteers that attended and helped with the booth, events like this are a success due to their efforts.



Ottawa Valley Farm Show

We were in attendance from March 12-14, 2024. It was a well attended event with over 13,059 attendees that visited the show. Ontario Sheep had the pleasure of speaking with current producers as well as engaging and signing up new producers to join our organization. A special thank you to our volunteers that came out and helped man the booth. We greatly appreciate the support our volunteers provide at events like this.



Dairy Sheep Symposium

Ontario Sheep Farmers held our annual Dairy Sheep Symposium on March 19, 2024, in Floradale, Ontario. It was a great day that was packed with panelist discussions, keynote presentations, and an encouraging showing of sheep organizations and companies at the tradeshow. With a record attendance, we were thrilled about how this event turned out. If you were unable to attend the event and would like to see what companies participated in our tradeshow, you can find the complete list at OntarioSheep.org/Events. Thank you goes out to: Rex Crawford (Dufferin Vet Services) Courtney Vriens (Vriens Nutrition), Jeff Cressman, Emily Zur Linden, Prakash Singh (GreenOak Equipment North America), Marlene Paibomesai, Dave Kabbles (Conestogo Agri), Shannon Walsh (HIPRA), for being keynote speaker or panelist.



For all upcoming Ontario Sheep Farmers events stay tuned on our website: <https://www.ontariosheep.org/events> **OSN**



AGM + CONVENTION



**NEW
DATE**

**NEW
LOCATION
CAMBRIDGE HOTEL
& CONFERENCE
CENTRE**

AGM: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

CONVENTION: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

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

OSN ADVOC

Risk Management Program

As those who are enrolled in the 2023/24 program already know, RMP payments are down from 2022/23. The program funding is fixed, and enrolment has climbed incrementally over the last three years from approximately 220 policies to 260 in 2023/24. The total lbs of lamb covered by the program has grown from 4.5 million in 2020 to 8 million enrolled in 2023/24. The increase in funding, coupled with the unchanged funding cap, means our worsening payment proration rate impacts the money in farmers' pockets. Ontario Sheep Farmers is working with our commodity partners – Beef Farmers, Veal Farmers, Grain Farmer, Fruit and Vegetable Growers and Pork Producers – to increase funding to the program from \$150 million to \$250 million.

Carbon Tax

On April 1, Canadians experienced an increase in the national carbon tax, which rose by \$15 per tonne from \$65 to \$80, with expectations to reach \$170 per tonne by 2030. Ontario Sheep Farmers of Ontario supports Minister Lisa Thompson and the collective voices of Ontario's Food & Agriculture sector in calling to pause the carbon tax hike. While Canadian farmers benefit from exemptions on certain farm vehicle fuels, the tax still applies to other essential aspects of farming, like heating and grain drying. The debate intensifies around Bill C-234, aimed at exempting grain drying and barn heating from the carbon tax, yet it remains stalled in Parliament. This situation underscores the agriculture sector's challenges and the broader discussions on the effectiveness and allocation of carbon tax revenues in combating climate change.



ACY UPDATE

Agriculture Research and Innovation Ontario (ARIO)

The ARIO is a board-governed agency of the province that oversees the 14 research stations and 5,600 acres of land in Ontario that support a broad spectrum of agri-food research in all sectors including sheep production. The sheep research station is located in Ponsonby, just north of Guelph, and is utilized for the sheep research projects at the University of Guelph. These include the current gastrointestinal nematode projects and a project on the impact of maternal diet and stress on colostrum and postnatal health.

The Minister of Agriculture has been leading a bill to update the ARIO Act to address the need for changes to the form and function of the agency. OSF would like to use this opportunity to share the need for a focus on safeguarding the assets under the ARIO and focusing the resources of the agency on opportunities for innovation in the sector. For the sheep research station, this means first and foremost retaining the assets for the sheep industry and secondarily, reviewing the opportunity the research station provides to our sector and discussion possible investments over time to improve the station.

Updates to the Veterinarians Act

Over the past year, OSF has reached out to our members and consulted with government and veterinarians on the improvements needed to the Act and veterinary care in general in Ontario. The answers our members provided in our survey in 2023 were very helpful and allowed OSF to participate in the consultations on updates to the Act on behalf of our producers.

Bill 171, presented by Minister Thompson, is now past second reading in the house. The bill updates the Act to include a change to the name (now the Veterinary Professionals Act) so that Veterinary Technicians are now regulated under the Act. The bill also improves governance of the College of Veterinary Professionals of Ontario, creates a professional development accreditation for vets and vet techs and allows for the creation of a quality assurance program among many other updates.

Of note for sheep farmers, the Act includes an exception from veterinary oversight allowing, "Confirmation of pregnancy in domesticated farm animals of the genus ovis or capra through ultrasound conducted on the surface of the skin." It is important to note, technicians will still be subject to the Risk of Harm clause in the Act. This exemption was a priority of OSF and our organization is happy to see it included in updated Act.



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.

Emke Livestock

Charollais, North Country Cheviots
& Commercials

Res. Champ. 2023

1st Get of Sire 2023



Congratulations to the Harold Dueck Family of West Texas on purchasing this group of stud rams to be used in a breeding program with Royal White ewes.

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

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



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

Murray & Nancy Emke

Elmwood Ont. 519-364-5087

m_wright17@hotmail.com



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

Ontario's 3,000 sheep producers are represented by the Ontario Sheep Farmers organization. With a focus on profitability and sustainability, the organization works in the areas of advocacy, industry capacity, research and market development. The organization is funded through a check off (or licence fee) on lamb and sheep marketed in Ontario. Representing the sheep, lamb and wool industries, it was established in 1985 under the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Act. A compulsory check off (licence fee) of \$2.20 per head sold or slaughtered in Ontario is payable to the Ontario Sheep Farmers to fund projects and operations supporting the Ontario sheep marketplace. Visit our website (www.OntarioSheep.org) to see your licence fees at work.

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

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

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

SHEEP/LAMB: FEE IS \$2.20 PER HEAD PLUS 13% HST

Producer # _____ Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov.: _____ Postal Code: _____

Date of Sale: _____ Date Remitted: _____

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

PAY BY PHONE USING VISA OR MASTERCARD
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.

CURRENT PRODUCERS ENROLLED IN THE GENOVIS PROGRAM (AS OF MARCH 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 & Arkel 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
Wigmana Farms Ltd. • Dorothy Frankland • (519) 923-5974
Wooldrift Farm • Chris Buschbeck & Axel Meister • (519) 538-2844

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

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Huron Grove Farms • Michael & Fraser Hodgson • (519) 918-4159

Rainbow Woods • Eleanor & Sarah Reed • (705) 454-3167
Stitch and Steel Homestead • Sam Sheehan • (647) 546-8906

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Treasurer	Jennifer Van Hooydork	519.520.7970

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Secretary	Bonnie DeWeerd	519.502.1389
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Secretary/Treasurer	Jennifer Nash	613.477.1908

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Vice Chair	Yvonne Seeley	613.330.0272
Secretary	Colleen Acres	613.826.2330
Treasure	Sarah Jean Campbell	613.330.8014

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Vice Chair	Mark Lenover	705.563.2966
Secretary	Trudy Reid	807.935.3224

Auction Markets and Abattoirs

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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
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Caledon Halal Meat Packers	Bolton	(416) 999-9999
Charles Quality Meats Ltd.	St. Agatha	(519) 886-7931
Cloverbelt Country Meats Co-operative	Oxdrift	(807) 937-6716
Cole Bros. Meat Processing	Pictou	(613) 476-6955
Country Fresh Packers	Tilbury	(519) 682-2222
Creative Meats	Warren	(705) 967-2006
Desormeaux Slaughter-house & Meats Inc.	Crysler	(613) 987-2148
Dresden Meat Packers Ltd.	Dresden	(519) 683-2585
Dufferin County Meats	Amaranth	(519) 939-8068
Elora Road Meats	Mildmay	(519) 367-2261
Ewe Dell Family Farm	Woodslee	(519) 723-4456
Farmersville Community Abattoir	Athens	(613) 924-0400
Gord's Abattoir Ltd.	Leamington	(519) 326-2503
Green's Meat Market & Abattoir Ltd.	Wingham	(519) 357-2912
Grey County Meats	Maxwell	(519) 922-2400
Hank De Koning Ltd.	Port Dover	(519) 583-0115
Harriston Packing Company Ltd.	Harriston	(519) 338-3330
Hastings Meat Market	Stirling	(613) 395-0505
Hay's Custom Cutting Ltd.	Campbellford	(705) 653-3388
Henderson Meats	Chesterville	(613) 448-3471
Highgate Tender Meats Ltd.	Highgate	(519) 678-3383
Highland Packers Ltd.	Stoney Creek	(905) 662-8396
Hilts Butcher Shop Ltd.	Norwood	(705) 696-2172
Hunter's Dressed Meats	Dunnville	(905) 774-5900
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Joe Savage & Fils Abattoir Inc.	St. Albert	(613) 987-2070
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L & M Meat Distributing Inc.	Beeton	(905) 729-2771
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Matar Meats	Osgoode	(613) 821-7929
Miedema's Country Meats	Exeter	(519) 235-4978
Miedema's Meat Market Ltd.	Embro	(519) 475-4010
Millgrove Packers Ltd.	Waterdown	(905) 689-6184
Mr. Beef Inc.	Pakenham	(613) 624-5222
Mount Brydges Abattoir Ltd.	Mount Brydges	(519) 264-1873
Newmarket Meat Packers Ltd.	Newmarket	(416) 364-2671

ABATTOIRS		
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Ontario Halal Meat Packers Inc.	Milton	(905) 875-0270
Otonabee Meat Packers Ltd.	Peterborough	(705) 743-8547
Palmateer's Abattoir Ltd.	Tweed	(613) 478-3801
Parkhill Meats	Parkhill	(519) 293-3000
Peel Sausage Abattoir	Drayton	(519) 638-3446
Penokean Hills Farms	Bruce Mines	(705) 782-4224
Pine Ridge Meat Packer	Little Britain	705-786-9970
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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
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Denfield Livestock Exchange Inc.	12952 Sixteen Mile Road, RR 2	Denfield	(519) 666-1140
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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
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Renfrew-Pontiac Livestock Ltd.	18156 Highway 17, RR 3	Cobden	(613) 646-7335
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TUNIS

Comfort Tunis - Tunis sheep are a heritage breed that has lots to offer modern sheep production. This breed has so many strengths for any breeder who wants quality sheep on their farm. Our goal is to keep improving the good qualities of the breed: excellent growth rates, attractive muscling, high twinning with easy fleshing and a quiet temperament. Scrapie resistance tested. Mark and Bev Comfort, Cardinal ON. www.comforttunis.com 613-577-3263

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.

Kettle Crest Farm - Registered Purebred and Commercial Dorper Sheep Stock. Offering GenOvis performance tested breeding stock from a Maedi Visna "A" Status flock. Selected Full Blood, Domestic Purebred or Commercial stock available. Dorpers known for great growth rates, meat quality and early maturing with wider breeding season. Great choice for maternal traits and sires as a great terminal sire to produce superior market lambs. Art & Sandra Alblas, St Thomas, Ontario 519-637-0050, Lamb.KCF@gmail.com

Flock Talk

The Flock Talk podcast is in full swing! Since late 2023 we've been recording and releasing weekly podcast episodes, bringing Ontario Sheep Producers ideas and insight from fellow producers, and industry experts covering research, marketing, education, news updates and more.

Find all current and future episodes by searching 'Flock Talk' on Spotify, Amazon Music, Apple Podcasts, or by searching within your podcast player of choice. You can also find links on the Ontario Sheep Farmers website at www.ontariosheep.org/communications or scan our QR code. We encourage you to check it out and stay tuned for future episodes. **OSN**





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- Contact or visit Ontario Sheep Farmers
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- Visit Ontario Sheep Farmers to provide 1 piece of government-issued photo ID
- Credit decisions typically within 2 business days

- Credits are at a maximum of \$50,000, and no security is required²

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- No payments are required on your line of credit between March 1 and January 31
- Payment is required February 28 for your August 31 outstanding balance plus accrued interest

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- Your Yield More Financing Line is available to use any time at Ontario Sheep Farmers

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