

Ontario Sheep Research Needs & Priorities -2009

- 1. Improving lamb production per ewe in the flock**
 - a. Reducing pre-weaning lamb loss from conception onwards
 - i. Reducing level of early embryonic death
 - ii. Reducing losses to infectious and non-infectious abortion
 - iii. Reducing losses from stillbirth and neonatal diseases that affect lambs pre-weaning.
 - b. Improving Reproductive Efficiency (Including improving low lambing percentages)
 - i. Improving prolificacy of ewes
 - ii. Improving efficiency of out-of-season breeding
 - c. Increasing Milk Production
 - i. Improve lamb gains and survival by improving udder health of meat ewes.
 - ii. Improve the quality of milk, as well as milk production of dairy ewes
- 2. Improving Profitability**
 - a. Increasing Revenue- Improving Carcass Yield
 - b. Develop Compensation Strategy to reward Producers for economically beneficial carcass traits
 - c. Adding Value & Nutritional Value of the Carcass
 - d. Increasing Market Share
 - e. Trade
 - f. Reducing the cost of production
- 3. Health Disease**
 - a. Developing/Validating new diagnostics, vaccines and animal health products
 - i. Specific Vaccine development of importance –Coxiella burnetii
 - b. Emergency preparedness
 - i. Surveillance of Diseases of Importance
 - (1) Johne's Disease
 - ii. Biosecurity
 - c. Food Safety Surveillance and Risk Assessment
 - d. Zoonotic diseases – surveillance and risk assessment
- 4. Predation**
 - a. Cost Benefit analysis of different preventative methods of predator control
 - b. Predation reduction
 - c. Agriculture and the society/environment interface as it relates to predation
- 5. Precision technology**
 - a. Cost-benefit analysis of different technologies (including flock software) to help better manage sheep, including traceability from farm to consumer.
- 6. Novel Ideas**
 - a. Environmental Sustainability
 - b. Food for Health

Associated Comments

- 3d.** A Canadian Foundation for Innovation grant has been submitted to develop infrastructure for the study of zoonoses and food safety in poultry, swine and small ruminants.