



Ontario Sheep Farmers 2025 Policy Day, Annual General Meeting and Lamb Banquet Summary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Guelph, ON [November 4, 2025] - Ontario Sheep Farmers (OSF) hosted its 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Thursday, October 30 at the Cambridge Hotel and Conference Centre, celebrating 40 years of industry leadership under the theme *"Leading with Vision,"* with the new organizational goal to fulfill 50% of domestic market demand by 2040.

OSF welcomed two new board members to the team: **Kevin Krakar (District 4)** and **Helen McRae (District 11)**. **Art Alblas (District 1)** continues as OSF Chair for his third term, joined by **1st Vice Chair Ken Lamb (District 7)** and **2nd Vice Chair Keith Todd (District 3)**. The remaining board members include **Jay Lennox (District 2)**, **Ryan Schill (District 5)**, **Grant Cowan (District 6)**, **Karen Davis (District 8)**, **Wesley Godden (District 9)**, and **Devon Wensink (District 10)**. **Outgoing Board Members:** *Jenna Wight (District 11) and Rafael Lara (District 4)*.

The morning portion of the event featured OSF's new **Policy Day**, a dedicated session for voting delegates to discuss the future direction of the industry and identify opportunities for positive change. The session included facilitated visioning exercises and breakout groups led by **Crystal Mackay of Loft 32**, guiding participants through brainstorming on industry challenges and potential solutions.

Policy Day presentations included:

- *The Quebec Grading and Marketing System – Successes and Lessons Learned* by **Christian Beaudry, LEOQ**
- *The Direct-to-Market Opportunity* by **Bill McCutcheon, Ontario Lamb Marketing Inc.**
- *Price Discovery Options* by **Steve Duff, OMAFA**

In the afternoon, members convened for the Annual General Meeting. **Crystal Mackay** returned to deliver the keynote presentation, *"Let's Fuel the People Who Feed the World – The New Blueprint for Collaboration,"* which encouraged attendees to strengthen partnerships and collaboration across the agricultural community. Following the keynote, members partook in resolutions and voting that will help shape OSF's priorities in the year ahead.

The evening concluded with a **Lamb Banquet**, where members and guests celebrated OSF's 40-year history. The banquet included greetings from **Bill Rosenberg** on behalf of **Minister Trevor Jones**, a *"Through the Years"* video highlighting individuals and moments that have shaped OSF (formerly OSMA), and a 40th anniversary trivia game that tested members' knowledge and memories of key milestones. During this time, OSF also presented its **annual awards and scholarships**, recognizing individuals and families for their leadership, service, and contributions to Ontario's sheep industry.



OntarioSheep.org

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OSF Awards & Scholarship Recipients

Undergraduate Scholarship: Lauren Cowan.

Lauren has shown exceptional leadership and dedication through 4-H, community service, and her growing sheep operation, combining hands-on experience, mentorship, and a strategic approach to flock management.

Memorial Fund Industry Leader Award: Diana Lucarelli.

Diana has demonstrated remarkable dedication and hands-on expertise in animal care, gaining extensive experience and contributing enthusiastically to research, veterinary teaching, and daily herd management while preparing for her DVM studies.

Emerging Leader Award: Andrew Pearson.

Andrew Pearson has transformed his family's sheep operation with innovation, launching a sheep dairy, establishing a local wool depot, and now sharing his expertise as a Ridgetown College sheep production instructor.

Long Service Award: Len Hilderly & Laurie Maus.

Len Hilderley has devoted decades to advancing Ontario's sheep industry, sharing his expertise in flock management, reproductive practices, and working dogs, while connecting and mentoring producers across the province.

Laurie Maus has dedicated decades to advancing the sheep and wool industry, sharing her expertise in parasite management, colostrum quality, and wool crafts, while mentoring producers and strengthening her community.

DLF Pasture Award: Gayla Bonham-Carter & Scott Bade.

Gayla Bonham-Carter and Scott Bade of Footflats Farm have transformed challenging Amherst Island land into a thriving, innovative sheep operation through exceptional pasture management.

GenOvis– Ontario Genetic Improvement Awards

Maternal Breed Category: Laura Mosley, Rising Oak Dorsets

Prolific Breed Category: Dwayne Bazinet & Colleen Acres

Terminal Breed Category: Keith Todd

Hybridizer Award Category: Wayne Kreklewich

Commercial Breed Category: Earl & Naomi Brubacher

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