

Ontario sheep farmers awarded 2019 Ontario genetic improvement awards

For immediate release

October 25, 2019 (Guelph, ON) – The winners of the annual Ontario genetic improvement awards were recognized at the Ontario Lamb Banquet last week, hosted by Ontario Sheep Farmers.

The highest flock improvement award was awarded to Tulach Ard Farm, Sean McKenzie from Orono, Ontario. The award was created in 2017 to recognize the flock with the greatest overall improvement in genetic indexes between 2016 and 2017.

Individual animals were also recognized with awards at the banquet. In the Dorset category, the top growth and top maternal ram lambs for 2018 were awarded to Jim and Wendy Driscoll. The top growth and top material Rideau ram lambs both were awarded to Ted and Joanne Skinner, Cedar Creek Charollias.

In the Suffolk category, the top growth ram lamb went to Bill and Lynne Duffield, Codan Suffolks and William MacTaggart, MacTaggart Suffolks received the award for the top maternal growth lamb. In the Any Other Breeds Category, both the top growth ram lamb and the top maternal growth ram lamb were awarded to John and Eadie Steele, Shepherd's Choice.

GenOvis is a genetic improvement program designed to assist Ontario purebred and commercial sheep farmers in the evaluation of breeding stock and provides a measure of the comparative productivity of ewes in the flock. The program provides information that farmers can use to improve the genetic merit of their flock and monitor performance. The program maintains a large database of the performance records of tested sheep breeds in Canada.

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. Its goal is to provide consumers with premium lamb and sheep products. For more information visit www.OntarioSheep.org.

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