

Two Ontario sheep farmers recognized for their contributions to Ontario's sheep industry

For immediate release

October 25th, 2019 (Alliston, ON) – The Ontario Sheep Farmers (OSF) recognized two long time members at the Ontario Lamb Banquet held last evening.

John and Eadie Steele of Norwood were award the 2019 Outstanding Shepherd Award. The Steele's have been active members of Ontario's sheep industry since joining in 1991. Graduates of the original Master Shepherd's Course, they also participated in the OLIBS program, countless research programs and have provided the industry with thousands of replacement breeding stock. They were Ontario's Outstanding Young Farmer in 2002, the 2007 recipients of the Peterborough County Farm Family of the Year, and won the Premier's Award for Management of the OLIBS Breeding Stock Program in 2009 and again in 2010 for the creation of a Hand Held Flock Management Software.

Doug Kennedy was awarded the 2019 Long Service Award for his 50 plus years of dedication to the shearing of sheep in South Western Ontario. He started shearing with old brown Stewart hand shears, he was the first to bring in the Lister Flex drop that most shearers use today. Doug still travels to fall fairs to be the voice at shearing demonstrations and for many years ran a wool depot for the Canadian Cooperative Wool Growers.

Evelin Rejman was the winner of the Industry Leader Award. She is currently a PhD candidate in the Department of Pathobiology, Ontario Veterinary College, with an interest in parasitology and epidemiology. She is hoping that her research will produce result that will assist sheep farmers and veterinarians in better diagnosing coccidiosis and reducing disease presence on farm using cost-effective methods.

This year's Undergraduate Scholarship was awarded to Josiah VanEwyk from Courtwright, Ontario. VanEwyk is currently enrolled at Heritage College and Seminary studying Religious Education.

The banquet was a part of the 2019 Ontario Sheep Convention, bringing together members of Ontario's sheep industry.

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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