

ONTARIO

Vol. 43 - Issue 3 Fall 2025

SHEEP NEWS



Leading with Vision

Guardians of the Flock: The Essential
Role of Livestock Guardian Dogs

Policy Day, AGM & Ontario Lamb Banquet

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Features

- 6 Guardians of the Flock: The Essential Role of Livestock Guardian Dogs
- 9 Policy Day, AGM & Ontario Lamb Banquet
- 14 Coping Through Fall: Real Supports for Ontario Sheep Farmers
- 4 Chairman's Report: Leading with Vision
- 5 Market Report
- 6 Guardians of the Flock: The Essential Role of Livestock Guardian Dogs
- 9 Policy Day, AGM & Ontario Lamb Banquet
- 10 A Wrap-Up of the 2025 OSF Field Day Event
Written by: Kelsie Armstrong (OMAF Small Ruminant Assistant) & Makinley Boudreault (OMAF Livestock Sustainability Assistant)
- 12 2025 Ontario Sheep Farmers Annual Review: Overview
- 14 Coping Through Fall: Real Supports for Ontario Sheep Farmers
By Walker Ball, Industry Relations Specialist, OFA
- 16 Where Were Your Sheep in August?
By Delma Kennedy, OMAFA
- 18 Count us in for Fecal Egg Counting
- 20 Commercial Breeding Stock Survey
- 21 OSF Photo Contest
- 23 Producer/Sheep Owner Licence Fee Remittance Form
- 24 Genetic and Health Program Enrollment Listing
- 25 2026 Ontario Lamb Market Calendar
- 26 District Contacts
- 27 Auction Markets and Abattoirs
- 28 Classifieds
- 30 Breeder Directory



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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

By Art Alblas, Chair, Ontario Sheep Farmers

Leading with Vision

The Ontario Sheep Farmers introduced their five-year strategic plan, Building Strength for a Better Future, to members at the 2021 AGM, outlining five key deliverables that continue to be highly relevant. At the 2024 summer board meeting the OSF board invested time into adding priorities to the plan, to keep it current with changing market opportunities. The board continued again this year to examine the plan framework to internally build on the priorities and minimize outsourcing expenses. At the July board meeting's day of strategic planning this year, the meeting focused on setting new goals as we sunset the 2021 5-year plan and set sights on the future.

OMAF's Delma Kennedy presented the current state of the sheep industry in Ontario, Canada, and globally to the board. It was interesting to see the distribution of sheep in the world and hard to comprehend just how large the sheep population is in China compared with the rest of the world – 193 million in China vs 77 million in India, 72 million in Australia and 24 million in New Zealand.

Approximately 90% of global sheep meat production is consumed within the country where it is produced. Of the remaining 10% that is traded internationally, the majority originates from Australia and New Zealand. The board discussed the likelihood of Australian and New Zealand exports keeping pace with the growing Canadian demand for lamb as they also supply their voracious Chinese neighbour's growing demand for lamb.

Our ability to supply the domestic market with lamb averages around 40% but as demand in Canada grows, our Ontario ewe flock has been declining in recent years. The steadily rising farm input price index partially explains the flock reductions. This has meant a relatively stagnant sheep industry in Ontario for almost 20 years while imports increase to fulfill the growing demand for lamb for the mainly middle eastern, Asian and north African immigrant population.

The board completed a sheep industry GAP analysis to visualize the gap between our current state and our

desired goals. This was followed by a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis for our Ontario sheep industry closely examining the internal and external factors affecting our organization.

The board deliberated on all this information in two separate groups as they discussed the question: "Ideally, where should the sheep industry in Ontario be 10-15 years from now?".

Following active discussions, both groups agreed to consider the goal: **Ontario lamb production to meet 50% of domestic demand by 2040.**

Once the goal was presented, the board reviewed several strategies that OSF might use to accomplish it. Improved flock health and genetics, education and business tools to support expanding farms, new producer recruitment, farm and value chain modelling for market efficiencies, product improvement through information back to the producer on carcass quality, improved risk management and financing programs for the industry like Financial Protection, the Advanced Payment Program and RMP were suggested by our team.

And now, we turn the question to our OSF membership – how do we best achieve this goal? This will be a topic for our upcoming Policy Day on October 30th in Cambridge at the Cambridge Hotel and Conference Centre. The board encourages you to volunteer as a district delegate to help us continue this conversation. We look forward to a lively and collaborative session with our delegates and encourage ideas from members ahead of the day. **OSN**



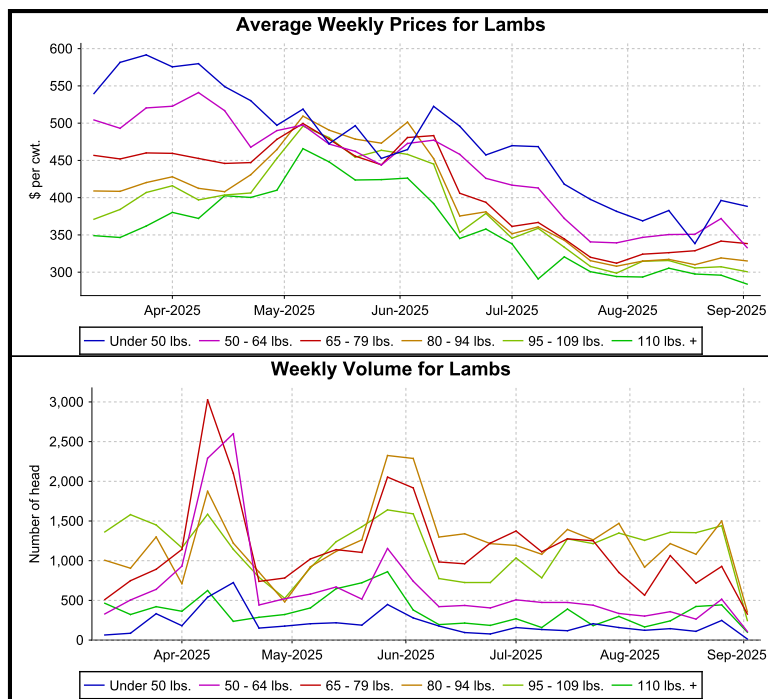
Save the Date!
Policy Day, AGM &
Ontario Lamb Banquet.

Cambridge Convention Centre
October 30th, 2025

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.

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**



You can also listen to the weekly information by calling 519-836-0043 and press 4 to go to the market line.

Market information for OLEX, the Ontario Stockyards, Brussels and Embrun are recorded every week. You can also find archived weekly summaries on the Market page.

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Guardians of the Flock: The Essential Role of Livestock Guardian Dogs

For many Ontario sheep farmers, predators are a constant challenge. Coyotes, ravens, even bears and cougars see flocks as an easy target. That's where livestock guardian dogs (LGDs) step in. They aren't just companions; they're working animals whose presence can mean the difference between a thriving flock and devastating losses.

Few people understand this better than Sarah Loten, who has managed large outdoor flocks in eastern Ontario for nearly three decades. Her farm runs entirely outdoors, meaning her animals are constantly exposed to predators. "There's never been an option not to have guardian dogs," she explains. "Without them, I simply couldn't farm this way."

Choosing the Right Dog

One of the biggest mistakes new farmers make is assuming any guardian dog will do. Breed, background, and environment matter.

For smaller flocks near the barn, a Great Pyrenees or Maremma (steady flock dogs that live right among the sheep and can patrol up to 14km a night) may be enough; but on sprawling operations covering hundreds of acres or rotational grazing systems like solar farms; farmers often add more powerful patrolling breeds such as Gampers, which can travel long distances (up to 40km a night) and stand up to persistent predators.

Just as important is where the dog comes from. Sarah is adamant: always buy from working lines. Puppies raised in barns and fields surrounded by livestock grow up understanding their job. Dogs raised as pets often struggle, leading to frustration for both farmer and animal. Buying from backyard breeders can also carry extra risk, since unvaccinated pups are more vulnerable to diseases like parvo.

And patience is critical. Between 12 and 18 months, many LGDs go through a difficult adolescent stage, chasing or roughhousing with sheep. Farmers may feel they've made a mistake, but most

dogs settle by age two into steady and reliable workers.

Training Through Environment

Training a guardian dog doesn't look like traditional obedience. Instead, it's about shaping the environment so instincts take over. Puppies should live with sheep from the start, not in the house. Sarah starts off by keeping them close to the barn for a while so the dogs associate the smells and sounds with safety before introducing them to the vast expanse of the fields. Their "lessons" come from being immersed in the work: watching older dogs, learning the flock's rhythm, and testing boundaries.

Corrections are part of the process, but Sarah emphasizes that the environment itself does most of the teaching. Strong fences, consistent routines, and the presence of livestock set them up for success.

Health and Management

To support their workload, regular health care is non-negotiable: vaccinations, deworming, tick protection, and a good diet are all part of the routine. LGDs are athletes, working harder than most pet dogs in all conditions, so they need quality food with adequate protein and fat to function optimally. Cheap, low-quality food doesn't sustain them over time.

Occasionally, dogs may require medication for pain or arthritis, such as Previcox, Metacam, or Meloxicam, but these are used as needed, not added to their food routinely.

Continued on page 8.



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- Michael Richards, MGR Sheep Farms, Ontario

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Spaying or neutering is another practical step. Intact dogs are more prone to aggression and wandering, behaviors that complicate their work. For Sarah, altering dogs she doesn't plan to breed has made management smoother and less of a hair-pulling experience, as it's a frustrating attempt to keep the males away from the females.

Technology also plays a growing role. Tracking collars allow her to monitor movements and locate dogs quickly, especially on large grazing sites. "If I know where the dog is, I usually know where the sheep are too," she notes.

Bridging the Gap With the Public

Guardian dogs aren't house pets. They're specialized partners, honed over thousands of years to protect flocks, balance life with predators and bred to live outdoors, enduring the elements.

As rural areas become more suburban, guardian dogs often confuse or alarm neighbors. Their sheer size, constant presence outdoors, and tendency to bark can be misread as neglect.

For farmers like Sarah, they make outdoor sheep production not just possible but sustainable and without them, farmers would be forced to choose between heavy losses or housing sheep indoors year-round.

Sarah spends significant time explaining their role to non-farmers, showing pictures of what happens to her flock without their protection.

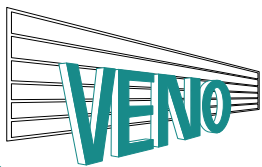
She also adapts her management, moving flocks away from fencelines during times when barking is heavier, and maintaining open communication with nearby households. Education and transparency, she's found, builds trust. In her words, it's about balance: "I'm willing to share a little with wildlife, but not all my sheep. These dogs make that balance possible."

Working to the End

Livestock guardian dogs typically serve for around ten years, though some work longer. Sarah doesn't retire them to couches or kennels when they age. Instead, she adjusts their workload, giving them smaller patrols, more rest, or easier assignments. Sarah explains that older dogs will naturally slow down and rest when their body calls them to do so. It's about listening to their needs, what they're telling you and not forcing them to work against their body.

"They're happiest when they're still with the flock," she says. One of her most loyal dogs literally worked at his slow pace until the day he died. For Sarah, that's not sad but fitting: "They go with their boots on."

To hear the full interview, visit our Flock Talk Podcast on all streaming channels and our website. **OSN**



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Policy Day, AGM & Ontario Lamb Banquet

Cambridge Convention Centre • October 30th, 2025



For the first time, Ontario Sheep Farmers will be hosting a Policy Day ahead of our Annual General Meeting. This new addition will bring delegates together for focused discussions on issues vital to the future of our industry. By engaging their districts beforehand, delegates will arrive prepared to represent grassroots perspectives and provide the board with meaningful insights.

Facilitator Crystal Mackay will lead delegates through the Policy Day workshop, focused on improving returns to producers and encouraging increased lamb production in Ontario. The day will begin with a speaker panel, followed by moderated breakout sessions designed to capture member input to guide the board. Presentations include:

- The Quebec grading and marketing system: success and lessons learned with Christian Beaudry, LEOQ
- The direct-to-market opportunity with Bill McCutcheon, White Valley
- Price discovery options with Steve Duff, OMAFA
- Followed by a Q&A panel with all speakers

In the afternoon, we move into our Annual General Meeting, featuring a keynote address by Crystal Mackay of Loft32: "Let's fuel the people who feed the world: the new blueprint for collaboration."

The AGM is where the organization presents an overview of all business and financial information from the past year. Members will also receive a review of discussions from Policy Day, ensuring that those who were unable to attend are brought up to speed.

This year, there will be no convention, as Field Day in July served as our educational opportunity for producers this year.

The AGM will conclude with our Lamb Banquet, a special evening to celebrate OSF's 40th anniversary and honour our community with our scholarship and awards presentations.



Join us as we lead with vision, strengthen collaboration, and shape the future of Ontario's sheep industry together. Please visit the events page on our website <https://www.ontariosheep.org> get your tickets. **OSN**

POLICY DAY DRAFT AGENDA THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2025 <i>*This session is only for voting delegates</i>	
9:00 AM	WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of the day - Art Alblas, Chair • Introduction by the facilitator - Crystal Mackay, Loft 32
9:30 AM	PRESENTATIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Quebec grading and marketing system - successes and lessons learned, Christian Beaudry, LEOQ • The Direct-to-Market Opportunity, Bill McCutcheon, White Valley • Price Discovery Options, Steve Duff, OMAFA • Q&A panel with the speakers
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM	DELEGATE ENGAGEMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visioning exercise • Break out groups • Wrap up and next steps
12:30 PM	LUNCH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING DRAFT AGENDA THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30TH, 2025	
1:30 PM	WELCOME AND AGM INTRODUCTIONS 40TH ANNIVERSARY VIDEO
1:50 PM	CONVENE ONTARIO SHEEP FARMERS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Adoption of agenda Approval of 2024 annual meeting minutes Election of scrutineers
2:00 PM	CHAIR'S REPORT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of policy day discussions • 2024-25 year in review
2:30 PM	REVIEW OF 2024/2025 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Approval of 2024/2025 financial statements
2:45 PM	KEYNOTE SPEAKER: CRYSTAL MACKAY, LOFT 32 Let's Fuel the People Who Feed the World - The new blueprint for collaboration
3:30 PM	NUTRITION BREAK
3:45 PM	PRESENTATION OF 2025/2026 BUDGET Approval of 2025/2026 budget
4:00 PM	2024 RESOLUTIONS REPORT 2025 RESOLUTIONS PRESENTATION
5:00 PM	ADJOURNMENT OF OSF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
6:30 PM	ONTARIO LAMB BANQUET RECEPTION SUSSEX BALLROOM. Semi formal attire Cash bar
7:15 PM	ONTARIO LAMB BANQUET Welcome Grace Dinner featuring Ontario lamb
8:15 PM	ANNOUNCEMENT OF 2025/2026 ONTARIO SHEEP FARMERS OFFICERS ONTARIO SHEEP FARMERS AWARDS PRESENTATIONS
9:15 PM	ADJOURN

A Wrap-Up of the 2025 OSF Field Day Event

Written by: Kelsie Armstrong (OMAF Small Ruminant Assistant) & Makinley Boudreault (OMAF Livestock Sustainability Assistant)

In case you missed it, on July 24th the Ontario Sheep Farmers, hosted the 2025 OSF Field Day event alongside Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness and the Large Flock Operators. This event took place at the Orono Fairgrounds and was the second of its kind and the first to run post-covid under OSF organization.

Over the course of the day, the fairgrounds saw over 300 people, who had the opportunity to learn about the innovative equipment and technology that is bringing the sheep industry to the next level. With the hopes of one day comparing to the National Sheep Association sheep event (UK) and Ontario Pork Congress, Field Day included a tradeshow, food trucks, speeches from dignitaries and professionals and 11 unique equipment and technology demonstrations. Although, there is plenty of room for this event to grow in the future, the start it had was beyond what our committee had expected, and we look forward to seeing all the forms it takes on in the future.



Kelsie (Left) and Makinley (Right); OMAFA summer students that helped execute the event

Attendees had the opportunity to watch speed fencing, handling system, young lamb management, and software and data demos. A popular attraction was the live sheep handling system demonstrations, where Huber Ag. Equipment, Prattley, Schummer Enterprise (Kevin Kidd Equipment), and Veno (Zuidervaat Agri-Import Ltd.) presented their various handling systems side-by-side with live sheep.

To accommodate the attendees, the demonstrations were both visually and audibly broadcasted into Barn #3.

In addition to the wide range of demonstrations,

Field Day welcomed over 40 diverse exhibitors, offering attendees a variety of products and the opportunity to connect directly with vendors. Exhibitor booths featured feed suppliers, equipment companies, and everything

in between, captivating the heart of sheep production in Ontario. This in-person interaction kickstarts the business-to-business relationships that are vital to every successful farming operation.

A huge thank you needs to go out to everyone who assisted with this event! All our generous in-kind and financial sponsors including Lewis Land & Stock and Stubbe's Precast Commercial Ltd. Additionally, thank you to our amazing exhibitors and demonstrators and our hard-working volunteers for helping to make this event such a success.

Stay tuned for OSF's next Field Day in 2027- it will be the sheep event of the year and you won't want to miss it! **OSN**



Field Day attracted over 300 attendees with live demonstration that were relayed to large screens next door.

This year, Field Day's main attraction was the impressive lineup of live demonstrations that gave producers of all flock sizes, an up-close look at the latest in sheep management.



James Clark, Gallagher Animal Management.



Chris Moore, Shady Creek Lamb Co.



From left to right: Senator Robert Black, OSF Chair, Art Alblas, and MP Philip Lawrence



Sheep supplied by Lewis Land and Livestock.



OSF Executive Director, Erin Morgan



Kai Greon. Veno Equipment supplied by Zuidervaat Agri Imports.



*Dr. Gregory Aitken, DVM.
Peterborough Vet Services
(Solvet)*



Jeff Wilker (Weber Farm Services) and Anita O'Brien (OSF)



*Kelsie Armstrong
(OMAF summer student).*

2025 Ontario Sheep Farmers Annual Review: Overview



1. Theme & Strategic Planning

The Ontario Sheep Farmers board of directors set the course for the 2024/25 fiscal year with the theme, "Unlocking Profit Potential". This year, the board has spent time discussing the current strategic plan as it wraps up and ways to improve upon it in the future. The marketing, research and predation committees have been engaged in program improvements and strategic planning. Full details, including context, people, metrics, and results, are available in the complete OSF Annual Review.

2. Strategic Plan Pillars

There are five pillars in the Ontario Sheep Farmers:

**Community, Prosperity, Mastery,
Invest, Operations**

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3. Community: Key Wins

Risk Management Program Increase

The Ontario government announced a \$100M increase to the Risk Management Program over 2025-2027, OSF's top advocacy goal. This milestone strengthens financial security for sheep farmers and was achieved through collaboration with the Ontario Agriculture Sustainability Coalition.

Veterinary Access & Advocacy

OSF prioritized access to veterinary tools and care – the top federal priority identified by members. Efforts included supporting the Canadian Sheep Federation's white paper and advocating for more food animal veterinarians in remote regions.

Other Community Initiatives

- Provincial priorities: Wildlife Damage Compensation improvements, guardian dog regulation clarity, trade safety, agricultural research investments

- Federal priorities: Trade safety, Advanced Payment Program increase, federal research, improved business risk management

- Supporting traceability transition to Canadian Sheep Federation and Milk Act updates for sheep milk producers

4. Prosperity: Key Wins

BBQ Promotion Campaigns

Social media campaigns at Longo's stores (2024 pilot and 2025 repeat) drove consumer engagement and increased sales. 2024 campaign achieved 1.5M views at a cost of \$2.17 per thousand views on Meta platforms; YouTube had a higher cost per view. Campaigns included professional videos and product photography.

The 2025 promotion, with the same dollar investment over the same mid-summer time period, reached over 2.7 million impressions and cost \$2.18 per thousand views on Meta. This year, OSF measured the number of times people clicked through to the Lamb Recipes website and 3,700 people wanted our recipes!

Farm Tours & VR Experience

Partnership with Farm & Food Care brought virtual farm tours to life. A VR headset of the 2024 Van der Veen farm tour now engages visitors at consumer shows, providing immersive exposure to Ontario sheep farms.

International Market Research

The board completed an international market research project in 2025. Recommendations were provided to the marketing committee and shaped AGM Policy Day discussions on OSF's strategic direction.

Other Prosperity Highlights

- Ongoing processor engagement on pricing, carcass grading, and condemnation rates

5. Mastery: Key Wins

Master Shepherds' Course

A new cohort of the Master Shepherds' course started in January of 2025. They completed the first six modules of the course in this fiscal year including their in-person farm tours and business planning workshop.

Field Day 2025

First OSF Field Day held July 24 in Orono with 300+ attendees and 41 exhibitors. Highlights included live demonstrations of fencing and handling techniques.

Other Mastery Initiatives

- Five FEC courses delivered and three Animal Welfare Services inspector trainings
- OSF attended ~15 animal welfare calls to support producers
- Grazing course in development; includes self-guided modules, business plan, and mentorship
- Genetics expert Mark Ferguson toured Ontario farms and shared insights at Convention
- Three on-farm workshops where 29 AWS inspectors improved their sheep handling skills and knowledge.

6. Invest: Key Wins

Parasite & Grazing Research

Dr. Emma Borkowski's CarLA antibody study continues to inform genetic selection strategies for parasite

resistance, addressing limited drench options and rising resistance. Living Labs project evaluates grazing impacts on pasture, soil, and corn yield; results expected after corn harvest 2025.

Ponsonby Research Station

A proposal for utilizing Ponsonby for a central progeny test for improving genetic resistance to parasites and cocci is underway. We will work with Dr. Angela Canovas to submit a funding proposal this fall.

Other Investment Highlights

- Breeding stock survey completed
- Producer engagement: Field Day, farm shows, Dairy Sheep Symposium
- 4H Sheep Club manual updated and distributed
- Communications: Wellness Journal (funded through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership) mailed to members, weekly Flock Talk podcast, quarterly magazine, bi-weekly Messenger, website/social updates

7. Operations: Key Wins

Tribunal & Regulation Updates


Fall 2024 tribunal required OSF to update regulations; changes implemented Nov 2024.


Board Strategic Planning

Biannual sessions guide priorities: December post-AGM and summer district session. July 2025 meeting in Perth initiated development of new strategic priorities.

National Collaboration

Executive engagement with Canadian Sheep Federation focused on national unity. First joint event: fall 2025 pregnancy ultrasound course. **OSN**





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Coping Through Fall: Real Supports for Ontario Sheep Farmers

By Walker Ball, Industry Relations Specialist, OSF

Real Supports for Ontario Sheep Farmers

As the days shorten and the light fades, every farmer feels the shift. It's the mix of joy in the season, colours changing, family gatherings, the rhythm of harvest, set against the weight of waking up in the dark and carrying heaviness in your chest before your boots even hit the floor. That dullness or numbness that creeps in isn't weakness, it's human. And while many of us were raised in a culture of "suck it up" and push through, we now know better. Everyone who loses light feels it, and pretending it isn't there only makes it harder.

This article isn't about clichés like "take a deep breath" or "go for a walk." It's about real, tangible things you can do to support your body and mind through a season that challenges so many of us in agriculture.

Light Therapy for Shorter Days

As daylight decreases, Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) can creep in. A simple, effective option is a SAD light, a full-spectrum lamp that mimics natural sunlight. Using one for 20-30 minutes in the morning can help boost energy and mood, especially as the days shorten. Pop it on in the corner while you're eating breakfast. You only need a small one for around \$50 and it will make a difference.

Fueling Your Body with Protein

Stress and long days can make it tempting to grab quick carbs, bread, chips, or sweets, for fast energy. But while those might give a short boost, they won't keep you full, and the crash that follows can hit both your energy and your mood.

Protein, on the other hand, is essential. Your body literally needs protein to synthesize DNA, repair cells, and keep your brain functioning well. Eating enough protein stabilizes blood sugar, keeps energy steady, and helps you feel fuller for longer.

That doesn't mean fancy meals. Simple options like boiled eggs, jerky, Greek yogurt, cheese sticks, or even a protein shake can keep you fueled without taking

much time out of your day. Even tossing a couple of protein bars in the truck or the chore coat pocket can be the thing that turns the day around, quick to grab, steady energy, and no crash.

And if you're making shakes, consider using a beef protein powder. It usually tastes far better than whey or plant-based powders, and when you mix it into warm milk, it makes for a surprisingly rich, high-protein hot chocolate.

Magnesium: The Unsung Essential

Magnesium isn't just another supplement on the shelf, it literally runs your organs. It supports your heart, muscles, digestion, and nervous system. When you don't get enough, it can show up as anxiety, jitteriness, poor sleep, or constant fatigue.

Most adults need around 400 mg a day, and many farmers aren't getting close. The good news is that there are options that fit different lifestyles:

- Capsules: simple if you're already used to taking vitamins.
- Liquids: quick to measure and swallow and come in flavours or unflavoured.
- Powders: mix into water, either unflavoured or in berry/tropical flavours.

It's a common misunderstanding that magnesium "makes you sleepy." What it actually does is calm the nervous system. If you take it in the morning, it can help you start the day in a more measured way, less wound up and anxious. If you take it about an hour before bed, it works with your body's natural readiness to sleep, helping you relax deeper and get more restorative rest.

And if drinking plain water is a challenge, a flavoured magnesium powder is a great way to hydrate and supplement at the same time, killing two predatory ravens with one stone.

The Gut and Brain Link

More and more research shows that our mood is deeply connected to our gut microbiome. The bacteria living in your digestive system don't just help process food, they also influence brain chemistry, hormone balance, and mood regulation.

One of the strongest findings? Even a single round of antibiotics can significantly

increase the risk of depression, because it wipes out large portions of beneficial gut bacteria. Rebuilding that balance matters.

Ways to strengthen your gut microbiome:

- Probiotics: a daily capsule can reintroduce healthy bacteria.
- Fermented foods: kefir, sauerkraut, sourdough, kombucha, tempeh, miso, or kimchi are all natural ways to boost gut health.
- Consistency: it's not about one serving, but about weaving gut-supporting foods into your regular diet.

Farmers often think of the microbiome when talking about soil or ruminants, but the gut and brain connection in humans is just as massive. Take care of your gut, and your mind will follow.

Community and the Farmer Wellness Journal

Isolation is one of the biggest risks in farming. Scheduling regular calls with neighbours, family, or a farming group, even if it's just to compare pasture conditions, keeps the connection alive. Think of it as maintenance for your mental health, just like your flock.

The Farmer Wellness Initiative also offers free, confidential counselling 24/7 at 1-866-267-6255. Having the number taped to the fridge or barn wall means you don't need to search for it when you're already struggling.

We also provide the Farmer Wellness Journal, a free resource for our members. It includes a wellness wheel to help you reflect on different areas of your life, weekly priorities, gratitude lists, a full-year calendar, and space for personal reflections. For producers who are new to actively supporting their mental health, it's a simple tool to map out where things are and aren't working. Give us a call to arrange delivery or pick up.

Closing Thought

Farmers are some of the most resilient people, but resilience doesn't mean running on empty. These months ahead will ask a lot of you. If you take steps to support your own well-being, through light, nutrition, magnesium, gut health, and community, you'll be better positioned to support your farm and your family. **OSN**

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Where Were Your Sheep in August?

By Delma Kennedy, OMAFA

I'm not sure if you remember but during the first half of August there was a hot spell. Usually when we get hot days there is a bit of a cooling overnight. But from 8 am on August 9th to 8 pm on August 12th, there was little relief from the heat. This means that your rams might not be as fertile as usual in September and ewes bred during that time might not conceive as well as usual.

What is heat stress for sheep?

Heat stress is when core body temperature rises because of outside temperature. Sheep are considered to be a heat tolerant species, but not all breeds and individual animals have the same heat tolerance. Most of the breeds in Ontario are temperate breeds

which perform the best and are most comfortable when temperatures are between 5 and 25 degrees Celsius. When sheep are heat stressed, their respiration rate increases, they drink more water, they stop eating, their heart rate increases, they sweat and they pant. These are natural body processes to bring core body temperature down, similar to what we notice ourselves. Adequate water, not moving sheep and providing shade under heat stress will generally avoid distress. Although sheep adapt to heat and can tolerate heat stress events, there are production consequences to heat stress.

How does heat stress affect rams?

In the ram, the scrotum is the cooling system which keeps the testicles about

4°C cooler than body temperature. When rams experience heat stress and the scrotum is not cool enough, the number of abnormal sperm increase while sperm motility and sperm numbers decrease. The production of sperm takes time and sperm that are already developed at the time of heat stress will be normal. But by two weeks after heat stress, ewes don't get pregnant. Then, it can be 8 weeks or the time that it takes for sperm to develop before the ram will have optimal fertility again.

Heat stress does not have the same affect on all rams. Different breeds, different individuals within a breed may have different outcomes from the same heat stress event. The duration of a heat event increases the chances that your rams will be affected.



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How does heat stress affect breeding ewes?

It is clear from several studies that ewes experiencing heat stress 7 days before and for 5 to 7 days after breeding are the most affected by heat stress resulting in failure to conceive, shorter estrus and embryo loss. Ewes experiencing heat stress are 2.4 times less likely to get pregnant than a ewe that isn't heat stressed according to analysis done by Wettere et al, 2021 in their review of the literature. There is some evidence that cooling at night may be enough to preserve pregnancy and that intensity and duration of heat during the day affects ewes. The effect of heat stress is most damaging the day before breeding, the day of breeding and the day after breeding with little to no lambing results in most studies. As a result, if you have synchronized ewes, delaying breeding by even two or three days can potentially improve the number of pregnancies if it means they are cooler when they are bred.

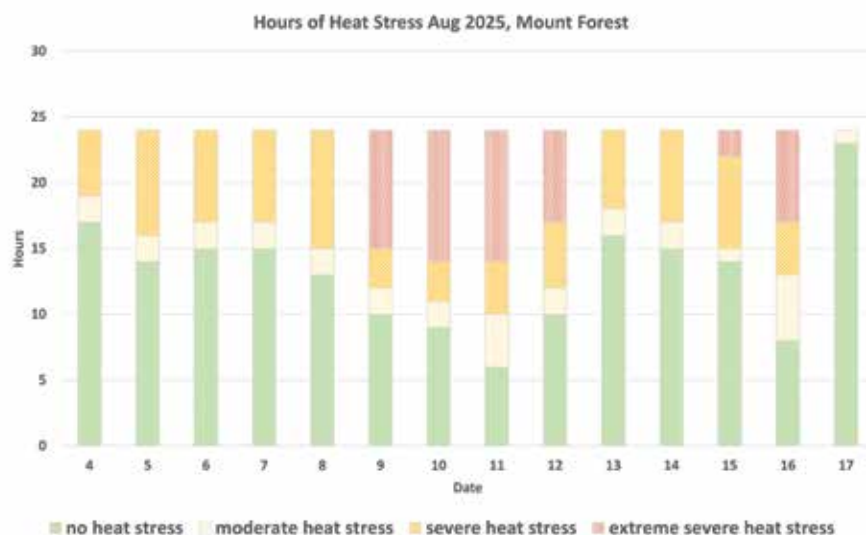
Temperature Humidity Index (THI)

The temperature humidity index (THI) was developed to estimate when potential heat stress might happen. Researchers Marai et al. 2007, suggest that the potential for heat stress takes place when the THI reaches 22.2. Table 1 shows the THI ranges for different levels of heat stress.

Table 1. Levels of Potential Stress at Different Temperature Humidity Index Values

Temperature Humidity Index Range in °C	Stress
<22.2	No heat stress
22.2 to <23.3	Moderate heat stress
23.3 to <25.6	Severe heat stress
25.6 +	Extreme severe heat stress

Figure 1. Number of hours of heat stress per day August 4–17, 2025 at Mount Forest Ontario.



What did heat stress look like in August 2025?

Using the THI (temperature humidity index) to estimate heat stress as suggested by researchers, Marai et al. 2007, figure 1 shows the hours of heat stress from August 4th to 17th. The green part of the bar is no heat stress, with yellow showing moderate heat stress, orange showing severe heat stress and red showing extreme severe heat stress. This shows a period of 13 days with significant heat stress before the weather cools on August 17th.

The first 5 days show moderate to severe heat stress for 7-11 hours per day. Then for the 4 days from the 9th to 12th, heat stress climbs to 14-18 hours a day with many of those hours in the extreme severe heat stress category. There was little relief on these days from heat stress. The THI accounts for temperature and humidity but not the affect of wind or solar radiation. This means that sheep without access to shade had worse heat stress conditions and sheep in shade with a breeze had better heat stress conditions. This graph uses weather data from the weather station in Mount Forest, ON. On your farm at sheep level, the weather may have been different.

Conclusions

Rams vary in their ability to withstand hot temperatures and prevent the temperature of their testes from increasing. If the temperature of the testes does rise, there will be sperm damage. Rams exposed to heat stress this past August may not get ewes pregnant in September. Ewes being bred during the heat stress event will likely have lower conception rates than usual. The first sign of a sheep experiencing moderate heat stress is when they open their mouths to pant. Access to shade and any area with a breeze can help preserve the production of your animals. It is worth having a plan to keep your rams cool even when short hot weather events happen. **OSN**

References:

Government of Canada. 2025. Historical data, hourly data reports August 2025. http://weather.gc.ca/past_conditions/index_e.html?station=wls accessed Aug 19, 2025.

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Wettere, William H. E. J. van, Kind, Karen L., Gatford, Kathryn L., Swinbourne, Alyce M., Leu, Stephan T., Hayman, Peter T., Kelly, Jennifer M., Weaver, Alice C., Kleemann, David O., Walker, Simon K. 2021. Review of the impact of heat stress on reproductive performance of sheep. *Journal of Animal Science and Biotechnology* 2021 12:26.

Count us in for Fecal Egg Counting

During the months of June and July, OSF staff turned community halls and church basements into sheep poop sample mini labs for our fecal egg counting workshops.

Forty eight participants made up of producers and veterinarians met at five locations across the province to participate in the OSF Fecal Egg Counting workshop with the goal to

acquire a specific skill set: How to identify and count gastrointestinal nematode (GIN) parasite eggs in a fecal sample.

Through hands-on practice backed by theoretical knowledge-sharing, these classes were taught by parasitologists, veterinarians and University of Guelph post-grad students.

Each class began with a brief overview of the life cycle of GIN parasites.

Discussions about how producers are currently managing parasites and how anthelmintic resistance develops, aided producers in understanding the importance of adopting additional management tools such as FEC evaluation.

Participants were taught how to prepare a slide for analysis on the microscope and were then split into small groups, and using samples from their own farms, prepared their own fecal float slides.

With support from the workshop leaders and OSF staff, participants analyzed their samples using microscopes; learning the critical skill of identifying which items are GINs. Sometimes what you're looking at under the lens could be a piece of hay, wool fibre or even a grain of pollen. This important management tool is transforming how producers approach parasites and shifting the way they use anthelmintics on farms.

With parasites boasting significant evolutionary life cycle advancements over the past several decades, today's management processes often involve more intricate graze planning and a more targeted application of dewormers than what we have seen



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in the past, resulting in GINs often being described as a primary reason producers move away from grazing or get out of sheep all together.

It can be said that every time a producer uses an anthelmintic, they move one step closer to seeing anthelmintic resistance in their flock.

Using fecal egg counting to help assess parasite loads in a sheep flock is one way to decrease reliance on anthelmintics and change the way in which these drugs are used on farms.



The FEC skill allows producers to hone in on whether GIN and or coccidiosis oocytes are present and to what extent they are impacting their animals.

stock showing resistance. All flocks see benefit from identifying high shedding animals for removal.

Running fecal samples on farm allows producers to apply this technical lab skill in a multitude of ways, in a cost effective and timely manner which lends itself to greater utilization of the technology going forward.

By bringing lab skills into farm practice, fecal egg counting is giving Ontario sheep producers a cost-effective way to monitor parasite loads, use dewormers only when needed, and build healthier, more resilient flocks while slowing the rise of drug resistance. **OSN**



Flocks of all size benefit from the application of this tool. While small flocks are able to test a higher percentage of animals in the flock overall for an in depth flock wide picture, larger flocks are better able to assess efficacy of anthelmintics, keep an eye out for the development of resistance, and more effectively select breeding

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Commercial Breeding Stock Survey

Commercial breeding stock is undervalued in the Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program. Our members have been critical of the program's commercial breeding stock valuations for years and a survey of producers this winter provided the details required to advocate for higher compensation for losses to predation.

The Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program aims to support producers in Ontario by compensating them for losses incurred due to wildlife predation.

Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program Summary
(Paid April 2024 - March 2025)
By Species

Species	Number of Head Approved	Owner Compensation (\$)	Average Compensation per Head (\$)
Alpaca	1	\$500.00	\$500.00
Bees*	0	\$108,899.00	
Bison	2	\$2,182.50	\$1,091.25
Cattle	579	\$1,101,040.75	\$1,901.62
Chicken	543	\$3,573.97	\$6.58
Deer	6	\$3,366.00	\$561.00
Donkey	1	\$202.50	\$202.50
Duck	26	\$72.80	\$2.80
Emu	1	\$200.00	\$200.00
Goat	18	\$3,002.50	\$166.81
Goose	5	\$130.00	\$26.00
Horse	6	\$6,289.76	\$1,048.29
Pheasant, ring-necked	251	\$3,765.00	\$15.00
Sheep	934	\$266,346.22	\$285.17
Turkey	164	\$1,233.50	\$7.52
Total	2537	\$1,500,804.50	\$591.57

County	Number of Head	Owner Compensation	Avg Compensation/ Head (\$)
Grey	133	\$39,366.20	\$295.99
Prince Edward	119	\$27,164.38	228.27
Leeds & Grenville	55	\$16,011.34	\$291.12
Kawartha Lakes	53	\$16,588.87	\$313.00
Peterborough	42	\$13,497.58	\$321.37
Lanark	38	\$11,053.14	\$290.87
Northumberland	33	\$8,797.34	\$266.59
Durham Region	31	\$9,852.30	\$317.82
Huron	27	\$10,242.06	\$379.34
Bruce	25	\$8,339.46	\$333.58
Prescott & Russell	23	\$7,517.22	\$326.84
Parry Sound District	23	\$3,398.78	\$147.77
Dufferin	21	\$6,357.36	\$302.73
Wellington	20	\$5,838.88	\$291.94
Timiskaming District	18	\$5,133.96	\$285.22
Norfolk	18	\$3,628.80	\$201.60

*Only counties with over 15 kills in 2024 were included in the chart.

Continued on page 22.



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2025 OSF PHOTO CONTEST

ARE YOU A MASTER AT FRAMING FLOCKS? OUR PHOTO CONTEST IS CALLING!

Entries are now open for the 2025 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 2025 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 "2025 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, 2025.

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.



Sheep farmers have the highest wildlife kills each year across all livestock and poultry claims with 934 claims in 2024/25, and the second highest total compensation after cattle at \$266,000 in 2024/25 (behind \$1.1 million in claims for cattle).

The majority of sheep claims are for coyote kills (816) followed by raven claims (63) and wolf claims (21). And certain counties bear the greatest wildlife pressure – Grey (133), Prince Edward (119) and Lennox/Addington (103) have double the next highest county's claims.

Producers raising commercial breeding stock brought resolutions to the OSF Annual Meeting, requesting the board address the discrepancy between purebred breeding stock values in the program that recognize the investment in raising replacement stock and commercial breeding stock values that are compensated by the program at cull prices.

The resolution also requested OSF examine the value of young animals less than a year old and address the discrepancy in program value between animals compensated at market rates and animals that should be compensated at a higher breeding stock rate.

A recommendation was made by OSF's Predation Committee to survey producers annually to determine each year's average commercial breeding stock values. The government conducts

similar surveys to gather information on other farm related costs, so we followed a similar approach to learn average breeding stock values with the intention of sharing aggregate results with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA).

Thank you to all producers who completed the survey in February. There were 150 surveys returned to OSF and 50 of the producers who completed the survey sold breeding stock in 2024 and were able to contribute to the aggregate commercial breeding stock values that have been shared with OMAFA.

Here are the survey results:

Summary Average Price from 2024 survey

		Rpl. ewe lambs (40)*	Rpl. Ram lambs (26)	Yearling ewes (17)	Yearling rams (24)	Mature Ewes (12)	Mature Rams (14)
Commercial		\$397 (943)**	\$857 (116)	\$435 (164)	\$922 (57)	\$407 (57)	\$500 (14)
OWDCP FMV24	Comm.	\$305"	\$405"	\$305"	\$405"	\$305"	\$405"
	PB reg.	\$610	\$810	\$610	\$810	\$610	\$810
		x2 for registered stock; x1.5 for pregnant sheep with appropriate documentation					

*number of respondents
**head sold
"Price increased from \$290 and \$390 in Feb 2023

As you can see in the chart, the commercial breeding values shared in the survey vary from 25% higher than the cull price to over double the cull price. More work will need to be done to determine whether there is a factor over

the cull price we can use for commercial breeding stock, similar to the 2x factor used for registered purebred breeding stock.

The OSF Predation Committee met with OMAFA in July to discuss the results of the survey and recommended replacement lambs be defined as those selected for breeding at 8 months of age or older, mature breeding stock be defined as 2-6 years of age and older than 6 years be considered a cull.

The meeting with OMAFA to share the results of our survey was a good start and well received. The next step is for the Ministry to review our survey results in more detail.

At this point, OMAFA has not committed to increasing the value of commercial breeding stock in the program. OSF will continue to advocate for changes to the Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program and will update members on our progress. **OSN**





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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.

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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 SEPTEMBER 2025)

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Cedar Grove Farm • Quintin Mc Ewen • (519) 949-4130
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Circle R Livestock • Ryan & Romy Schill • (519) 669-4146
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Cedar Creek Charollais • Ted & Joanne Skinner • (905) 263-2102
Century Lane Farm • Robert & Shirley Graves • (613) 831-2656
Kettle Crest Farm • Art & Sandra Alblas • (519) 637-0050
Rainbow Woods • Eleanor & Sarah Reed • (705) 454-3167
Robert Pennie • (705) 859-2671

Rider Ridge Ranch • Jill & Tim DeClark • (519) 644-0766
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Huron Grove Farms • Michael & Fraser Hodgson • (519) 918-4159

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For more information visit scrapiecanada.ca/vsfc/vsfc-enrolled-producers/.

THE 2026 ONTARIO LAMB MARKET CALENDAR

Date	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 19	Chinese 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.
February 19 - March 19	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 19-20	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 1-9	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.
April 5	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 12	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.
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 24-26	The Hajj (Islam)			
May 26-28	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.
June 16	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.
August 25	Mawlid al-Nabi (Birthday of the Prophet Muhammad)			
September 11-13	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 12	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 4-12	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.

District Contacts

Look for your district news and events in the Messenger or on the website.

District 1

Counties of Essex, Kent, Lambton, Middlesex, and Elgin

Director	Art Alblas	519.637.0050
Chair	Andrew Pearson	519.301.6875
Vice Chair	Jeff Swain	519.466.0984
Secretary	Kacey Wilson	519.521.6742
Treasurer	Jennifer Van Hooydork	519.520.7970

District 2

Counties of Grey and Bruce

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Vice Chair	Petra Aeberhard	519.655.2017
Secretary	Dennis Thompson	519.881.3174
Treasurer	Steve Ernewein	519.392.8624

District 3

Counties of Huron, Perth, Waterloo and Oxford

Director	Keith Todd	519.525.7539
Chair	Susan Martin	519.669.8066
Vice Chair	Ron Follings	519.625.8809
Secretary	Cynthia Kretschmann	519.272.3907
Treasurer	Rick Zimak	519.284.0533

District 4

County of Brant, Regional Municipalities of Hamilton-Wentworth, Haldimand-Norfolk and Niagara

Director	Rafael Lara	226.622.8097
Chair	Jay Mycroft	905.957.1114
Secretary	Vacant	
Treasurer	Monica Roberts	519.755.7487

District 5

Counties of Wellington and Dufferin and the Regional Municipalities of Halton and Peel

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Chair	Mike Swidersky	519-370-8586
Vice Chair	Heather Little	519.939.0408
Secretary	Romy Schill	519.699.4146
Treasurer	Bill McCutcheon	519.766.7905

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County of Simcoe, District Municipality of Muskoka and the District of Parry Sound

Director	Grant Cowan	705.436.2236
Chair	Rachel Brooks	705.828.0059
Vice Chair	Dean Keranovic	647.889.6785

District 7

City of Toronto, Regional Municipalities of York and Durham, City of Kawartha Lakes, and Counties of Peterborough and Northumberland

Director	Ken Lamb	905.985.4247
Chair	Kim Schneider	905.404.7811
Vice Chair	Allison de Vos	705.308.3284
Secretary	Tracey Werry	289.385.6804
Treasurer	Jenny Carnaghan	905.261.1658

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Counties of Lennox and Addington, Hastings, Prince Edward, Frontenac and Leeds

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Chair	Phil Botden	613.358.2676
Vice Chair	Brad Davis	613.561.7731
Secretary	Kayleigh Graham	289.355.9947
Treasurer	Krystyna Dallaire	613.312.7905

District 9

Counties of Renfrew and Lanark, and the Township of West Carleton and the City of Kanata in the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton

Director	Wesley Godden	647.244.4768
Chair	Kim Groskleg	613.717.3795
Vice-Chair	Shanna Armstrong	613.433.8255
Secretary	Charlotte MacKay	613.281.7570
Treasurer	Zabrina Bielaski	613.433.6199

District 10

Counties of Russell, Prescott, Glengarry Stormont, Dundas and Grenville, and the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, except the Township of West Carleton and the City of Kanata

Director	Devon Wensink	613.330.8014
Chair	Colleen Acres	613.826.2330
Vice Chair	Fred Baker	613.327.8508
Secretary	Yvonne Seeley	613.330.0272
Treasurer	Sarah Jean Campbell	613.330.8014

District 11

Districts of Kenora, Rainy River, Thunder Bay, Cochrane, Algoma, Sudbury, Temiskaming, Nipissing and Manitoulin

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Chair	Colleen Allooi	705.248.3287
Vice Chair	Ryan Klapwyk	705.648.4432
Secretary	Trudy Reid	807.935.3224

OSN

Auction Markets and Abattoirs

ABATTOIRS		
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
Bentnick Packers Ltd.	Hanover	(519) 364-3538
Beverly Creek Farm	Millgrove	(905) 690-8111
*Bilal Farms Inc.	Clarence Creek	(613) 488-2268
Birch Lake Abattoir	Massey	(705) 865-1366
Brian Quinn's Meats Ltd.	Yarker	(613) 377-6430
Burt Farm Country Meats	Gore Bay	(705) 282-0328
Caledon Halal Meat Packers	Bolton	(905) 880-9888
Charles Quality Meats Ltd.	St. Agatha	(519) 886-7931
Cloverbelt Country Meats Co-operative	Oxdrift	(807) 937-6716
Cole Bros. Meat Processing	Picton	(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
J.J. Meat Distributing Inc.	Schomberg	(905) 859-1540
Joe Savage & Fils Abattoir Inc.	St. Albert	(613) 987-2070
Johnson Meats	Aylmer	(519) 773-9208
Ken R. Mogk Butchering	Tavistock	(519) 462-2280
L & M Meat Distributing Inc.	Beeton	(905) 729-2771
L & M Meat Distributing Inc.	Gilford	(905) 775-6775
Matar Meats	Osgoode	(613) 821-7929
Miedema's Country Meat	Exeter	(519) 235-4978
Miedema's Meat Market	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	(905) 836-7001
Northhorizon Abattoir	Bruce Mines	(705) 941-8132
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

ABATTOIRS		
NAME	CITY	PHONE NO
Peel Meat Packers	Drayton	(519) 638-3446
Pine Ridge Meat Packer	Little Britain	705-786-9970
Rainy River District Regional Abattoir Inc.	Emo	(807) 482-3028
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
Teals Pure Pork Sausage	Waterford	(519) 443-8844
The Beefway	Kincardine	(519) 396-2257
Thunder Bay Meat Processing Co. (1986) Ltd.	Murillo	(807) 935-2911
Townsend Butchers	Simcoe	(519) 426-6750
Vanessa Meats & Deli	Vanessa	(519) 446-3897
VG Packers	Simcoe	(519) 426-2000
Wall's Pork Shop	Oxdrift	(807) 937-4357
Weiland Meats Ltd.	Petrolia	(519) 882-1215
Willie's Meats Ltd.	Troy	(519) 647-3160
Windcrest Meat Packers Ltd.	Port Perry	(905) 985-7267
Zehr's Country Market	Dashwood	(519) 237-3668

AUCTION MARKETS			
Aylmer Stockyards Inc.	8933 Walker Road, RR 1	Aylmer	(519) 765-2672
Brussels Livestock Exchange	42857 Newry Road, RR 3	Brussels	(519) 887-6461
D.H. Hickson Ltd.	2508 County Road 8, RR 5	Campbellford	(705) 653-3660
Denfield Livestock Exchange Inc.	12952 Sixteen Mile Road, RR 2	Denfield	(519) 666-1140
Embrun Livestock Exchange Ltd.	1643 Salebarn Road,	Greely	(613) 821-2634
Hagersville Auction Centre	97 First Line, RR 6	Hagersville	(905) 768-5601
Kawartha Lakes Community Sale Barn Inc.	580 Woodville Road, RR 3	Woodville	(705) 439-4444
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
Ontario Stockyards Inc.	3807 Highway 89,	Cookstown	(705) 458-4000
Renfrew-Pontiac Livestock Ltd.	18156 Highway 17, RR 3	Cobden	(613) 646-7335
Temiskaming Livestock Exchange	883006 Highway 65 E, RR 3	New Liskeard	(705) 647-5415
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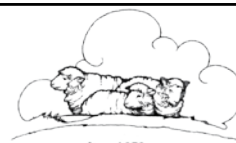
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