



An Update from the Chair

Our world has changed dramatically since the last edition of Ontario Sheep News. I hope that you are all keeping well and staying safe. COVID-19 has forced the Ontario Sheep Farmers to re-structure how it represents and supports its farmers. This means more time spent on teleconference calls and zoom meetings and less time in face-to-face meetings. And, as a board we have increased our meeting frequency from once every 6 weeks to once every 3 weeks. This has enabled us to stay on top of the COVID-19 situation and continue to deal with the day-to-day issues as they arise.

As a board we have also elected to cancel the 2020 OSF Convention this October. Given the circumstances we find ourselves in, we felt that this was the best, safest, course of action. We are currently looking into how to host a virtual Annual General Meeting, which we are planning for the end of October. During this AGM, a presentation of the past year's events will be given, along the presentation of the audited financial statements. We are currently discussing how best to managed district resolutions at the AGM. Districts, however, continue to be encouraged to submit resolutions to the board throughout the year. To replace the producer education day, we will be organizing a virtual speaker series offered through the fall.

Given that the districts may not be able to hold their AGM's in-person, staff are offering to help set up the meetings via webinar or zoom. Districts 3, 6 and 9 do have elections this year and we have established the means to allow producers in these districts to electronically vote for their provincial directors.

Provincial Director nomination process:

- Nominations for the position of Provincial Director for these districts must be submitted 2 weeks prior to the district's annual meeting.
- Nominees must be registered as a producer with the OSF and reside in the district

- Nominations must be made in writing by two (2) OSF voting members who reside within the district

If you wish to nominate someone, please contact the OSF office (general@ontariosheep.org) for a nomination form. Nominees will be published after the deadline for nominations and they will have the opportunity to refuse the nomination following the publication of all nominees.

Provincial Director voting process:

If you reside in Districts 3, 6 or 9 and wish to vote:

- You must have produced sheep (lamb) or wool in the past 12 months
 - In the case of a producer who is part of a corporation, the corporation must submit a letter to the OSF identifying who will be representing them and disclose a corporate profile.
 - In the case of a producer who is a partnership or any other type of business structure that is not a corporation, a letter confirming who will represent the partnership will need to be submitted to the OSF.
- Be registered with the OSF 30 days prior to your district's annual meeting (if you are unsure if you are registered please contact the OSF office).
- You must reside in the district where the election is taking place

To help facilitate this process, OSF staff will be connecting with registered producers to ensure they have the proper contact email. Voters will receive an email with a link to the ballot as well as a unique, secure authentication credential to receive the electronic ballot. When the vote submits a ballot, the results are encrypted and kept anonymous.

Should you have any questions and/or concerns about this process, please feel free to reach out to your Provincial Director or the OSF Executive. **OSN**

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.