



*Note: dates of sessions are subject to change. Refer to www.OntarioSheep.org/master-shepherds-course for the most up-to-date information.

| | Module theme – key topic areas | *Date Tuesday & Thursday evenings 7:30 – 9:15 pm starting with Module 3 |
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| Module 1 Industry dynamics and governance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lamb industry overview – Global, North American, Ontario perspectives • Lamb production systems • Lamb supply and price cycles • Sheep industry governance • Sustainable sheep production | Tuesday & Wednesday evenings 7:30 pm – 9:15 pm September 22, 23, 29, 30, and October 6, 7, 13, 14, 2020 |
| Module 2 Flock productivity and reproduction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reproduction, seasonality of estrus, conception rates • Optimizing out-of-season breeding programs • ram management for optimal reproductive success • Culling strategies for improved productivity | Tuesday & Wednesday evenings 7:30 pm – 9:15 pm November 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, and December 1, 2 2020 |
| Module 3 Lambing and lamb rearing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimizing lamb mortality – causes, prevention • Management tips and protocols (confined and pasture) • Artificial rearing systems • Managing health issues – abortion, mastitis, vaccination | Tuesday & Thursday evenings 7:30 pm – 9:15 pm December 15, 17, 2020 and January 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 2021 |
| Module 4 Business planning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing business plans • Cost of production and key performance indicators • Production monitoring and record keeping • Financial monitoring and record keeping | Tuesday & Thursday evenings 7:30 pm – 9:15 pm January 26, 28, and February 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 2021 |
| Module 5 Ewe flock nutrition | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutritional demands throughout the production cycle • Monitoring response to feeding programs • How ruminants utilize protein and carbohydrates • Impact of genetics and production systems • Effectively using feed analysis and ration balancing | Tuesday & Thursday evenings 7:30 pm – 9:15 pm March 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, 30, and April 1, 2021 |
| Module 6 Predation & Pasture Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coyote behaviour and biology; raven behaviour and biology • Options for managing predation / what can I do legally? • Deadstock disposal methods • Wildlife Damage Compensation Program • Pasture management / pasture infrastructure • Extended grazing options • Managing pastures to manage parasites | Tuesday & Thursday evenings 7:30 pm – 9:15 pm April 20, 22, 27, 29, and May 4, 6, 11, 13, 2021 |

| | Module theme – key topic areas | Date |
|---|--|--|
| Module 7 Genetics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritability of economically important traits • Genetic selection principles • Crossbreeding schemes • Hybrid vigour & inbreeding • Genetic improvement programs | Tuesday & Thursday evenings 7:30 pm – 9:15 pm June 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24 2021 |
| Module 8 Infrastructure & Feeding systems | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning efficient farmstead layouts • Ventilation, watering systems, supplementary heat • Handling systems, sheep behaviour • Nutrient management • Feed storage, Feed delivery systems and infrastructure • Pasture Infrastructure • Feed delivery machinery | Tuesday & Thursday evenings 7:30 pm – 9:15 pm July 27, 29 and August 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19 2021 |
| Module 9 Effective flock health management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flock health programs, using vet diagnostic services • Avoid production limiting diseases • Vaccinations and immunity • Role of nutrition in flock health • Parasite Management • On-Farm Euthanasia | Tuesday & Thursday evenings 7:30 pm – 9:15 pm August 31 and September 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23 2021 |
| Module 10 Lamb feedlots and dairy sheep | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lamb feeding rations, feed delivery systems • Feedlot health, monitoring growth, carcass quality • Dairy sheep industry outlook • Dairy flock health, regulatory requirements | Tuesday & Thursday evenings 7:30 pm – 9:15 pm October 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28 and November 2, 4, 2021 |
| Module 11 Marketing and wool | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing principles • Marketing methods - live auction, private sales, direct to consumer - farmers markets, online • Product branding • Marketing costs, product shrink, marketing risks • Fit for transport | Tuesday & Thursday evenings 7:30 pm – 9:15 pm November 23, 25, 30 and December 29 7, 8, 14, 16, 21, 22, 2021 |
| Module 12 Business plan wrap up | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full course participants only. | Tuesday & Thursday evenings 7:30 pm – 9:15 pm January 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27 and February 1, 3, 2022 |

Questions?

Contact the Master Shepherd's Course Program Manager

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