

From a young age, I have been immersed in agriculture. I was raised on my family's sheep farm in Eastern Ontario where my passion for sheep, food animals and veterinary medicine began. Heading to the barn after school was what I looked forward to most. Fast forward to 2021, I am now a third year veterinary student at the Ontario Veterinary College, pursuing my childhood aspirations to become a veterinarian. Many years of 4H, undergrad, graduate school and hours on the farm have brought me here today.

Looking ahead to my 5 year goals, I intend to remain heavily involved in the small ruminant industry post-graduation. To obtain this goal, I will be travelling to New Zealand during summer of 2022 to shadow food animal veterinarians and gain experience with the industry in other areas of the world. This will be an invaluable experience as New Zealand has a prosperous and diverse sheep industry, one that I will have many learning opportunities with. I will bring back experience to collaborate with and help producers succeed in the future. Further, during my fourth year of the DVM program, I will be streaming the Food Animal stream, which has many opportunities to take sheep-specific rotations including a lambing rotation with Dr. Charlotte Winder on a local commercial farm.

With guidance from other veterinarians at my future practise, I will bring the knowledge gained during my food animal-focused rotations at OVC to producers. In addition to helping sheep farmers with medical issues, I also intend to assist them with production and reaching their farm's best potential. Hosting talks to share current research and how it can be applied on farm is just one way that I will work to accomplish this goal. Further, I am passionate about motivating future generations of sheep farmers and veterinarians and would like to be heavily involved in local 4H groups in my community.

Beyond the next 5 years, looking ahead to 2031, I envision myself as an experienced food animal veterinarian, with a positive presence in the Ontario sheep industry. I currently hold a Master of Science degree in Animal Science and I remain passionate about research. Within the next 10 years, I would like to complete a Doctor of Veterinary Science or Residency degree that is focused on small ruminant medicine. There are many gaps in research for the sheep industry and completing further graduate school to tackle some of these is a long term goal. By collaborating industry with research, I feel that I can make a significant contribution to the Ontario sheep industry through this role. I would strive to ensure the research done during this degree had practical implications, ones that could be directly applied to the Ontario sheep sector for meaningful and lasting positive impacts for animal health and welfare and viability of the farm.

Ontario sheep producers are among the most hard working individuals in the country. Farmers have shown their incredible ability to overcome challenges and remain resilient. It is their passion for their flock and pride in their product that motivate me to remain immersed in the sheep industry and devote my professional life to helping them succeed.

