

WELCOME TO THE

Alberta
Lamb
Producers



FARM TOUR CONFERENCE AGM

NOVEMBER 14-15, 2025

LETHBRIDGE

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

PLATINUM



MEAT SPONSOR

SPEAKER SPONSOR

GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE



ADVERTISING PARTNER

COFFEE SPONSOR





**Alberta Lamb Producers
Annual General Meeting Agenda
November 15, 2025**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Acceptance of 2024 AGM Meeting Minutes
4. Chair Address
5. Director Acclamations
 Board Appointments and Director in Training
6. Financial statements for 2024-2025
7. ALP Operational Budget 2025-2026
8. Producer Resolutions
 No proposed resolutions were put forward this year. As per policy, resolutions will not be accepted from the floor.
9. Your Check-off at Work: Review
 Producer engagement, Producer Resources, Advocacy and Research
10. Looking Forward
11. Outgoing Director Recognition
12. Moderated Producer Q & A
13. Adjournment of ALP AGM

2024-2025 ALP Board of Directors

Jordan Allen, Chair

Martin Winchell, Vice-Chair

Adam French, Finance Chair

Darlene Hawco, Vice-Finance Chair

Alison Neale, Director

Richard Van Diresten, Interim Director

Vacant, Director

Cody Legault, Director in Training

ALP Staff

Jolene Airth, Executive Director

Jennifer Wood, Project/Office Administrator

Mission

We empower the sheep industry through education, innovative research, and advocacy. Our focus is on working in the best interests of our producers by building connected relationships through accountability and transparency.

Vision

We support our producers in the advancement of a successful and sustainable industry.

Values

- We prioritize the betterment of our producers.
- We are accountable to our producers through transparent communication.
- As a volunteer board comprised of eligible producers, we are committed to guiding industry innovation and enhancement.
- Our board leads with integrity and honesty.
- Staff provides a stable connection between producers and the board with consistency, reliability, and confidentiality.

**Alberta Lamb Producers
2023/2024 Annual General Meeting Minutes
November 23, 2024
Olds, Alberta**

The meeting was called to order at 8:46am by Jordan Allen.

Total number of attendees: 53

Total number of eligible producers: 33

Welcome and Introductions: Presented by Jordan Allen

1)Business Meeting Agenda Approval

MOTION: To accept the agenda as presented.

Moved: Cindy Crawford

Seconded: Hannah Logan

Carried.

2)Approval of the 2022/2023 AGM meeting minutes:

MOTION: To approve the 2022/23 AGM minutes as presented.

Moved: Ryan van Schothorst

Seconded: Ken Smith

Carried.

3) Acclaimed Directors

The following people have been nominated and acclaimed for the Director-at-large positions.

- Olivia Blum
- Adam French
- Alison Neale
- Richard Boscher (unable to be here today)

4)2023/2024 ALP Financial Statements:

Presented by Shannon Troke, King & Company Chartered Accountants

Motion: That the 2023/2024 Financial Statements of the Alberta Lamb Producers be approved as presented.

Moved: John Beasley

Seconded: Ashley Ellis

Carried.

Motion: That the 2024/2025 Financial Statements of the Alberta Lamb Producers be audited by King and Company Chartered Accountant.

Moved: Ken Smith

Seconded: Philip Hofer
Carried.

2024/2025 Alberta Lamb Producers Budget, Presented by Adam French
Presented for information purposes only.

5) AGM 2023/2024 Resolutions:

#1 ALP to research alternative and /or additional distribution of CSIP tags.

Motion: Alicia van Oeveren
Seconded: Ken Smith
Defeated.

#2 ALP to discuss a lower shipping rate with CCWG.

Motion: Alicia van Oeveren
Seconded: Marisa Schubel
Carried.

#3 ALP to research rejoining the Canadian Sheep Federation.

Motion: Kathleen Raines
Seconded: Hannah Logan
Carried.


#4 Lobby for a national non-refundable check-off.

Motion: John Beasley
Seconded: Alicia van Oeveren
Carried.

Your check off dollars at work, 2022/2023 year in review.
Looking forward.
Moderated Q&A if time permits

6)ALP Business Meeting Adjournment

Motion: Moved by Esther Hoogland at 10:28pm that the meeting be adjourned.

X 

Jordan Allen
Chair

X



Martin Winchell
Vice Chair

X 

Adam French
Finance Chair

X



Darlene Hawco
Vice Finance Chair

X



Alison Neale
Director

2025 AGM Chair Address – Jordan Allen

Welcome to the 2025 Alberta Lamb Producers AGM and Conference! On behalf of the board of directors, I would like to thank you for attending this year! We are excited to be hosting our very first two day event and hope that you all enjoy the line up of speakers we have presenting this weekend, the farm tours we had, the trade fair and valuable time spent networking with fellow producers and industry representatives!

This past year has been one full of building some great connections! One of my great passions in life is talking and meeting new people while building connections and for future collaborations. As we are all aware, the Canadian sheep industry has been fractured for years, lacking unity and collaboration. At the 2024 AGM, a resolution was passed to investigate re-joining the Canadian Sheep Federation. Our board felt that this was a great opportunity to not only look into our position within the national landscape of the sheep industry but also build stronger connections inter-provincially. We started by reaching out to the CSF directly for information and attending their AGM virtually. After this initial step, our board executive began having meetings with some of the provincial boards to meet their directors, create connections and get to know how each of their industries run on a provincial level. Our Executive Director, Jolene Airth and I had the pleasure of attending the All Canada Sheep Classic in Brandon, Manitoba in July which was a fantastic chance to meet with producers and industry representatives from other provinces. Building new connections and getting to meet people face to face that I've been having online meetings and phone calls with over the past years on the board was wonderful! This year Jolene and I also were able to have a few meetings and conversations with Alberta's Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, Minister RJ Sigurdson, as well as the Deputy Minister, Jason Hale. These were excellent opportunities for us as representatives of Alberta Lamb Producers to bring forward challenges and issues that our industry faces not only on a provincial level but on a nation wide level as well. Being part of the Calgary Stampede Agri-Food Committee has also given us the chance to create new relationships between other commodity groups and sectors within the vast and extremely varied Agriculture Industry of Alberta, everything from honey bees to Bison and Pulse Growers to Sugar Beet Farmers, we have been creating a valuable chain of wonderful connections.

ALP is very proud that the Targeted Grazing, Sheep and Goat Vegetation Management Course, which ALP and Lakeland College worked on developing together for 3 years, finally started with its initial intake in January 2025 and the second intake in September 2025. The course consisting of five modules is a fantastic wealth of information and, having taken it myself, I highly recommend signing up for the next start dates and taking the course yourself! The collaborated research project between ALP and Chinook Contract Research for an insecticide impregnated band for the prevention of flystrike is underway and CCR has volunteers lined up to participate in a study for the project. We look forward to the hopeful results that come from this project. The board received some exciting research proposals this year and we anxiously await the information and results that come out of them in the near future.

This past year has presented such an excellent opportunity for ALP to make new connections and to strengthen existing ones. We have worked hard to strengthen and unite our industry for the betterment of all sheep producers nationally and we look forward to seeing these relationships continue to grow and thrive, just like our industry!

Alberta Lamb Producers Director Acclamation for 2025-2026

There were five Director-at-large positions open on the 2025/26 ALP board, including three, 2-year terms and two 1-year interim terms. Five eligible producers submitted valid nomination forms before the August 15, 2025, deadline to be entered as candidates in the 2025 election. These nominations were submitted in accordance with Part 3, sections 26 and 27, of ALP's Bylaws. As we received five valid nomination forms for the five director-at-large positions, no election needs to be held this year. The five nominated producers will be acclaimed to the board at the ALP AGM on November 15, 2025.

ALP is pleased to announce that Martin Winchell, Darlene Hawco and Richard van Driesten (current board directors), Cody Legault (current director in training) and Edward Machuk will be acclaimed to the board at our AGM on November 15, 2025. Their profiles are below. ALP received and approved an application for a director in training, appointing Esther Hoogland to commence her role immediately following the AGM, as per ALP Policy 2.4.4. Join us in welcoming our acclaimed directors and director in training to the board.

Darlene Hawco

Contact: darleneh@ablamb.ca

Darlene Hawco is a dedicated sheep farmer based in northern Alberta. Originally a city resident turned country woman, I began my farming journey in 2019 after assisting a local sheep producer on the weekends. When that producer decided to retire and sell the flock, I seized the opportunity to continue what I had grown to love by purchasing the entire operation lock, stock and barrel. Since then, I have immersed myself in the world of sheep farming, guided by experienced mentors who generously shared their knowledge. Countless late nights spent lambing and tending to ewes taught me the true meaning of dedication and stewardship in livestock care.

Cody Legault

Contact: cody@ablamb.ca

Growing up on a purebred sheep farm in Nanton, Alberta, I developed a strong desire to work with sheep. I then continued my sheep career in Manitoba, where I operated a large ewe flock. After gaining valuable experience, I met my now fiancé, and together we run a flock of 100 range ewes in Lomond, located in the southeast part of Alberta. On our growing farm, we focus on maintaining a self-sufficient flock with minimal inputs, relying on low-cost by-products. We also place a strong emphasis on genetics, aiming to improve prolificacy to achieve an average of two lambs per ewe. At the same time, we strive to keep the flock efficient and self-reliant through low labour and low input practices.

Martin Winchell

Contact: martin@ablamb.ca

Marty Winchell is a lifelong shepherd, having gotten his first sheep as a kid approximately 40 years ago. Having worked for marketing boards in BC and Alberta, as well as municipal government for over 12 yrs, and now in private industry, he has been involved in governance and agriculture professionally his whole career. Marty has a degree in agriculture from the U of A, was a fire fighter for 12yrs and farms sheep, cattle, and hay in the Rocky Mountain House area. Currently vice-chair of the Alberta Lamb Producers. Marty and wife Cindy are almost empty nesters, as three of four kids have flown the coop, making for more chores and less 4-H and school events.

Edward MachukContact: edward@ablamb.ca

Edward was Born in Drayton Valley and raised on a farm in the Tomahawk area, grew up with a strong connection to agriculture and rural life. After completing high school, he pursued welding at NAIT, earning his welding certificate and B-Pressure ticket. He went on to build a successful 35-year career in the drilling industry, while also working five years with TransAlta Utilities in the power plants around Wabamun Lake. Alongside his career, farming remained a constant passion. Initially raising cattle, he later transitioned into sheep, where he continues today with a thriving flock of 300 ewes. In addition to livestock, he manages hay sales, some cereal farming, and rental ventures that keep him active and engaged. Together with his wife, he raised four children-two sons and two daughters who are all now married and raising families of their own. With nine grandchildren, family life is full and rewarding. Having retired from welding, he now enjoys the balance of farm life, family, and the satisfaction of continuing the agricultural traditions that have been part of his life from the very beginning.

Richard van DriestenContact: richardvd@ablamb.ca

Hello fellow sheep producers. Sitting on the ALP Board has been a great experience and I'm excited to see how we can further the sheep industry in the years to come. Growing up on a goat Dairy, small animals were never foreign to me. I bought my first sheep while completing the Agricultural Technology course at Lethbridge college in 2011. Those first 30 Clun Forest and Romanov ewes grew into a commercial flock of 500 head of cross bred Romanov, Dorset, East Friesian and Cheviots. A couple of years ago I made the transition from lambing out ewes to feeding feeder lambs and dispersed the flock. My wife and I and our four young children farm in the Carmangay/Champion area. I look forward to continuing working with producers and promoting the sheep industry on a provincial level.

Esther Hoogland, Director-in-TrainingContact: esther@ablamb.ca

Hi! My name is Esther and I am a young sheep farmer here in central Alberta. My mom has had sheep off and on for the last decade, and after trying out college for a few years, I came back to join her! One of my favourite things about farming sheep is that I can take my little boy with me when I am working with them and, for the most part, I don't have to worry about him. I have also been working at the Beaverhill Auction Mart in Tofield for the past year and have enjoyed learning more about handling sheep and the marketing side of the industry. I look forward to being a Director in Training and learning more about what the board does and everything that they do for the industry.

Retiring Director

After nearly four years on the Alberta Lamb Producers (ALP) Board of Directors, my term has come to an end, and it is time to say goodbye. It has truly been an honour to serve on the Board, representing the producers of Alberta and contributing to an industry that I am deeply passionate about. Throughout my time with ALP, I have had the privilege of meeting so many dedicated and inspiring individuals — from producers to industry partners and stakeholders both in the province and across the country. Working alongside a talented and committed board of directors and staff has been both a pleasure and a learning experience that I will always value.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have been part of this organization and to have played a small role in supporting and advancing Alberta's sheep industry. I look forward to seeing the continued success and growth of ALP in the years ahead.

With sincere thanks and best wishes,

Jordan Allen

Alberta Lamb Producers Proposed Resolutions

A few years ago, ALP made some changes to how eligible producers can submit Proposed Resolutions that are discussed and voted on by eligible producers at our Annual General meeting. Effective December 2020, eligible producers can submit proposed resolutions year-round for board consideration. Providing eligible producers with the opportunity to submit year-round submissions allows the board and staff to research and provide information to the proposed resolution(s) in advance of the AGM to help make the discussion more effective at the AGM before the voting period begins.

To submit a resolution for discussion at the November 15, 2025 AGM, eligible producers needed to complete the ALP 2024-2025 Resolution Submission Form and submit it to the ALP office by September 30, 2025. The information outlining the process for submitting resolutions can be found on the ALP website. Proposed resolutions were not accepted past this deadline, nor will resolutions be accepted from the floor at the AGM.

ALP did not receive any resolutions this year.

2024 Passed Producer Resolution Follow up

1. Passed Resolution: ALP to discuss a lower shipping rate with CCWG.

Detail: ALP is directed to contact CCWG with the intent to decrease shipping costs thereby potentially lowering the cost to the producer.

Action completed:

- The ALP Chair and Vice Chair contacted the Branch Manager of Lethbridge CCWG to explore options for reducing shipping rates for producers. Following the call, they sent a formal email to reinforce the request.
- In response to the resolution, the Chair and Vice Chair engaged CCWG in further discussions regarding the possibility of lowering shipping costs. CCWG subsequently negotiated with Canada Post and secured a reduction in the cost of express envelopes—from \$17 to \$14. Each envelope can accommodate up to 100 CSIP tags.
- Both CCWG and ALP have committed to actively promoting events where CCWG will be present, enabling producers to pick up tags in person and avoid shipping fees.

2. Passed Resolution: ALP to research rejoining the Canadian Sheep Federation.

Detail: ALP is directed to investigate and report back on the process of rejoining the CSF membership.

Action completed:

- Established a National Committee composed of members of the Executive to oversee this work.
- Opened dialogue with the CSF, requesting information on its current direction, structure, and potential costs and benefits of membership. Some information was received; however, additional details are still being sought.
- Attended the CSF AGM virtually to observe discussions and gather insight into the organization's activities, financial situation and priorities.

- Requested clarification on membership costs, governance structure and funding mechanisms. The CSF's model involves a levy applied to tag sales in member provinces, and further review of this structure is ongoing. Financially, rejoining CSF would see Alberta producers paying an additional CSF specific fee of \$0.25 per tag over and above current tag cost.
- Engaged other provincial organizations to better understand perspectives on national collaboration and potential pathways to stronger industry alignment.

Ongoing Action: At this stage, the board believes additional investigation and discussion are needed before any recommendation regarding membership can be made. The board continues to maintain open dialogue with other provinces and is assessing information as it is received. The goal is to ensure that any future recommendation and decision is based on a complete understanding of the potential implications for Alberta producers and the broader national industry.

3. **Passed Resolution: Lobby for a national non-refundable check-off.**

Detail: Our industry is collapsed due to a flood of cheap imported lamb. We fund market development that imports have free unrestricted access to. A national non-refundable check off enables Canada to then apply a levy on imports. This would both fund our domestic industry and help moderate import volumes.

Background: To achieve a national levy all provinces will need to come together and collectively lobby for this change and would require approval by sheep producers across Canada. At the request of the Alberta Lamb Producers (ALP) and in accordance with the provisions of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act and the Alberta Lamb Producers Plebiscite Directive (2022), the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council (Marketing Council) conducted a plebiscite on the question of ALP's service charge model between October 18, 2022 and November 16, 2022. This plebiscite asked eligible Alberta lamb producers whether they supported non-refundable service charge model, or a refundable service charge model. The results of the plebiscite showed that most producers that voted, were in favor of the status quo, a refundable service charge model for ALP. Given the results of the vote, there was no change to the service charge structure or regulations.

Action completed:

- The board discussed the options and feel that until national unity is achieved, they have no opportunity to lobby for a national non-refundable check-off. Until Alberta has a non-refundable provincial check-off, we are not equipped to request a national non- refundable checkoff.
- The Chair and ED had a formal meeting with the Provincial Agriculture Minister in January 2025 and suggested a national non-refundable check off would enable Canada to apply a levy on imports that would fund our domestic industry and help moderate import volumes.

ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS

Financial Statements

Year Ended August 31, 2025

ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS

Index to Financial Statements

Year Ended August 31, 2025

	Page
INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER'S REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT	1
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
Statement of Financial Position	2
Statement of Operations	3
Statement of Changes in Net Assets	4
Statement of Cash Flows	5
Notes to Financial Statements	6 - 11

INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER'S REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

To the Members of Alberta Lamb Producers

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of Alberta Lamb Producers (the Organization) that comprise the statement of financial position as at August 31, 2025, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Practitioner's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Conclusion

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Alberta Lamb Producers as at August 31, 2025, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

King + Company

Edmonton, AB
October 28, 2025

CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS**Statement of Financial Position****As at August 31, 2025**

	2025	2024
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash (<i>Note 2</i>)	\$ 385,281	\$ 375,128
Short-term investments (<i>Note 3</i>)	156,875	149,547
Accounts receivable (<i>Note 4</i>)	21,698	28,772
Prepaid expenses	2,763	10,806
	566,617	564,253
CAPITAL ASSETS (<i>Note 5</i>)	920	4,114
	\$ 567,537	\$ 568,367
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (<i>Note 6</i>)	\$ 36,872	\$ 44,567
Deferred revenue (<i>Note 7</i>)	8,040	2,830
Deferred contributions (<i>Note 8</i>)	2,590	13,156
	47,502	60,553
NET ASSETS		
Invested in capital assets	920	4,114
Internally restricted (<i>Note 9</i>)	519,115	503,700
	520,035	507,814
	\$ 567,537	\$ 568,367

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

Director

Director

ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS**Statement of Operations****Year Ended August 31, 2025**

	2025	2024
REVENUE		
<u>Checkoff</u>		
Sheep	\$ 227,885	\$ 243,248
Wool	724	3,019
	<u>228,609</u>	<u>246,267</u>
<u>Other</u>		
Advertising	20,577	11,351
Grants (Note 8)	17,066	3,347
Annual General Meeting sponsorship and registration	8,765	8,175
SheepBytes	6,781	16,745
Interest	5,906	8,377
Expense recoveries	1,849	2,328
	<u>60,944</u>	<u>50,323</u>
	<u>289,553</u>	<u>296,590</u>
EXPENSES		
<u>Advocacy</u>		
Industry liaison	14,950	8,459
Industry support	11,898	13,525
Research	7,500	8,466
	<u>34,348</u>	<u>30,450</u>
<u>Extension</u>		
Newsletter	15,493	14,962
SheepBytes	2,741	3,997
Producer education	751	200
Promotional items and events	110	2,715
AFAC	-	5,000
	<u>19,095</u>	<u>26,874</u>
<u>Operating</u>		
Salaries, benefits and staff development	103,517	76,716
Directors	31,456	32,144
Website	19,080	4,030
Administration and communications	14,770	12,450
Annual General Meeting	14,390	10,667
Accounting and legal	4,000	9,950
Amortization of capital assets	3,194	3,364
Insurance	2,571	3,486
Strategic planning	300	400
	<u>193,278</u>	<u>153,207</u>
Grants	17,066	3,347
Checkoff refunds	13,545	25,995
	<u>277,332</u>	<u>239,873</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	<u>\$ 12,221</u>	<u>\$ 56,717</u>

ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS
Statement of Changes in Net Assets
Year Ended August 31, 2025

	Invested in Capital Assets	Internally Restricted (Note 9)	Unrestricted	2025	2024
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 4,114	\$ 503,700	\$ -	\$ 507,814	\$ 451,097
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(3,194)	4,040	11,375	12,221	56,717
Transfer of cash for SheepBytes	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer to internally restricted	-	11,375	(11,375)	-	-
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 920	\$ 519,115	\$ -	\$ 520,035	\$ 507,814

ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS**Statement of Cash Flows****Year Ended August 31, 2025**

	2025	2024
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 12,221	\$ 56,717
Item not affecting cash:		
Amortization of capital assets	3,194	3,364
	<u>15,415</u>	<u>60,081</u>
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	7,074	(2,020)
Prepaid expenses	8,043	(7,500)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(7,695)	10,873
Deferred revenue	5,210	1,730
Deferred contributions	(10,566)	(3,347)
	<u>2,066</u>	<u>(264)</u>
Cash flow from operating activities	<u>17,481</u>	<u>59,817</u>
INVESTING ACTIVITY		
Purchase of short-term investments, net	<u>(7,328)</u>	<u>(7,833)</u>
INCREASE IN CASH	10,153	51,984
CASH - BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>375,128</u>	<u>323,144</u>
CASH - END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 385,281</u>	<u>\$ 375,128</u>

ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended August 31, 2025

NATURE OF OPERATIONS

Alberta Lamb Producers (the "Organization") is a producer supported organization that operates under regulation of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act of the Province of Alberta. Its mandate is the promotion and enhancement of the sheep and wool industry in Alberta.

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Presentation

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Revenue Recognition

Alberta Lamb Producers follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured. Endowment contributions are recognized as direct increases in net assets.

Restricted investment income is recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted investment income is recognized as revenue when earned.

Checkoff fees are recognized as revenue when received or receivable. Checkoff fees are set at \$1.50 for each tag issued, less an administration fee of 2%.

Financial Instruments

Initial Measurement

The Organization initially measures its financial assets and liabilities originated or exchanged in arm's length transactions at fair value. Financial assets and liabilities originated or exchanged in related party transactions, except for those that involve parties whose sole relationship with the Organization is in the capacity of management, are initially measured at cost.

The cost of a financial instrument in a related party transaction depends on whether the instrument has repayment terms. If it does, the cost is determined using its undiscounted cash flows, excluding interest and dividend payments, less any impairment losses previously recognized by the transferor. Otherwise, the cost is determined using the consideration transferred or received by the Organization in the transaction.

Subsequent Measurement

The Organization subsequently measures all its financial assets and liabilities at cost or amortized cost, except for investments in equity instruments that are quoted in an active market, which are measured at fair value. Changes in fair value are recognized in earnings in the period incurred.

Financial assets measured at amortized cost using the straight-line method include cash, short-term investments and accounts receivable. Financial liabilities measured at amortized cost using the straight-line method include accounts payable and accrued liabilities and deferred contributions.

(continues)

ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended August 31, 2025

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(continued)*

Transaction Costs

Transaction costs attributable to financial instruments subsequently measured at fair value and to those originated or exchanged in a related party transaction are recognized in earnings in the period incurred. Transaction costs related to financial instruments originated or exchanged in an arm's length transaction that are subsequently measured at cost or amortized cost are recognized in the original cost of the instrument. When the instrument is measured at amortized cost, transaction costs are recognized in earnings over the life of the instrument using the straight-line method.

Impairment

For financial assets measured at cost or amortized cost, the Organization determines whether there are indications of possible impairment. When there are, and the company determines that a significant adverse change has occurred during the period in the expected timing or amount of future cash flows, a write-down is recognized in earnings. If the indicators of impairment have decreased or no longer exist, the previously recognized impairment loss may be reversed to the extent of the improvement. The carrying amount of the financial asset may be no greater than the amount that would have been reported at the date of the reversal had the impairment not been recognized previously. The amount of the reversal is recognized in earnings.

Cash

Cash is comprised of cash held with financial institutions.

Capital Assets

Capital assets are stated at cost less accumulated amortization. Capital assets are amortized over their estimated useful lives at the following rates and methods:

Office equipment	20%	declining balance method
Computer equipment	30%	declining balance method
Leasehold improvements	20%	declining balance method
Database	20%	straight-line method

The Organization regularly reviews its capital assets to eliminate obsolete items. Government grants are treated as a reduction of capital assets cost.

Cloud Computing Arrangements

Effective September 1, 2024, the Organization adopted Accounting Guideline 20, customer's accounting for cloud computing arrangements, which provides guidance on the accounting for expenditures on cloud computing arrangements. As part of the adoption, the Organization elected to apply the simplification approach to account for its expenditures in its cloud computing arrangements. When there are multiple elements within a single cloud computing arrangement, the Organization allocates the consideration to each separable element based on the relative stand-alone selling prices. Expenditures in all cloud computing agreements, excluding tangible capital assets and rights to use tangible capital assets, are treated as a supply of services and expensed as the Organization receives the services. Amounts paid in advance of receiving the services are recognized as a prepaid expense. In accordance with the transitional provisions, the Organization has applied the new accounting guideline retrospectively. As a result of applying the amendments, there was no impact on the Organization's previously reported financial position or results of operations or cash flows.

During the year, the Organization entered into cloud computing arrangement and expensed \$19,080 (2024 - \$4,030) in connection with the arrangements, which included in website expenses in the Statement of Operations.

(continues)

ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended August 31, 2025

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(continued)*

Contributed Services

The operations of the Organization depend on both the contribution of time by volunteers and donated materials from various sources. The fair value of donated materials and services cannot be reasonably determined and are therefore not reflected in these financial statements.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Such estimates are periodically reviewed and any adjustments necessary are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

2. CASH

Cash includes \$2,590 (2024 - \$13,156) held for deferred contributions included in Note 8.

3. SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS

Short-term investments represents a guaranteed investment certificate that has a maturity date of March 7, 2026 and bears interest of 2.75% (2024 - 4.90%). It is internally restricted.

4. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

	2025	2024
Operations	\$ 19,346	\$ 24,754
Interest	2,352	4,018
	<u>\$ 21,698</u>	<u>\$ 28,772</u>

5. CAPITAL ASSETS

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	2025 Net book value	2024 Net book value
Office equipment	\$ 4,494	\$ 4,494	\$ -	\$ -
Computer equipment	4,268	3,348	920	1,314
Leasehold improvements	2,154	2,154	-	-
Database	14,000	14,000	-	2,800
	<u>\$ 24,916</u>	<u>\$ 23,996</u>	<u>\$ 920</u>	<u>\$ 4,114</u>

ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS**Notes to Financial Statements****Year Ended August 31, 2025****6. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES**

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Operations	\$ 19,422	\$ 15,117
Checkoff refunds	13,545	25,995
Goods and services tax	<u>3,905</u>	<u>3,455</u>
	<u>\$ 36,872</u>	<u>\$ 44,567</u>

7. DEFERRED REVENUE

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Annual General Meeting sponsorship	\$ 8,040	\$ 2,830

8. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS

Deferred contributions represent restricted operating funding received in the current year that is related to subsequent periods. The following is a summary of the changes for the period ending August 31:

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 13,156	\$ 16,503
Contributions received	6,500	-
Recognized as revenue	<u>(17,066)</u>	<u>(3,347)</u>
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 2,590</u>	<u>\$ 13,156</u>

Deferred contributions are comprised of:

Results driven research grant	\$ 1,500	\$ -
Rangeland sustainability project	<u>1,090</u>	<u>13,156</u>
	<u>\$ 2,590</u>	<u>\$ 13,156</u>

ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended August 31, 2025

9. INTERNALLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

The board of directors has internally restricted net assets for the following purposes:

	2025	2024
Emergency operating funds	\$ 240,000	\$ 240,000
Industry research funds	61,679	61,679
SheepBytes	53,538	49,498
Industry events	42,523	42,523
Staffing	40,000	40,000
Website	40,000	40,000
Marketing	25,000	25,000
Advocacy	16,375	5,000
	<u>\$ 519,115</u>	<u>\$ 503,700</u>

10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year, the Organization paid fees and reimbursed expenses to directors totaling \$31,456 (2024 - \$32,144).

These transactions are in the normal course of operations and are measured at the exchange amount, which is the amount of consideration established and agreed to by the related parties.

11. COMMITMENT

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is responsible for Canadian traceability. At the time of implementation, the CFIA chose the Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF) as the representative for the sheep industry for traceability. The CSF contracted the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) as its responsible administrator to meet CFIA requirements. The purpose of this agreement is to govern the distribution and sale of approved tags to sheep producers across Canada. Alberta Lamb Producers has an agreement with Canadian Cooperative Wool Growers (CCWG) that automatically renews every year unless the contract is renegotiated or terminated by either party. Amendments to this agreement require being agreed upon by the parties on or before October 15 of each year to be in effect on January 1 of the following year.

12. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Organization is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments and has a comprehensive risk management framework to monitor, evaluate and manage these risks. The following analysis provides information about the Organization's risk exposure and concentration as of August 31, 2025.

Credit Risk

Credit risk arises from the potential that a counter party will fail to perform its obligations. The Organization's financial instruments that are exposed to credit risk are primarily cash and accounts receivable. The Organization maintains its cash in a major financial institution. An allowance for doubtful accounts is established based upon factors surrounding the credit risk of specific accounts.

The Organization's accounts receivable are exposed to credit risk as the majority of receivables are from entities that conduct their business within the same industry.

(continues)

ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended August 31, 2025

12. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS *(continued)*

Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of a financial instrument might be adversely affected by a change in the interest rates. In seeking to minimize the risks from interest rate fluctuations, the Organization manages exposure through its normal operating and financing activities. The Organization is exposed to interest rate risk primarily through its floating interest rate on cash and short-term investments.

Alberta Lamb Producers Operations Budget: 2025-2026

*excluding all external project funding

		<u>Budget amounts</u>	<u>Budget amounts</u>
		2024-25	2025-26
Item	Revenue		
1	Check off - sheep	\$240,000.00	\$215,000.00
2	Check off - wool	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
3	Newsletter Advertising	\$12,500.00	\$13,000.00
4	National Recoveries	\$7,000.00	\$600.00
5	Interest	\$7,500.00	\$4,460.00
6	Manuals, programs and courses	\$0.00	\$0.00
7	SheepBytes - ALP income	\$1,900.00	\$3,000.00
8	Transfer from reserves*	\$40,550.00	\$50,250.00
9	AGM Meals/Conference Registration	\$5,000.00	\$19,000.00
10	AGM Sponsorship	\$3,000.00	\$9,520.00
11	Refunds from Government	\$0.00	\$0.00
12	Canada Summer Jobs Grant	\$7,500.00	\$0.00
	Total	\$327,950.00	\$317,830.00
	Expenses		
	Advocacy		
13	Industry support	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
14	Industry liaison (govt & ind)	\$15,000.00	\$16,000.00
15	Promotion	\$5,000.00	\$2,000.00
17	Provincial 4-H	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
18	Industry events - Symposium	\$1,000.00	\$500.00
20	Calgary Stampede Sponsorship	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
21	Promotional Events	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
24	Total	\$ 34,000.00	\$ 31,500.00
	Extension		
25	Newsletter	\$12,500.00	\$14,000.00
26	Newsletter ads commission	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
27	Industry Research	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
28	Producer Education	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00
29	Total	\$ 29,500.00	\$ 31,000.00
	Operating Expenses		
30	Admin & communications		
31	Admin	\$1,000.00	\$1,200.00
32	Communications	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00
33	Website	\$42,000.00	\$22,950.00
34	Service charges/penalties	\$250.00	\$250.00
35	Office Supplies	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
36	Office Equipment/I.T.	\$2,000.00	\$3,000.00
37	Total Admin & communications	\$54,250.00	\$36,400.00
38	Staff Recruitment	\$500.00	\$0.00
39	Capital Purchase	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
40	Salaries & Wages	\$105,000.00	\$109,000.00
41	Staff Devt	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
42	Directors expenses	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
43	Governance Training	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
44	Strategic Planning	\$2,000.00	\$3,000.00
45	Audit & legal	\$9,000.00	\$7,500.00
46	Insurance	\$2,200.00	\$2,500.00
47	AGM meeting expenses	\$12,500.00	\$25,930.00
48	Loss on disposal of assets		
49	Amortization		
50	Check off refunds	\$34,000.00	\$25,000.00
52	Total	\$264,450.00	\$255,330.00
53	Total expenses	\$ 327,950.00	\$ 317,830.00

* Projections show deficit however we do not run one.

2024-2025 Review and Looking Forward

Check Off History

The Alberta Lamb Producers (The Alberta Sheep and Wool Commission at the time) conducted a producer vote by ballot at their seven annual zone meetings held between October 27 and November 17, 2007 to seek support from the producers for increasing the service charge from \$1.00 to \$1.50 for each sheep. A similar vote conducted in November 2006 to increase the service charge to \$1.30 was defeated. The service charge rate had not increased since July 1, 1982. The service charge is attached to the purchase of identification tags. The additional service charge revenue enables the Commission to carry out its operational activities as budgeted and approved by the membership. At a board meeting on November 21, 2007, the board of directors approved a motion to amend the regulation to implement the service charge increase effective January 1, 2008.

At the request of the Alberta Lamb Producers (ALP) and in accordance with the provisions of the *Marketing of Agricultural Products Act* and the Alberta Lamb Producers Plebiscite Directive (2022), the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council (Marketing Council) conducted a plebiscite on the question of ALP's service charge model between October 18, 2022 and November 16, 2022. This plebiscite asked eligible Alberta lamb producers whether they supported non-refundable service charge model, or a refundable service charge model. The results of the plebiscite showed that most producers that voted, were in favour of the status quo, a refundable service charge model for ALP. Given the results of the vote, there was no change to the service charge structure or regulations.

Check-Off Refund Request Statistics

Fiscal Year	Number of Producers requesting check off refunds	Dollars Requested to be Refunded
2024-25	17	\$13,545.00
2023-24	27	\$25,995.00
2022-23	24	\$22,640.00
2021-22	24	\$48,272.50
2020-21	20	\$50,040.00

2024-2025 Year in Review: Your Check Off at Work

ALP extends its sincere appreciation to producers for their continued support and recognition that check-off contributions are an investment in the future of our industry. We are pleased to report that between the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 fiscal years, the number of producers requesting check-off refunds decreased by 37%, and the total dollar amount refunded declined by 47.9%.

These contributions are vital to funding ALP's operations, communications, and advocacy efforts. They also enable us to secure additional funding and manage industry development projects. From delivering management resources to promoting Canadian lamb, ALP is committed to ensuring producers receive strong value for their investment.

Over the past year, ALP has worked diligently to represent the best interests of Alberta's lamb producers in both provincial and federal discussions. Our directors and staff have continued to

deliver core programs and strengthen the organization's foundation, positioning ALP for continued success as we enter the 2025–2026 fiscal year.

Effective Governance and Board Engagement

Strong governance is essential to advancing ALP's mission and initiatives efficiently. During the 2024–2025 fiscal year, the board convened for quarterly in-person meetings, three times in Airdrie and once in Olds, while also maintaining a bi-monthly conference call schedule on the second and fourth Tuesday evenings of each month.

Throughout the year, directors and staff participated in leadership workshops facilitated by a Steering Committee of General Managers and Executive Directors from Alberta's Agricultural Boards and Commissions. These sessions supported continued learning and reinforced adherence to governance protocols and regulatory standards. Additional training was provided by the Marketing Council and the Alberta Government, covering topics such as corporate oversight, regulatory frameworks, board member responsibilities, and governance fundamentals.

To ensure board members and staff are well-informed and confident in their roles, online training opportunities are made available and encouraged year-round.

Producer Engagement

Emails, Mailouts and N'ewesletter

The ALP N'ewesletter is published quarterly, providing updates on ALP activities and projects, resources for production and management, productivity tools and technology, as well as industry news and information. Eligible Alberta producers receive complimentary copies of the fall and spring editions by mail, while the summer and winter editions are available exclusively online. After a cost analysis in 2024–2025, the board decided the newsletter will continue with this format as fiscal responsibility dictates.

Staff communicate important events, such as the AGM, via direct emails to producers and by sharing details on the website. In August, all eligible producers were mailed a letter inviting them to the Annual General Meeting and Conference, as well as details on the Producer Resolution Procedure. ALP obtains contact information for producers through their purchase of CSIP tags from CCWG. It is crucial for producers to update the office with any changes to their contact information to ensure they remain informed. It is strongly encouraged that producers share their email addresses with the office as this is the most cost effective and efficient method of communication.

Engagement

ALP recognizes the critical importance of producer engagement and has honored its commitment to increase its presence at industry and producer events. Our goal is to strengthen our connection with producers and continuously refine our communication strategies to enhance engagement. This year, we attended various events, including annual sheep and ram sales, producer meetings, and workshops. If there is an event where you would like to see an ALP Director present, please email the office at info@ablamb.ca.

Highlighted Events ALP has Attended or Hosted

The ALP Finance Chair and Executive Director attended the Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board's AGM and Conference in Saskatoon in January, with ALP's Targeted Grazing course included in

the presentations. January also saw ALP hosting an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) webinar to assist producers in creating their EFP which also enables them to apply for government funding programs. Uptake on the webinar was minimal, however those that attended saw value. In February, ALP collaborated with the Leduc County to offer a Sheep 101 Webinar. Producers joined from across the province to learn from Livestock Extension Specialist Adriane Good from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture. In July the Chair and Executive Director were fortunate to have a trade fair table at the All Canada Sheep Classic in Manitoba and promote the Targeted grazing course, as well as have excellent conversations with producers and stakeholders from across the country. Cache Valley Virus is of great concern to producers across Canada, and ALP teamed up with The Alberta Sheep Breeders Association to offer a hybrid workshop in August. Dr. Lynn Tait gave an excellent presentation, followed by a producer panel. This workshop will be available on the ALP YouTube channel in the coming months. ALP set up a trade fair booth at the ASBA Symposium in October allowing excellent engagement with producers and stakeholders. A hybrid workshop was held in October to walk through the newly updated Business modules that are housed on ALP's website.

Strategic Planning for 2027 and Beyond

ALP's current strategic plan (2022–2027) is coming to an end. The board will undertake a thoughtful and inclusive strategic planning process in the 2025-2026 year, with opportunities for producers to provide input and help shape the future direction of the organization. Included in your package is a Strategic Plan Survey and you are encouraged to share your vision for the future. Please hand your completed survey in to the ALP trade fair table.

Producer Resources

ALP continues to provide resources to producers both as downloads from the website and as printed copies, including **factsheets** and **production modules** developed in Alberta for Alberta flocks. All production modules may be downloaded for free and printed copies are sold at cost.

As a partner with the **Campaign for Wool Canada**, promotional packages are available to our producers at no cost to help them promote the sale of their wool products. These kits include handouts and display items promoting Canadian Wool!

ALP also offers **promotional material** to producers who market their own products through completing an order form found on our website.

Our **YouTube Channel, Sheep Central Alberta**, houses over 50 recorded webinars from past years for producers to view at their own leisure on a wide variety of topics.

The **Scotiabank Yield More Financing™ program** allows ALP members to access funds to purchase ewes and/or feeder lambs as a revolving line of credit with a simple application and approval process. "We're excited to partner with ALP to offer a financing solution for their members," says Eleni Ladacakos, Senior Client Relationship Manager, Scotiabank. The program is open to Alberta sheep farmers with at least two years of experience. There are no security requirements, but credit scores are required. Farmers looking to access the new funding can contact the ALP office to work with staff to complete the application form, or the application can be completed directly with Scotiabank. Application information is available at www.ablamb.ca under the resources section, under the "Farm Finance and Business Programs" tab or by calling ALP directly at 403-948-8533. Interested sheep

farmers can also contact Scotiabank directly by email at yieldmorefinancing@scotiabank.com or by calling 1-866-603-4188.

Advocacy and Representation

ALP is committed to empowering the sheep industry by ensuring producers' voices are heard and their interests are represented in key decision-making processes. Staff and directors actively participate in calls with a range of organizations at both the provincial and federal levels. These collaborative efforts address a broad spectrum of issues, including animal welfare, transportation regulations, and evolving government policies, ensuring that both current and future concerns of producers are brought forward.

Recent advocacy and representation efforts include:

- Minister Round Table Discussions
- Agri-Environmental Partnership of Alberta (AEPA) is a multi-stakeholder partnership of the agriculture industry, government, and environmental non-government organizations, working proactively to address agri-environmental issues from a policy perspective
- Campaign for Wool Advisory Board
- Canadian Federation of Agriculture
- Review of Animal Protection Act and Animal Protection Regulation
- Calgary Stampede Agri-Food Committee
- Olds College Technology Access Centre for Livestock Production
- RDAR Member
- WeCAHN Small Ruminant Network
- Agrivoltaics Canada
- CAHSS Small Ruminant Network
- National Sheep Network

Research and Education

Research and development are essential for continuous improvements in sheep production, and collaboration between industry and researchers drives these advancements. ALP plays a crucial role in setting research priorities and directing research funds. Industry endorsement helps researchers secure funding by validating the importance of their projects to the sheep industry. Financial contributions from the industry can be further leveraged to ensure adequate project funding.

Research into sheep production in Alberta is made possible, in part, by the support and endorsement of producers through ALP. We are pleased to share information on the research projects that ALP has collaborated on and continues to support.

Targeted Grazing: Sheep/Goat Vegetation Management for Unique Grazing Opportunities

After a three-year development period with Lakeland College and the Alberta Goat Association, ALP was proud to accept their first cohort of 10 students into the program in January of 2025, seeing everyone complete the course in March. The September 2025 intake saw an additional 11 students enrolled who will wrap up in December. This course is offered online through the Desire to Learn platform with Lakeland College and details can be found on the ALP website.

SheepBytes Ration Balancing Program

SheepBytes continues to be the only ration balancing program of its kind across North America. The demand for the program continues and ALP is committed to maintaining this valuable asset for sheep producers.

Alberta Sheep Industry Revitalization Project

In 2025, ALP staff were successful in their application to RDAR to receive Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership funding for the purpose of updating the Business learning modules and Cost of Production program found on the ALP website. During the past several months, ALP engaged consultant Tony Stolz of Stolz-Williams Consulting to update these valuable tools with the goal of increasing sheep production in Alberta by 10% year over year. These updated tools will be fully accessible by the end of the first quarter of 2026 on the ALP website, free to all producers.

Guardian Dog Learning Module and Pilot Project

ALP collaborated with Livestock Guardian Dog (LGD) consultants to investigate and research the feasibility of LGD rebate program and learning module. After producer engagement, stakeholder discussions and review into potential grants it was decided that requesting funding for a pilot rebate project would not be done at this time. However, ALP has applied for funding through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership Resilience and Public Trust Program for the creation of a Livestock Guardian Dog Learning Module and collaboration with Rural Municipalities of Alberta for the development, expansion and enhancement of governance around LGDs.

Research Project: Healthy Flocks and Safe Alberta Lamb Meat

The ALP board of directors have approved this research project for in-kind support, with financial funding being awarded by RDAR. The project will be led by (Christine) Xiaoji Liu with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Lacombe from January 5, 2026 thru to December 31, 2027. Disease-causing bacteria including *Clostridium perfringens*, pathogenic *Escherichia coli* and *Salmonella* result in economic losses to the Alberta lamb industry. No recent study on these bacteria has been conducted in domestic sheep flocks or lamb meat produced in Alberta. The research involves collecting and screening fecal and soil samples from commercial lamb flocks in Alberta. The goal is to help producers to identify hotspots in sheep production on farm where bacteria can enter flocks or pastures and infect sheep, increasing the chance of lamb carcasses being rejected by processing facilities. The study will also test the hypothesis that lower food safety risks are associated with Alberta-produced lamb compared to imported lamb meats.

Objective 1: Sample Collection

Farm Samples: Soil and fecal samples will be collected from at least three lamb farms in Alberta. Soil will be sampled from pastures, while fecal samples will be collected from lambs both indoors and on pasture.

Retail Meat Samples: Lamb meat, both Alberta-produced and imported, will be purchased from local grocery stores.

Objective 2: Bacterial Screening

Determine the number and percentage of farm and retail samples (soil, feces, meat) that test positive for disease-causing bacteria, including pathogenic *E. coli*, *Salmonella*, and *C. perfringens*.

Objective 3: Risk Evaluation

Assess the virulence and antimicrobial resistance genes in the identified pathogens.

Engage with producers to explore potential mitigation strategies to enhance biosecurity and reduce exposure risks in sheep flocks.

Objective 4: Comparative Risk Analysis

Compare bacterial risks across Alberta farm samples and data from the Diagnostic Services Unit (DSU) at the University of Calgary, Alberta-produced retail lamb meat, and imported retail lamb meat.

This will help identify risk amplification points in the production chain and highlight differences between domestic and imported lamb.

This study will benefit Alberta lamb producers by informing them of potential risks and encouraging discussions around biosecurity and handling practices. It will also foster collaboration with veterinarians and engineers to improve infrastructure and sanitation practices that prevent bacterial contamination.

Research Project: Developing Nanopore DNA Sequencing for Routine Molecular Diagnostics of Gastrointestinal Nematode (GIN) Parasites and Drug Resistance in Ruminants

This project will be led by Dr. John Gilleard and Sawsan Anmar, University of Calgary. ALP has approved this research project for funding and in-kind support, with the timeline of April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2027.

Gastrointestinal roundworm parasites are one of the most important causes of disease and production loss in small ruminants. Dewormer resistance is a global problem and there is an urgent need for more targeted and sustainable control. The effectiveness of different dewormers varies between roundworm species and, due to dewormer resistance, between different flocks. Hence, we need diagnostic tests to quantify the different roundworm species and determine their dewormer resistance status. However, fecal egg counts only provide information on total worm burden. This project aims to build on our previous work in which we produced molecular tools to apply to fecal samples to determine the roundworm species present and provide some information on dewormer resistance. At present, these tools are only suitable for research applications. Here, we propose to further refine and develop these tools to make them suitable as diagnostic tests for routine monitoring and to support dewormer stewardship.

Goals and Objectives of the Project

- Improving Production Performance
- Improving Business Performance and Profitability; Benchmarking
- Improving Animal Health and Welfare
- Future Farming and Progressive Research

Current approaches to parasite control, based on routine application of dewormers, are increasingly ineffective and unsustainable due to dewormer resistance. This project builds on previous research to transition the novel research technologies that were developed for routine diagnostic use. The ultimate aim is to enable sheep producers to send in samples to a local diagnostic laboratory (the UCVM DSU), in conjunction with their veterinarians, and receive detailed information on the different parasite species present. This will enable an evidence-based assessment on the need for treatment and on dewormer choice and allow parasite control to be assessed and monitored.

A 2-year term is set (April 2026- April 2028) for this project to allow us to ensure that we secure enough appropriate samples from sheep flocks for Objective 2 and also to be able to use the ALP funding as matching funds in larger grant applications e.g. RDAR grants.

Objective 1: Improve the accuracy of the ONT nemabiome metabarcoding for gastrointestinal roundworm parasite species determination.

Objective 2: Application of ONT nemabiome metabarcoding to DNA prepared directly from ovine fecal samples

Objective 1 should be completed by April 2027 and Objective 2 by April 2028 (or sooner if we have sufficient suitable diagnostic submissions).

By the end of the project (April 2028), we aim to have a fully validated diagnostic test with optimized workflows. At this point we will then explore transferring the technology to the UCVM diagnostic services unit to undertake this method as part of their routine diagnostic service.

Research Project: Adaptation of the Anesthetic Care-Ring™ Ligation Band technology to prevent Fly Strikes, RDAR Application 2024N3436R

In 2022/2023, Alberta Lamb Producers received funding through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership to partner with Chinook Contract Research Inc. (CCR) to modify the anesthetic delivering elastration ligation band (the Care-Ring™) for use in Alberta's lamb industry. The product is now available as a prescription product through your veterinarian in Alberta as the LidoBand™ www.lidoband.com. At the project's conclusion, it was identified that the incorporation of an insecticide to prevent fly strike would be a welcome and important feature of the Care-Ring™ technology. The sheep blowfly, *Lucilia cuprina*, is the primary cause of fly strike in sheep. Fly strike is a serious financial and animal welfare issue for the sheep industry, costing up to \$175 million per annum due to production losses (i.e., reduced wool growth and bodyweight gain, and animal death) and costs associated with treatment and prevention. Fly strike control relies largely on the use of insecticides. These chemicals are generally applied as prophylactic treatments given in advance of fly waves, although some are also used as dressing treatments in existing cases. A product that provides long-term fly strike prevention in combination with local anesthesia at the targeted site of action would offer tremendous advantages to the industry. Presently CCR has developed a patented prototype insecticide-containing version of the Lidocaine Loaded Band (LLB), coined "I-LLBs", to provide pain mitigation and work against the development of fly strike-related pathology through the prevention of myiasis (a parasitic infestation of maggots in livestock tissue). Preliminary data has shown promise, and, if successful, such I-LLBs would be tremendously useful, given that their use creates castration and/or tail docking wounds in animals under field conditions over a prolonged time (i.e., weeks). CCR has recently received additional funding through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, administered by Research Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR) 2024N3436R, to collaborate in a private-public partnership to investigate the adaptation of the Care-Ring™ to prevent myiasis and flystrike for use in the Canadian Lamb Industry.

CCR is partnering with Alberta Lamb Producers, Lakeland College, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, and Alberta Veterinary Laboratories (AVL)/Solvat of Calgary, Alberta to develop and eventually manufacture the device in Alberta.

The project has four objectives:

Objective 1: Stakeholder engagement with the membership of Alberta Lamb Producers to gather input for product adaptation to the lamb industry (i.e. what insecticides to incorporate, rotation of classes etc.).

Objective 2: Expand on the research and development efforts adapting the anesthetic releasing technology to accommodate the loading and delivery of potentially multiple classes of insecticides, repellants, and anesthetics.

Objective 3: Facilitate pilot adaptation studies to evaluate the suitability of the Care-Ring™ for use in Alberta's lamb industry for insecticide and anesthetic delivery during tail docking and castration applications. A series of small field trials in Alberta flocks will be designed and conducted. Early stakeholder engagement will be critical to the success of this work.

Objective 4: The ultimate technology transfer goal of this work is to provide producers with the Care-Ring™ anesthesia band with a specific label claim for insecticide and anesthetic delivery during lamb castration and tail docking.

Are you interested in making this great product even better?

We will be conducting two producer surveys during this project to get valuable input on what you want to see in this product (i.e. insecticides or repellants you are interested in being added to the band). The surveys will be conducted in November 2025 and November 2026.

If you are interested in participating in the survey, or learning more about the project, please feel free to contact us directly: Jolene Airth, Executive Director, ALP jolene@ablamb.ca
Andrea Hanson, Lakeland College andrea.hanson@lakelandcollege.ca

This initiative (project) was made possible from funding provided by the governments of Canada and Alberta through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) and the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership. The funding was administered by Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR).

Website Rebuild

ALP has engaged Habit Communications to upgrade and rebuild its website, which was originally launched in 2014 and was due for a comprehensive refresh; both creatively and technically. We are pleased to report that approximately 90% of the redevelopment work has been completed. The project is now in its final stages of testing and quality assurance.

We are excited to offer a sneak peek of the new site here at our AGM and look forward to officially launching it before the end of Q1 2026.

Looking Forward

Bylaw and Regulation Review

The Alberta Lamb Producers Regulation and the Alberta Lamb Producers Plan Regulation have an expiry date of April 30, 2027. The Board will begin the regulatory review process well in advance to give ample time to complete any changes prior to the review/expiry date. In addition to the regulations, bylaws will be reviewed to see if there are any required amendments.

The Board will be reviewing the regulations and bylaws over the next couple of months to identify anything they feel should be changed/added/removed. All producers will be made aware of any

proposed amendments. Some questions that we ask producers to consider when reviewing the regulations and bylaws are:

- Do we understand what this provision means?
- Do we need this provision? Have we ever used it?
- Is there any other provision that we would like to add to address a specific current or future potential issue/opportunity?
- Does this need to be in regulation? Are there non-regulatory methods to achieve our goals instead?
- Are we complying with the regulations as currently stated? If not, what needs to change – the regulation or the procedure?
- Does the regulation help us achieve the industry's strategic plan?

Proposed changes will be communicated to producers prior to the 2026 AGM.

Webinars

ALP staff are once again collaborating with Leduc County to plan a webinar for those interested in the sheep industry. We are scheduled to host a January 2026 targeting new or potential producers, as well as those with small to medium sized herds who may want to learn more or gain additional tips. This initiative is designed to encourage new producers to join the sheep industry and showcase our newly updated Business materials and cost of production tools.

- The SheepBytes ration balancing program continues to gain momentum and ALP will host a webinar in 2026. SheepBytes has users across Canada, the USA, and even a few international subscribers.
- Producer education is valuable in supporting and expanding our industry. ALP is happy to receive suggestions for webinar topics that will assist our producers in continuing the success of their operations and monitor the landscape of the industry to provide educational webinars as things pop up in the year.

Consumer Awareness Initiatives

Alberta producers take pride in raising high-quality lamb, benefiting from our clean air, sparkling water, and rich feed grains and forages. The ALP Board of Directors continues to focus on consumer awareness initiatives to highlight Alberta lamb. As an official partner of Alberta on the Plate since 2021-22, we participate in a province-wide celebration of local produce.

Alberta on the Plate

Alberta on the Plate connects consumers to agriculture through local restaurants and initiatives like Alberta Open Farm Days. Throughout the year, it shares the Alberta food story with media and consumers, celebrating local restaurants, producers, farms, and businesses to encourage visitation and investment in our local food economy. It also helps chefs and restaurateurs develop and strengthen relationships with local farms and producers.

During Local Food Week in August, Alberta on the Plate hosts a province-wide Dine Around, where participating restaurants offer multi-course, fixed-price menus highlighting local producers, growers, distillers, and brewers. This event coincides with Alberta Local Food Week and wraps up the same weekend as Open Farm Days, bringing farm freshness to plates across Alberta.

Calgary Stampede Agri-Food Committee and Sheep Showcase

ALP is proud to collaborate with the Calgary Stampede and our fellow agri-food partners to ensure appropriate key messaging and product promotion is shared with the public during their world-renowned events. During the 2025 Calgary stampede, over one million people visited the AG Zone and had the opportunity to learn about our food products.

ALP is pleased to continue their support, alongside the countless volunteers who highlight the sheep industry at these events.

In Summary

The staff and directors of ALP are committed to educating and encouraging people to appreciate our local producers and their delicious products. We are committed to expanding the industry through sharing business and financing information as well as all aspects of starting or expanding a sheep farm. We are committed to continued collaboration towards national unity.

2026 is going to be a great year for the sheep industry!



Alberta Lamb Producers

Strategic Plan Survey

The current Alberta Lamb Producers (ALP) strategic plan runs until 2027, and we are now beginning preparations for the next plan that will guide ALP.

To help shape this new strategic direction, the **ALP Board is seeking input from eligible producers** across the province. Your feedback is essential in identifying priorities, challenges, and opportunities for Alberta's lamb industry. Your responses will directly inform where ALP focuses its energy, resources, and advocacy efforts.

A strategic plan provides a clear path for an organization to achieve its long-term goals by outlining the direction, priorities, and actions needed to move from the current state to the desired state. We encourage you to take a few minutes to share your perspective - your voice matters in shaping the future of our industry.

Current strategic objectives (2022- 2027):

- Operational
 - Producer Relations
 - Financial Management
 - Governance
- Education
- Industry Development
 - Wool Promotion
 - Local Food Trends and Consumer Education
 - Research
- Advocacy
 - Veterinary Services
 - Predation
 - Canadian Agricultural Partnership Funding

SURVEY

1. Please rank the following from (1 – Most important, 7 – Least important)

- ___ Producer Education
 - ___ Market Development & Industry Promotion
 - ___ Research
 - ___ Advocacy & Government Relations
 - ___ Environment & Sustainability
 - ___ Trade
 - ___ Other _____ (Please explain) _____
-

2. On my operation the greatest challenge is

3. How optimistic are you about the future of the Alberta sheep industry?

- ☐ Very optimistic
- ☐ Somewhat optimistic
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Somewhat pessimistic
- ☐ Pessimistic
- ☐ Very pessimistic

4. What do you feel is an appropriate time frame for a strategic plan?

- ☐ Three Years
- ☐ Five Years

5. What do you see as the **biggest opportunities** for growth in Alberta's lamb sector over the next five years?

6. Any additional comments or suggestions for the ALP Board as we develop the next Strategic Plan?

Thank you for your input! Please return completed surveys to the ALP tradeshow table.