

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:  
**Alberta Lamb Producers**  
 97 East Lake Ramp NE  
 Airdrie, AB  
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# N'ewesletter

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April 2025



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Sheep & Goat Special- May 24 at 10 am

Sheep & Goat Special - June 7 at 10 am

#### Odd 'N Unusual Sales

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#### Equipment Sales

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Cover photo: Susan Neal

## N'ewesletter Policy

Hard copies of N'ewesletter will be mailed to all producers who have purchased CSIP tags and paid check-off within the last two years. Producers who have not purchased tags within the last two years will be removed from our mailing list, but may continue receiving hard copies in the mail for \$25 + GST, paid annually. Please contact the office for an invoice. ALP offers each issue of N'ewesletter on our website for free access: link: <https://ablamb.ca/index.php/news-advertising/n-ewesletter>. ALP continually strives to responsibly use check-off dollars to benefit lamb producers in Alberta.

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## Message From Your Vice Chair

During the last 2 years, one of the discussions that appears at most producer meetings and at the last couple of AGM's is national unity, and the strengthening of our industry.

It is apparent that right now all of Canada is looking at their respective industries and looking for ways to remain strong and profitable in the current climate. I am happy to say that our sheep industry and the national landscape has been on ALP's radar longer than the renewed interest in buying Canadian and reducing interprovincial trade.

Alberta is punching above its weight class with 20% of the lamb industry AND the largest lamb federal processing plant in the country. Alberta plays a significant role in providing high-quality lamb to consumers.

Through a producer resolution at the AGM, you, the producers gave the Board clear direction to investigate rejoining CSF. The Board had already commenced such investigations and since the AGM has continued having conversations with other provincial sheep organizations to gather information to help us make an informed decision in the best interests of Alberta's sheep industry. Alberta's lamb industry, is by nature, part of a broader national agricultural framework that includes producers from every corner of Canada, with varying regional challenges, production methods, and consumer demands. Up to this point in time it has been easy for provinces to become isolated in their approach to industry issues, but the need for a strong national voice is more important than ever, and Alberta producers have said they would like ALP to investigate having a seat at the table.

Alberta producers, by participating in national discussions and initiatives, can ensure that their concerns are heard and that the needs of the industry are met at the highest level.

As Alberta lamb producers investigate to see where our role is nationally, it's clear that there is a great deal of work that needs to be done, and it won't happen overnight, there are many tough discussions that need to be had. It is important to remember that we don't need to agree on everything to see benefit in a working relationship.

ALP is involved with many discussions at a National level, and is committed to ensuring Alberta producers are represented and included. Today we are having more conversations and collaborating more effectively across the country than we have over the past few years. While the ultimate decision on where Alberta producers are best served in the national landscape is yet to be determined, discussions with other provinces reveals a consistent desire to see the Canadian sheep industry move forward.

Alberta has a vital role to play on the national stage, and by continuing to engage in open dialogue, we can ensure that our concerns are heard, and our industry moves forward.

*Marty Winchell*





## From Your Director: Olivia Blum

Hi There. I am Olivia Blum, a recent addition to the Alberta Lamb Producers Board in Fall of 2024. I am relatively new to the sheep production industry with about 5 years' experience with sheep on our small farmstead. "Northern Light Acres" is run with my husband Steve and our two boys still at home. Our farm also raises pigs, chickens, turkeys and we breed CKC registered Pembroke Welsh Corgis. I am also a Registered Nurse and work full time as a Nursing Educator. Juggling family, farm, kids' activities and a career are always considered a balancing act.



Like so many budding sheep programs we started from 4-H projects and have grown from two ewes our first year to about 40 at the moment. Being that our boys are involved with 4-H we are aiming this year to meet the demand for Winter 4-H lambs for local club projects and have an assortment of breeds. Being new to sheep I have found it a bit hard to pick a breed and go with it and so still working towards that while keeping our flock relatively closed.

It was a big step for us last year to put in some infrastructure to facilitate lambing in December with a basic barn. Having that barn has been a dream for a while and even though ours has a dirt floor and is not heated it has served to get the lambs out of the wind and weather. We will put up heat lamps for them and use sweaters if temperatures are cool. Our latest additions have been a shiny new water hydrant to have water in the barn, a sheep handling system and even a website for our budding farm business.

My biggest concern as a small-scale producer is finding ways to be profitable with sheep. Not having the land resources and equipment to grow our own feed has been the greatest challenge for us and being only a small acreage, we feed year-round and do not have much grazing available. We are currently enrolled in the Loop program which utilizes food items that would have been discarded by grocery stores and gets expiring food items to farmers to use as feed. It has been work driving to the city to get our assigned pickups - removing stickers and twist ties and plastic from the items and dealing with all the waste packaging. But we feed our livestock this produce every day, and it helps to reduce hay use a bit. Who knew that sheep would eat citrus fruits, potatoes, onions and all sorts of other unlikely veggies. They come running when I bring the buckets and just love it!

Another thing we have been working towards is having our lamb finished up to market weight and finding inspected processors to be able to retail our small quantities of product too. It

has been a challenge finding in my area (near Olds) places that will accept lamb that are inspected.

As a new board member I am learning about all the great resources our ALP team is working on to help new producers find this information and all of the great educational resources that are available. Every month I am learning new things about our industry, making connections and gaining knowledge about sheep. I am pleased to grow in this knowledge with you all and encourage you to reach out if you have any questions about your industry that we can help connect you with.

## Message From Your Interim Director: Richard Van Driesten

Hello fellow sheep producers. I, Richard Van Driesten, am excited to have recently joined the ALP board of directors as an Interim director. Together with my wife and 3 young children, I farm near the small town of Champion, Alberta. Raised on a goat dairy near Nobleford Alberta, I bought my first sheep while enrolled in the Agriculture Technology – Animal Sciences program at Lethbridge College. My first flock of 30 Clun Forests soon evolved into a more commercial crossbred flock of Romanov, Dorset, East Friesian and Cheviot cross ewes which were bred back to Suffolk terminal rams. A couple years ago we transitioned into a lamb feedlot rather than a lambing operation due to labor requirements and high feed costs. We currently purchase all of our lambs as light weight feeder lambs and grow them to 120- 140 lb finished lambs. Having been in the sheep industry for 14+ years and raised in the farming community, I feel I can help voice the concerns of the Albertan sheep industry and I look forward to working with producers all across the province as an ALP director.



Needless to say, this is an exciting time for the Canadian sheep industry. Although the wool division is struggling to find a place in today's market, lambs have been selling at record high prices. We have seen feeder lambs selling for well over \$4.00/lb at auction marts in Alberta and finished lambs hit \$15/kg on the rail. It will be very interesting to see what the markets do going forward.

This is a great time to expand our industry, whether it be new producers getting on board, existing producers expanding, more farmers getting into direct marketing, more slaughter houses and butcher shops being set up and research being done on developing better management practices. With some 60 percent of lamb consumed in Canada currently being imported from other countries, we have an enormous potential for the Canadian sheep industry, and together we can work to get Canadian lamb on the plates of Canadians.



I hope you all were able to stay warm and safe this past Winter and can look forward to the busy Spring and Summer months ahead.

## ALP Activities Fall/Winter 2024/2025

- September 3: Farm Tour/Producer meeting, Ponoka area (3 directors, 1 staff)
- September 12: CFA meeting, virtual (1 staff)
- September 13-14: ALP In-Person Board Meeting, Airdrie (directors, 1 staff)
- September 16: Rangeland Sustainability research project, virtual meeting (1 staff)
- September 20: TACLP (Technology Access Centre for Live-stock Production) Industry Advisory Board Meeting, virtual (1 director)
- September 26: National Sheep Network (NSN) meeting, virtual (2 directors)
- October 1 & 28: Rangeland Sustainability research project team, virtual meeting (1 staff)
- October 8: Alberta Animal Surveillance Vet- M. Ovi testing & fencing program, virtual (1 staff)
- October 8: ALP Board Call, TEAMS (directors, 1 staff)
- October 16: Westfine Meats Producer Meeting, virtual (2 directors, 1 staff)
- October 22: All Members Marketing Council Meeting, Red Deer (1 director, 1 staff)
- October 23-24: CFA Board meeting, virtual (1 staff)
- October 23: ALP Board Call\*, TEAMS (directors, 1 staff)
- October 25: OSF Annual General Meeting virtual (1 director)
- October 28: Traceability CFIA/ALP/OSF, virtual (4 executive, 1 staff)
- October 29: Agri-Food Exhibitor and Commodity Meeting, Calgary (1 director, 1 staff)
- October 30: AEPA (Agri-Environmental Partnership of Alberta) Advisory Committee, virtual (1 staff)
- November 4, 18 & 25: Rangeland Sustainability research project team meeting (2 staff)
- November 15: WeCahn Small Ruminant network meeting, virtual (1 staff)
- November 16: ASBA Annual General Meeting, virtual (1 director)
- November 19: CIPARS Webinar (1 staff)
- November 20: Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian meeting, Airdrie (1 staff)
- November 23: ALP AGM & Conference, Olds (6 Directors, 2 staff)
- November 26: Agrivoltaics Canada, virtual (1 staff)
- November 28: National Sheep Network (NSN) meeting, virtual (2 directors, 1 staff)
- December 10 & 16: Rangeland Sustainability research project, virtual meeting (2 staff)
- December 10: ALP Board Call\*, TEAMS (directors, 1 staff)
- December 11: AEPA meeting, virtual (1 staff)
- December 18: CAHSS Small Ruminant Network Meeting, virtual (1 staff)
- December 19: All MBC – Marketing Council Meeting, virtual (1 staff)
- January 6: Research Projects - AAFC research Scientists/ RDAR/ALP, virtual meeting (1 staff)
- January 6: Rangeland Sustainability research project team, virtual meeting (2 staff)
- January 10 & 11: SSDB AGM & Conference, Saskatoon (1 director, 1 staff)
- January 14: Meeting with AG Minister Sigurdson, Calgary, (1 director, 1 staff)
- January 14: ALP Board Call\*, TEAMS (directors and 1 staff)
- January 15: Westfine Meats Producer Meeting (2 directors, 1 staff)
- January 16: RDAR members meeting and Research Showcase, Nisku (1 director, 1 staff)
- January 18: CSF AGM, virtual (4 directors, 1 staff)
- January 22: CFA GMs meeting, virtual (1 staff)
- January 23: Campaign for Wool and ALP meeting, Calgary (1 director, 1 staff)
- January 27: Targeted Grazing Course Committee, virtual meeting (1 staff)
- January 28: ALP Board Call\*, TEAMS (directors and 1 staff)
- January 30: National Sheep Network (NSN) virtual meeting (2 directors, 1 staff)
- January 31: FAA Conference, Red Deer (1 staff)
- February 4: Research Project Proposal Meeting with Dr. Gilleard & Dr. Anmar (UCVM), Airdrie (1 staff)
- February 5: Leduc County Sheep 101 webinar (1 director, 1 staff)
- February 6: Conversation on AG and the Alberta Economy with NDP MLAs, Calgary (1 director, 1 staff)
- February 7 & 8: ALP In-Person Board Meeting, Airdrie (directors, 1 staff)
- February 8: Manitoba Sheep Association AGM, virtual (6 directors, 1 staff)
- February 11: ALP Board Call\*, TEAMS (directors, 1 staff)
- February 19: AEPA virtual (1 staff)
- February 25: ALP Board Call\*, TEAMS (directors, 1 staff)
- March 4: ACA (AG Carbon Alliance) Committee, virtual meeting (1 staff)
- March 4: Canadian Sheep Extension Network, virtual meeting (1 staff)
- March 5: ASBA & ALP event collaboration, virtual meeting (1 director, 1 staff)
- March 6: AAFC Roundtable – Information sharing/Q&A on U.S Tariffs, virtual (1 staff)
- March 6: Meeting with Alberta Lamb Producers and MLA Heather Sweet, virtual (1 staff)
- March 11: ALP Board Call\*, TEAMS (directors, 1 staff)
- March 20: Agrivoltaics 101 Webinar (1 staff)
- March 21: ARECA Annual General Meeting, virtual (1 staff)
- March 25: ALP Board Call\*, TEAMS (directors, 1 staff)
- March 27: National Sheep Network (NSN), virtual meeting (2 directors, 1 staff)

## Director Thank You: Richard Boscher

The Alberta Lamb Producers extend their gratitude to Richard Boscher for his dedicated volunteer service as a director with the commission. Richard was acclaimed in the fall of 2021 for a three-year term, which he completed in November 2024. Following a bylaw change in 2022, ALP directors now serve two-year terms. In February 2025, Richard decided to step down from his second term as director. The board and staff will greatly miss his risk mitigation strategies and thoughtful contributions. Throughout his tenure with ALP, Richard served as a director, vice finance chair, and participated in several committees. We wish Richard and his family all the best in their future sheep farming endeavors.

## ALP Meets With Minister Sigurdson

On January 14, 2025 ALP chair Jordan Allen and Executive Director Jolene Airth had the opportunity to meet with the Honorable RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and his chief of staff Mikayla Janssen at the McDougall Centre in Calgary, Alberta.

The need for more red meat abattoirs was discussed, specifically lamb/mutton abattoirs in the province, to which the minister replied that under the Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership (SCAP) there is an opportunity to apply for funding. As posted on the Government of Alberta website the "Emerging Opportunities Program" which supports projects focused on innovation and results in significant company growth and sector impact. The Emerging Opportunities Grant Program supports the Government of Alberta's strategic objectives related to growth and development of Alberta's value-added agriculture sector. The program supports projects that focus on innovation and result in significant company growth and sector impact. Projects can include new technologies, best new practices, significant capacity expansions and new builds.

Interested applicants can contact the program area directly to discuss if the project meets the objectives of the program. If the project is deemed a fit, the applicant will be invited to submit a letter of request to the program. The program area will prepare recommendations for the Minister based on project alignment with assessment criteria and available funding.

There is limited funding for this program. Projects conducted by agriculture and bio-industrial processors must have a minimum total project investment of \$2 million. Maximum grant funding provided by this program is \$1,000,000 per fiscal year, to a project maximum of \$2,000,000. A project will only be considered under one program (processors cannot apply to more than one Alberta Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) program for the same project expenses). Further details will be shared with applicants that are invited to apply for funding.

Cost share for approved capital expenses is 25% government and 75% applicant. Cost share for approved non-capital expenses is 50% government and 50% applicant."

There is a demand for more facilities in this province and the government has heard us, now who wants to start a business?!

Staying on the theme of meat processing, we discussed that while the on-farm slaughter licenses have created opportunities for those who follow regulations, it has also put the sheep industry under a bad light in this province. Regulatory processes are not followed at times, be that from lack of education or lack of the desire to follow the regulation. Government approach to mitigating this problem is to increase the education requirements, including the completion of a food safety course prior to on farm slaughter licenses being awarded. In addition to this, the government is working to pass legislation to increase the fines from \$10,000 to \$100,000 for each offence. This may prove to be a deterrent, should the courts be firm and apply appropriate penalties. Producers are encouraged to report illegal slaughter, and protect the industry you work so hard to be successful in.

We moved on to discuss the lack of extension support in the smaller ag sectors, and it was mentioned how the Alberta sheep industry is thankful to have the support of neighboring provinces to share some of their expertise. We did not receive much support on this discussion, as the government recently shot down the efforts of many to reinstate the extension networks last fall. The minister suggested that a co-operative extension model would be best. We will continue to collaborate with our fellow provincial organizations and their extension specialists to create that network we need, as well as advocate for funding support.

The lack of veterinarians in this province who treat sheep was a next topic of discussion. We were met with the knowledge that the University of Calgary has increased their intake to 100 applicants for the coming year and the federal government is discussing foreign accreditation opportunities for international veterinarians.

We were only booked for 30 minutes, but we did manage to squeeze in a few more and discuss the sheer volume of imported lamb and mutton in this country. The minister was shocked to hear that Canada had imported almost 16,000 metric tonnes of lamb and mutton from January 2024 -July 2024 (the most recent data published). We stated that a federal tariff on imports would benefit our industry, as well as pointed out that there is huge opportunity for producers to expand in this province to meet this national demand.

The meeting was a positive step toward growing the sheep industry Alberta. For producers wanting to start or grow their operation, there are grants and funding available to increase beneficial management practices on farm. Check out the ALP website, or provincial and federal websites to learn more.



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# ***Our Sixth Online Production Ram & Ewe Sale***

**Friday, June 13 and Saturday, June 14, 2025**

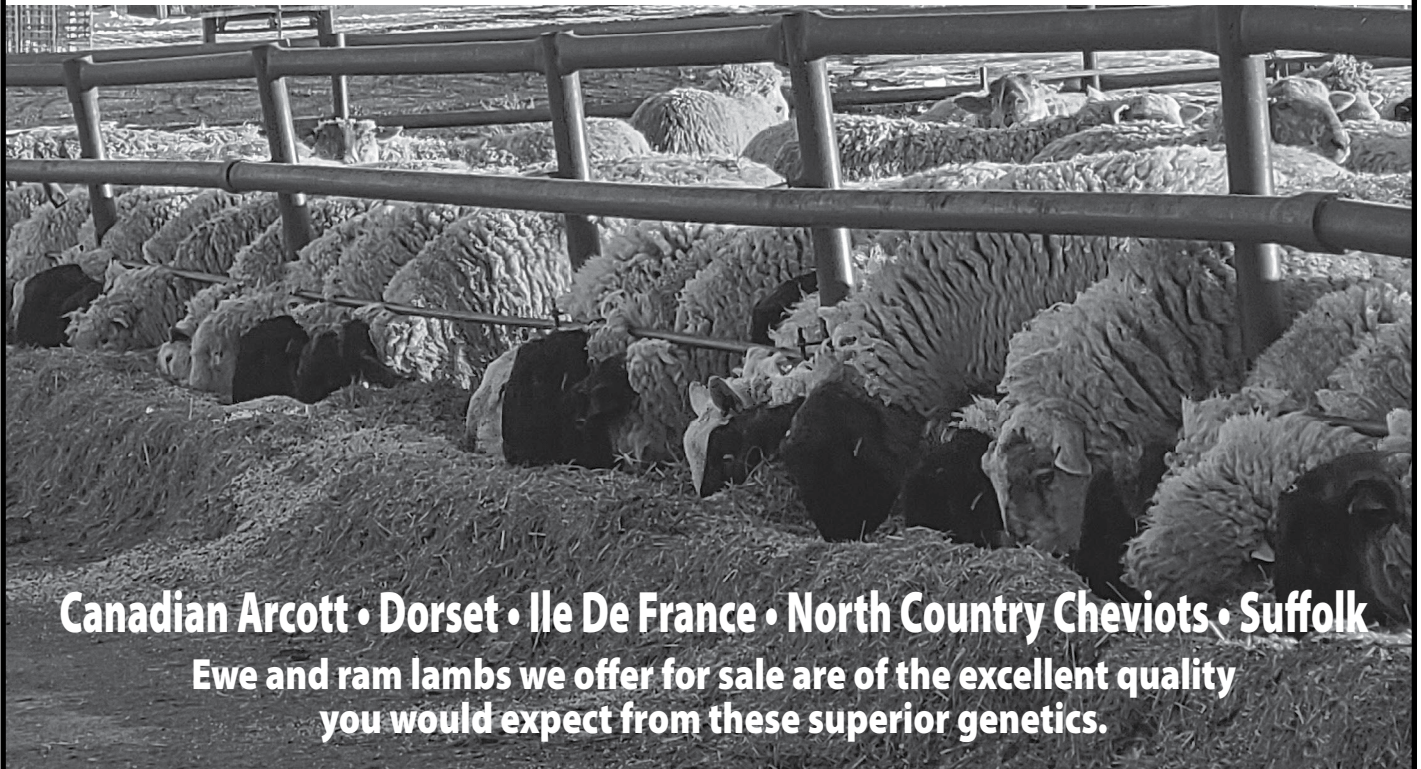
with Preview on Thursday, June 12 • Hamburgers & Pop from 11am to 4 pm

40 to 45 yearling rams and 20 to 25 ewe lambs will be on offer

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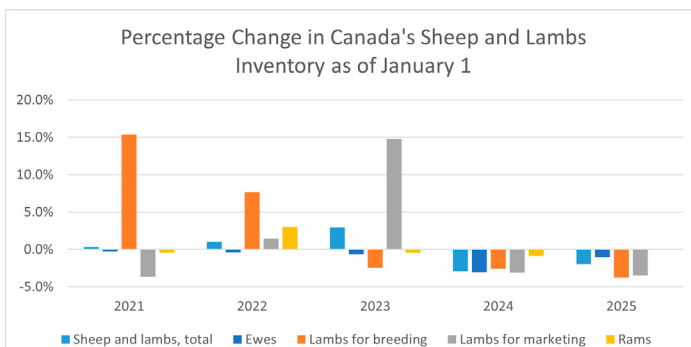
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## Lamb and Sheep Market Update: Ann Boyda

**Provincial Livestock Market Analyst, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation**

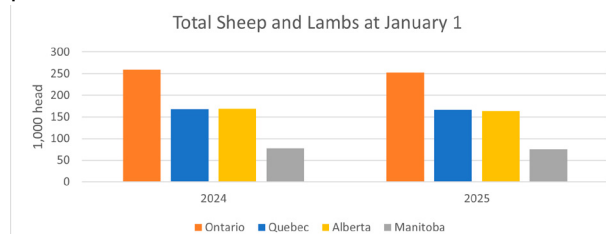
**Overview** - The global economy is facing greater uncertainties and challenges, including critical trade relations, inflation, changing trade flows and other market disruptions. Recently released Statistics Canada data on sheep and lamb inventories provides a picture of where the industry currently stands. Market data suggests firm prices but a smaller breeding flock and subsequent smaller lamb crop going forward.

**Inventory** - Nationally, the total sheep and lambs inventory declined by two per cent from last year to 805,800 head. The ewe herd size decreased by one per cent to 476,500 head and the number of lambs retained for breeding reflect the greatest decline of 3.8 per cent to 87,100 head. Marketing lambs were reported at 218,700 head, a 3.4 per cent decline from last year. Statistics Canada reported a significant increase in the number of breeding lambs in 2021 of 15.4 per cent from 76,600 head to 88,400 head, and again in 2022, a 7.7 per cent to 95,200 head, however, subsequent numbers declined over the next three years to the January 1, 2025 level of 87,100 head.



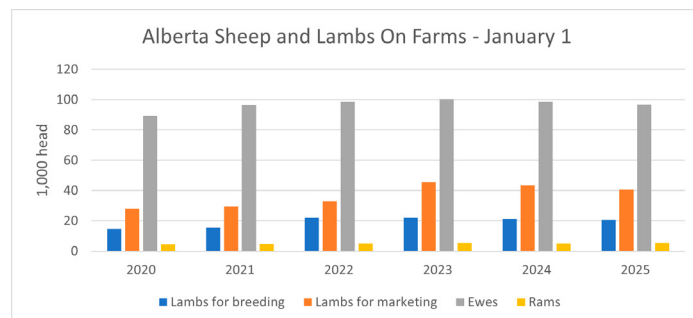
Source: Statistics Canada

January 1, 2025 data indicates that herd size declined across Canada. Provincially, Alberta was edged out of its position as the second largest provincial producer of lamb by Quebec. Ontario maintains its top producing spot. As of January 1, total number of sheep and lambs in Ontario declined from 360,900 head in 2024 to 353,600 head in 2025; Quebec inventories declined from 167,600 head to 166,400 head and Alberta's inventory declined from 169,000 to 163,500 head over the same period.



Source: Statistics Canada

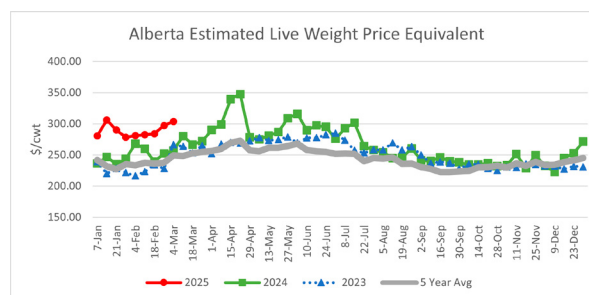
Alberta's breeding sheep flock have seen a decline for two consecutive years. Ewe numbers decreased from their height of 100,500 head in 2023 to 96,700 head reported for January 1, 2025. Similarly, lambs retained for breeding declined from 22,200 head in 2022 to 20,700 head currently. Higher lamb prices may have incentivised producers to sell more ewe lambs rather than retain them for breeding, contributing to the decline in total sheep and lamb inventory.



Source: Statistics Canada

**Supply and disposition** - In 2024, Alberta inventories of sheep and lambs were reported at an estimated 169,000 head. Over the year, about 144,000 lambs were born and lambs imports of 13,500 head from other provinces and 600 head from U.S. brought the total supply estimate to 327,100 head: a 2.9 per cent decline from 2023. Federally inspected slaughter volumes for West Canada (including Ontario), as reported by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, was 81,378 head in 2024, down five per cent from 2023. Total slaughter of Alberta sheep and lambs (federal and provincial inspected, on-farm and farm sales) was estimated at 125,700 head, a three per cent decrease from 2023. Interprovincial exports were estimated to be comparable to 2023 levels. The total disposition of sheep and lambs for 2024, accounting for deaths and condemnations, was estimated to be 163,600 head, resulting in the estimated January 1, 2025 inventory of 163,500 animals.

**Prices** - The Ontario market remains the benchmark for sheep and lamb pricing in Western Canada. In 2024, Alberta monthly lamb prices demonstrate a stronger correlation with Ontario prices. Even though Alberta's weekly lamb price has been more volatile over the past year, the estimated average live weight price for 2024 was \$263.33 per hundredweight (cwt), which is 5.5 per cent higher than the 2023 average. Alberta lamb prices are holding strong into 2025 with an average year-to-date (February 28, 2025) price of \$289.31 per cwt.

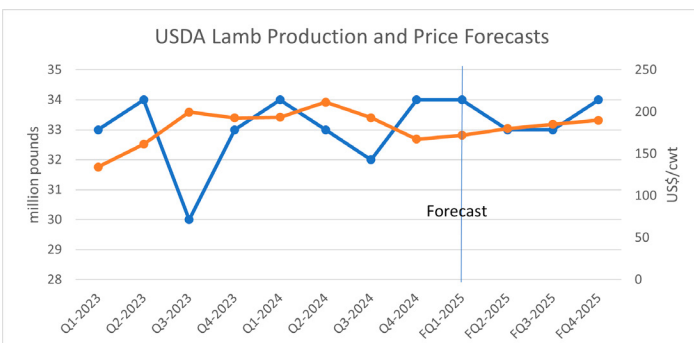




**Global situation** - According to Rabobank's Global Animal Protein Outlook report, global lamb supplies are down which is providing support for prices. Lamb production is expected to decline further in 2025. Canada is a modest lamb producing country.

The largest producer is China with an estimated 187 million sheep population, followed by India and Australia as major lamb producers at 75 million and 74.7 million, respectively. Global trade dynamics are shifting with greater focus higher-value markets in Europe and North America. China remains a critical factor in global markets driven by its economic rebound.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) January 1 sheep inventory report shows a slight increase in sheep and lamb inventory between 2024 and 2025 of 0.4 per cent to 5,050,000 head. Replacement lambs were reported to be comparable to a prior year estimate of 635,000, but ewe inventory rose by 0.3 per cent to 2,880,000 head. USDA also reported that lamb prices were lower than expected in early 2025 with an estimated first quarter price forecast of \$172 per cwt.



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service (Next Page)

**Conclusion** - Looking ahead, strong lamb prices and improved feed costs will support producer margins. The new lamb season is quickly approaching, and favourable weather conditions can have a bearing on future supply. Consumer demand will ultimately drive lamb pricing and with the current wave in 'buy local or Canadian' sentiment, there is reason for optimism in the Alberta lamb sector.

## Photo Contest!

ALP is in the process of updating their website! New, high-quality photos are required. Are you a photographer who loves taking quality sheep photos? Would you like your photos featured on the new ALP website and future literature? All photos submitted will become property of ALP and may be used in website creation, learning modules and promotional material. Photos must be submitted in the jpeg format via email to [admin@ablamb.ca](mailto:admin@ablamb.ca). First, second and third prize of UFA gift cards will be awarded.



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- Fenceline Feeders
- Grain Self Feeders
- Kidding Panels



### Z303-5D 5' Double Sided Feeder

- Holds approx 36 bushels
- Feed flow adjustable without wrenches
- Made of 14 ga material fully welded
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## Do We Want a Livestock Guardian Dog Rebate Program in Alberta? by Louise Liebenberg

Predation is often cited as a reason why many sheep producers either leave the industry or downsize dramatically. Predation not only eats into profits and kills genetic lines, managing predation is costly, time consuming and can be mentally draining. Most sheep keepers understand the need to having to protect their livestock and are often pioneers in finding new ways to reduce wildlife conflicts. It is the shepherds around the world that have driven innovative anti-predation options such as "Foxlights," E-Shepherd and of course a variety of fencing and night corraling options. Thousands of years ago it was shepherds who started to select dogs who showed an affinity for protecting the livestock from wild predators and through selection, these shepherds bred dogs who could live in harmony with the sheep. To this day, the use of livestock guardian dogs is still one of the best options to keep small hooved livestock safe. Research all over the world seems to agree that using LGD is effective in reducing predation. It is not perfect, however no one system has yet proven to be the "silver bullet". The most success seems to be those farmers who use a multitude of management strategies, a multi tool approach; using LGD, in combination with electric fences and ensuring carcasses are removed, some areas adding foxlights or radio sounds to try and minimise conflict.

The Board and the Executive Director of Alberta Lamb Producers recognise the efforts sheep producers have to go through to keep their sheep and lambs safe and have approached me to investigate the feasibility to obtain funding for the utilization of Livestock Guardian Dogs (LGD) for Albertan sheep producers.

Saskatchewan runs a rebate program whereby they help subsidise the purchase of a LGD through the Saskatchewan Crop

Insurance Corporation (SCIC) program. This is a single form of payment; whereby producers can claim a \$400 dollars rebate for the purchase of an LGD. In other countries there are programs in place whereby organizations give the farmers a LGD to use to keep their livestock safe.

The Alberta Lamb Producers (ALP) are investigating if this is a need for our producers and how we can obtain funding for such a program. Initially, it will consist of several investigative initiatives whereby a closer look at various funding models and rebate programs that other organizations use to promote the use of LGD on livestock operations. We will need to figure out the "pros and cons" of each system and what would be best for Alberta sheep keepers.

The initial phase will include a survey for the Alberta Lamb Producers or any sheep producer within Alberta. This survey will provide us with important information such as;

if there is enough interest among producers for such a program, what parameters would need to be placed on the program and cost effectiveness of such a program. If we have a low response to the survey or if producers do not feel this is a project ALP should focus on, then we will have no need to investigate further.

I would strongly encourage producers to participate in this first survey as it will give us a guide on how to proceed. Likely, if the response is positive, more short surveys will follow to help define some parameters and needs of the producers.

We need to address some questions such as if producers are interested in such a program, are the ALP members wanting us to focus time, resources and money into this initiative? What type of parameters would this program need? How can we ensure that the LGD funded through this program are well cared for and that basic welfare standards are met? How do we measure success both for the program and for the individual operation?



Are the LGD successful and how do we measure this? Do we require a spay and neuter agreement? All (future) questions to consider.

Following this, and dependant on the survey results, we will investigate if we can initiate a pilot project through one of the grant funding opportunities such as Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (sCAP), before approaching the Government for more long-term funding.

I see this as an exciting opportunity for producers, as I would love to see more LGD being used and being successful on livestock operations. However, I also have some reservations, so researching and possibly having a pilot project first will help highlight potential issues that might need to be addressed. Depending on the results we will likely form a small working group of people to hash out some of the details, surveys, funding and other mundane tasks.

We would love to hear from you and invite you to take part in this short (5 minute) survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CTDDN8B>

If you have any questions or would like to share some information you are also welcome to email me at [Louisegrazerie@gmail.com](mailto:Louisegrazerie@gmail.com).



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**INVESTIGATING A LGD REBATE PROGRAM IN ALBERTA**

Alberta Lamb Producers

## Helping Landowners Navigate Alberta's Wetland Policy by Greg Hale

Since 2015, wetland management in Alberta has been governed by the provincial Wetland Policy, which provides the framework to 'conserve, restore, protect, and manage Alberta's wetlands to sustain the benefits they provide to the environment, society, and economy.' The policy is implemented through the provincial Water Act's approval process. A Water Act approval is required for any proposed project that has the potential to impact any type of water body. Proposed projects must also meet the Wetland Policy's requirements to avoid or minimize

wetland impacts and to replace wetland losses if such impacts cannot be avoided.

With this in mind, it is clear that the Alberta Wetland Policy has important implications for landowners who work around wetlands on their land. However, policy and related legislation isn't generally easy to understand. The Alberta North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) Partnership developed the Landowner Guide to the Alberta Wetland Policy as part of the Partnership's ongoing commitment to address the needs brought forward by the agricultural sector regarding the Wetland Policy.

"Agricultural producers manage the vast majority of wetlands within the settled area of the province," explains Tracy Scott with Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC). "The bottom line is, if we want to achieve successful implementation of the Wetland Policy, we need to engage directly with the folks who manage these lands." Tracy is also chair of Alberta NAWMP's Policy Committee and a member of the Management Committee.

Alberta NAWMP and DUC have regularly heard questions about the Wetland Policy directly from landowners and through Alberta NAWMP's agriculture-related working groups and associations like the Agri-Environmental Partnership of Alberta. Landowners are asking: What is the policy? Does it apply to me? What do I have to do as a result of it?

The new Landowner Guide helps landowners better understand their rights and responsibilities under the policy, helps them understand what they need to know before working in and around wetlands on their farm or ranch, but also helps them understand how wetlands can provide multiple benefits to their farm or ranch and community.

"The department receives questions from landowners every day on how the Water Act and the Alberta Wetland Policy would apply to their property," says Amanda Cooper with Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (EPA), the department responsible for the policy and the Water Act.

"There has been a lot of confusion for landowners on what activities could or could not be conducted around a wetland on private lands. Often landowners would look to the Wetland Policy to provide guidance on this. However, the policy is a guidance document about how the Province will manage wetlands. The information they were seeking is contained in the Water Act and the Water Ministerial Regulation. As the Water Act is a legal document, understanding the language can be challenging."

She adds that the Guide brings the information from all three documents – the Water Act, Water Ministerial Regulation and the Wetland Policy – together in one place in a format that is accessible for landowners and focuses on questions landowners ask. The Guide also provides information on the importance and benefits of wetlands in a way that is specific to landowners.

To develop the Guide, Alberta NAWMP consulted with a variety of organizations with differing areas of expertise and perspectives.


Their input included technical information from Partner agencies like EPA, DUC, and Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, and feedback on drafts from agricultural groups like Team Alberta Crops, Alberta Beef Producers and the Agri Environmental Partnership of Alberta.

"In many ways, rural landowners are implementers of the Wetland Policy, so understanding how the policy relates to their own situation is key," says Scott.

He adds, "A little known fact is that rural landowners are also the primary recipients of wetland replacement fees paid under the Wetland Policy. That is, landowners receive payment for voluntary wetland restoration. For instance, in DUC's Wetland Restoration Lease Program, we pay landowners for restoring previously drained wetlands, and that money comes from those replacement fees."

Cooper and Scott both look forward to sharing the Guide with landowners across Alberta.


"We sincerely hope the Guide provides a good service to the landowners who steward our wetland resources and will help to enhance implementation of the Wetland Policy," adds Scott.




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Production of this Guide is part of Alberta NAWMP's ongoing commitment to address the needs brought forward by the agricultural sector, as well as various working groups and members of the Partnership's committees, since the implementation of the Alberta Wetland Policy. If you have wetlands on your property, or if you work with people who do, the Guide will help you identify the resources and programs that can be beneficial to your work. The Alberta NAWMP Partnership is a collaborative effort between the Alberta Government (Environment and Protected Areas and Agriculture and Irrigation), Environment and Climate Change Canada, Nature Conservancy of Canada and Ducks Unlimited Canada.

Download a [free copy of the Guide online](#) or use the QR Code below. Free hardcopies are also available by contacting the [Alberta NAWMP Coordinator](#).

[Learn more](#) about the Alberta NAWMP Partnership.






## Alberta Lamb Producers Be PREPared! RDAR PREP On Farm Research Funding


In 2024 RDAR introduced a new funding program for on-farm research that was aimed directly at Alberta producers. The Producer Research and Evaluation Program (PREP) allows pro-

**Landowner Guide to the  
Alberta Wetland Policy**

**What is  
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before working  
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ducers to evaluate emerging technologies, products, and production practices, helping new strategies to be tested within actual on-farm conditions. The program is designed to support decision making with data advancing profitability, competitiveness, and sustainability.

Alberta lamb producers can apply to PREP for up to \$20,000 per project to complete on-farm research that supports the evaluation of whether a new production practice change is feasible for your operation. The program enables producers to gain data to help make informed decisions and better understand how to further adapt a production practice.

Producers are expected to work with a third-party service provider to support the project trial, delivery, and analysis. Proposals are required to contain a sound project design and testing approach that will support the evaluation of whether a production practice has a positive return on investment and is a favourable change for the farm.

There are many areas of investigation lamb producers might wish to consider before applying for PREP funding, and the RDAR website contains good advice on how to best prepare your proposal prior to making an application.

Whichever way you decide to engage with the PREP program, RDAR will be continuing its role in supporting research into solutions that matter most for the sheep industry in Alberta. One example of a recent RDAR supported project was the "Adapta-

tion and Development of the Anesthetic Elastator Band for Use in the Canadian Lamb Industry".

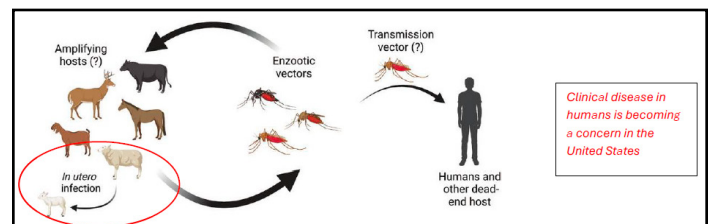
Also worth considering is that RDAR's PREP program allows producers to still apply for funding support even if they are enrolled in the On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) initiative.

If you would like to learn more about PREP and how it can benefit your lamb operation, please visit [rdar.ca/funding-opportunities](http://rdar.ca/funding-opportunities), or alternatively contact us by writing to [PREP@rdar.ca](mailto:PREP@rdar.ca).

## The Cache Valley Virus Education Article by Lynn Tait BSA, DVM, MRCVS

Cache Valley Virus (CVV) is a virus in the orthobunyavirus family and was first identified in the Cache Valley of Utah in 1956. It was first isolated from mosquitoes in Saskatchewan in 1973 and has since been found in Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario. In 2012, the first cases of malformed lambs due to CVV were documented in Ontario and again in 2013 in Quebec.

There is very little documentation of the geographical area and prevalence of the virus in North America, however it is endemic (potentially everywhere) in North America. While sheep are the species most affected by clinical disease, it can also be carried by deer, goats, cattle and horses. These species do not appear to be clinically affected by the virus but can serve to replicate or amplify the virus.



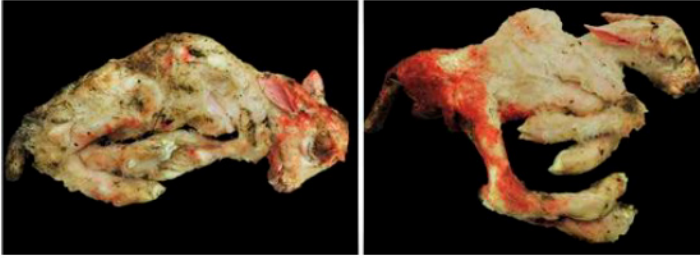
Hughes, Holly & Kenney, Joanie & Calvert, Amanda. (2023). Cache Valley virus: an emerging arbovirus of public and veterinary health importance. Journal of Medical Entomology. 60. 10.1093/jme/tjad058.

In SHEEP, the clinical disease is often presented as malformed lambs. The effect that the virus has on the sheep depends on what stage of production the sheep are in when infected as well as possible previous exposure.

**NON PREGNANT SHEEP** do not show clinical disease and are able to mount an immune response and clear the virus. How long this immunity lasts is currently unknown.

### PREGNANT SHEEP

<30 DAYS GESTATION - infection in early pregnancy MAY result in embryonic death and resorption. There may be no obvious signs other than a higher portion of ewes conceiving later in the breeding period as a result of resorption and recycling or a lower conception rate in a synchronized breeding group.



**30-50 DAYS GESTATION** – this is the period in which infection causes malformed lambs. Most commonly affected are the neurological system and the musculoskeletal system. This mainly results in lambs with limb deformities as well as encephalitis and brain malformations. These often result in dystocia requiring C section or loss of the ewe.

**>50 DAYS GESTATION** – infection after the first 50 days of pregnancy generally results in no clinical disease and the birth of normal lambs.

CVV can also affect GOATS with clinical disease

Currently there are no vaccines against the virus and no treatment once the animal is infected.

**PREVENTION** through risk management is achieved through breeding decisions and potentially environmental control TO MINIMIZE THE RISK OF EARLY GESTATION EWES BEING BITTEN BY INFECTED MOSQUITOES.

Mosquitoes grow in still or very slow-moving water. Some mosquitoes lay their eggs on the surface of the water. They lay between 100 and 400 eggs at one time.

Mosquitoes typically become active as temperatures rise, usually around April and May, when temperatures range between 7 and 16 degrees Celsius.

Mosquito populations generally peak during the hot summer months, with the highest activity in mid-summer.

The eggs hatch in 1 or 2 days into larvae, which look like small worms. The life cycle from egg to adult can take less than 10 days if the temperature is right. The ideal temperature is between 22° and 27°C.

Mosquito activity gradually decreases as temperatures cool down in the early fall, with the season typically ending in September.

Although it appears that the industry is seeing more clinical disease caused by CVV, many suspected cases have not been confirmed by laboratory submissions and there are still many aspects of the virus that are not fully understood. Each producer will need to make decisions based on the environment, breeding plan and flock goals in order to address the potential risks of CVV.

Source: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/pest-control-tips/mosquitoes.html#:~:text=In%20most%20parts%20of%20Canada,as%20possible%20during%20this%20time.>

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## DSU Parasitology Lab

The Diagnostic Services Unit: Supporting Alberta producers through diagnostics

The Diagnostic Services Unit (DSU), embedded within the University of Calgary's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM), is a veterinary diagnostic laboratory providing routine diagnostic services for Alberta animals. The DSU accepts submissions from all animal species from any licensed veterinarian for diagnostic testing. The story of the DSU has been one of continual growth through partnerships and tireless commitment and effort to the growth by those working within the DSU and the stakeholders supporting it.

When the DSU opened in 2010, it was small, with only necropsy (animal autopsy) and histopathology (microscopic examination of tissues) services to support teaching and research at the newly established Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. However, a void in necropsy services in Alberta allowed the DSU to expand organically, offering services to Alberta veterinarians. Further expansion was not economically feasible until 2020 when a partnership with the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) and RDAR (Results Driven Agricultural Research) was formed through the Enhanced Livestock Diagnostics pilot project. This provided funding for a bacteriology lab, a formalized outbreak investigation service, and Alberta-supported pricing for Alberta livestock submissions, including small ruminants. This pilot project also launched the DSU-Livestock Stakeholders Advisory Committee (LSAC) which is a group of representatives from UCVM, the Alberta livestock industries, the Government of Alberta (GOA), and the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA). The DSU-LSAC includes a representative from Alberta Lamb Producers and has been integral to the partnerships of growth by supporting the DSU in funding applications and advising the committee on the needs of their industries.

The original pilot project ended in 2024, but the DSU obtained ongoing funding from the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (S-CAP), a federal-provincial partnership, to continue their growth and support of Alberta livestock until 2025. This extended funding allowed further expansion to serology, parasitology, and PCR (opening summer 2025) services. Fast forward to the present and the recent GOA budget announcement supporting the DSU underscores the importance of agriculture to the economic well-being of Alberta and the role the DSU plays in safeguarding against animal diseases, protecting human and animal health and the sustainability of the livestock industry. This investment represents not only financial support but also a strong vote of confidence from the government in the work we do. It will allow the DSU to continue offering world-class diagnostic services that are essential to both animal and human health. *(Continued on Page 17)*



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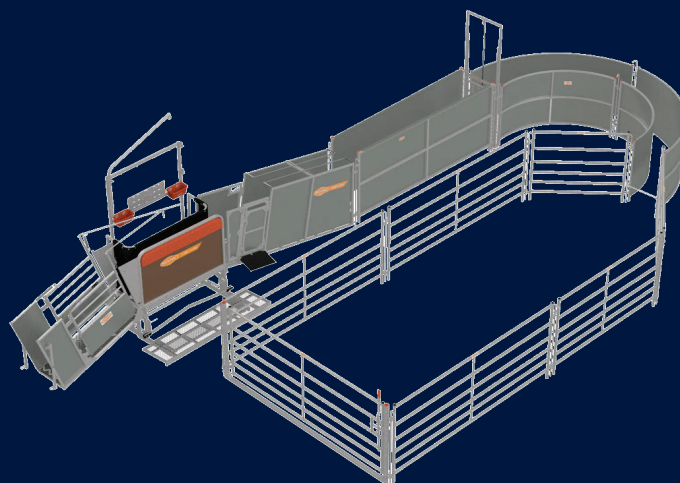
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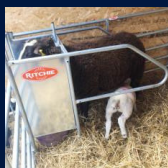
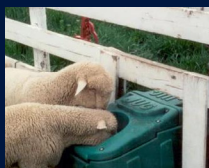
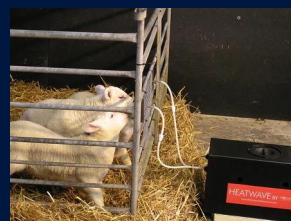
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This funding is also historical, as Alberta has been without routine livestock diagnostics for approximately 30 years. We are incredibly thankful to the GOA for their trust and to our stakeholders for their ongoing support. Practically speaking, what does this mean for lamb producers within Alberta? This means that producers have access to a full suite of diagnostics within their own province, with provincially supported pricing, and faster turnaround times on results. Alberta supported pricing and access to disease investigation support makes diagnostics more affordable for producers. Faster turnaround times for test results means producers have a diagnosis sooner for evidence-based treatment and management decisions.

All producers understand the importance of veterinary diagnostics for the health of their flock – both for animal health and welfare and to limit economic losses, but the importance of diagnostics extends further by,

- Protecting food safety and public health: detecting diseases transmissible from animals to humans (zoonotic diseases) and detecting emerging diseases.
- Protecting market access: maintaining a disease-free status for export and better overall health of provincial and national herds.
- Providing disease surveillance and reporting: early disease detection and rapid outbreak response.



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The DSU plays a particularly important role for lamb producers in the detection of zoonotic diseases. There are several zoonotic diseases of sheep that are commonly diagnosed at the DSU, such as *Chlamydia abortus* (Enzootic Abortion of Ewes, EAE). Identification of these diseases in a flock inform the producers, especially in the event of human illness in those in contact with the flock.

Equally essential for Alberta sheep producers is the newly opened DSU parasitology lab, where fecal samples are examined for parasites with an estimate or count of their numbers. Parasitology diagnostics help mitigate the impact of parasitic infections on flock health and productivity by informing treatment and management decisions. The lab opened for bovine fecal submissions in November 2024 and through the month of January 2025, offered free parasitology services to Alberta lamb producers to validate procedures in sheep. Thanks to small ruminant owners and their veterinarians, the parasitology lab is now open for small ruminant sample submissions! Both individual and pooled samples are accepted. Pooled sample fecal testing offers a cost-effective method for assessing parasite levels across a flock, while individual animal testing investigates sporadic cases or individual sick animals but has limited value in assessing herd level parasitism. Understanding herd-level parasitism also helps prevent the overuse of anthelmintics (dewormers), thus reducing the risk of developing drug-resistant parasites.

The DSU thanks the livestock industries for their support and belief in the importance of veterinary diagnostics in Alberta. It is through partnerships that sustainable, comprehensive, in-province diagnostics has been re-established in Alberta. Diagnostics play a key role in evidence-based therapeutic decisions, surveillance, identification of new and emerging disease, and



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## Monitoring Gastrointestinal Parasites in Fecal Egg Counting by Dr. John Gilleard

*Professor Parasitology, Associate Dean Research, University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM)*

Gastrointestinal roundworm parasites are one of the most important causes of disease and production loss in small ruminants. *Haemonchus contortus* (the “Barber Pole” worm) causes anaemia in both ewes and lambs and can even lead to fatalities. Other roundworm species such as *Teladorsagia circumcincta* and *Trichostrongylus colubriformis* cause diarrhea as well as reduced growth in lambs and also contribute to poor condition in ewes. These roundworm parasites can be monitored by the detection of eggs in fecal samples by fecal flotation and microscopy; so called Fecal Egg Counting (FEC).

Routine monitoring is increasingly important because dewormer resistance is now common in Alberta, particularly in *Haemonchus contortus*, and so we can no longer assume that routine dewormer treatments will always prevent disease. Further information on these parasites and their control, with a local perspective, is available at <https://vet.ucalgary.ca/research/sheep-parasite-control/home>

As we come into the spring, here are some reminders of good sampling practice for Fecal Egg Counting. The “What, When and How” of sampling. It is important to work in consultation with your veterinarian to incorporate parasite monitoring practices into a flock health plan. Your specific monitoring plan will depend on your grazing strategy, condition of your animals, the growth performance of your lambs and the previous disease history of your flock but some basic principles include.

### What should I sample?

Sample 15-20 animals per group and send individually into the diagnostic lab to be pooled at the lab for a composite FEC. This gives a good idea of the parasite burden and disease risk while saving cost. Smaller numbers of animals can be sampled individually for specific clinical reasons or for very small flocks.

### When should I sample?

Sample ewes and yearling lambs in the spring and again mid-to late- grazing season to assess disease risk and potential need for treatment or other parasite control measures.

Sample all purchased animals following quarantine dosing before releasing onto main pastures to avoid introducing new dewormer resistant into your flock.

Sample animals 14 days following dewormer treatments to assess the effectiveness of the dewormer

### How should I sample?

The most convenient approach is to collect sheep feces from the ground (so called “environmental samples”). This is fine, as long as the feces has been freshly deposited (still warm). For example, disperse gathered animals and immediately pick up freshly deposited feces. Samples should ideally be collected in plastic (ziplock-type) bags with as much air as possible expelled before sealing. DO NOT freeze samples. Ideally keep at a cool room temperature (rather than refrigerate). The UCVM Diagnostic Services Unit (DSU) is now offering a fecal egg counting service for small ruminants (and cattle). Look out for their article in this Newsletter and at <https://vet.ucalgary.ca/departments-units/dsu/home> for further information!

## Wool Check Off Requirement

The wool industry in Canada dates back to being one of the initial industries in Canada, starting with the first woolen mill



built in the 1820s. Fierce competition from synthetics being introduced to the market have created challenges for the wool industry since the 1920's.

For much of Canada's sheep flock, fleece is often a by product but does fall under the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act and the Alberta Lamb Producers Regulation. Part of this regulation includes the requirement for those selling wool to pay one cent for each pound of wool sold to the Alberta Lamb Producers. Much of the wool in Alberta is marketed to Canadian Cooperative Wool Growers, and is collected and submitted on your behalf. If you are unsure if your wool sale is reaching ALP, please reach out to the office at [info@ablamb.ca](mailto:info@ablamb.ca).

## On-Farm Slaughter Versus Inspected Meat

In July of 2020, the Alberta Government made it easier for on-farm slaughter to occur for personal household consumption. While this made it easier to gain access to fill a freezer at home, some would claim it also made it easier to operate illegally. Investigation numbers of illegal slaughtering or meat sales continue to increase, with 11 cases in 2022, 29 in 2023 and more than 55 in 2024. To combat this, the Alberta government introduced an amendment to the Meat Inspection Act to increase fines for illegal slaughtering from \$10,000 to \$100,000. This Act received royal ascent on December 5, 2024 and came into force that day.

Inspections have found meat being sold illegally and slaughtering occurring in unsafe conditions, and individuals operating without dealers licenses. Neal Reynolds, RCMP Livestock Investigations Unit, was involved in a case this past fall, "The investigation resulted in a large network being fined for illegally selling meat into grocery stores in Calgary."

Meat inspections are important to maintain consumer safety and protect Alberta's livestock and meat processing industry. "Regulations and inspections are necessary to ensure safe and humane slaughtering practices are being followed, and meat

is not being contaminated. Dirty knives, improper disposal of carcasses and operating without proper licenses were found in this case," Reynolds adds. Eight targets were identified and suspected to be involved in the organized purchase, slaughter, and sale of uninspected sheep and goat meat. Four slaughter locations across Alberta were also identified as part of the lengthy investigation.

There continues to be momentum for increased demand of 'farm to fork' or locally sourced meat. Combine that with increased ethnic demand and the strain may be felt on securing desired meat while following regulations. Canadian lamb consumption per kg per capita increased by 5.7% from 2018 to 2022, the most recent data Stats Canada has published. While any increase in demand is welcome, producers and industry stakeholders need to be working together to maintain consumer confidence in Alberta Lamb.

Anyone who buys or sells livestock and owns them for less than 30 days requires a dealer's licence under the Livestock Identification and Commerce Act. Anyone who acts as an agent in the buying or selling of livestock and makes direct payment to the seller requires a licence. Various licenses are available for on farm slaughter, mobile slaughtering and abattoirs for uninspected and inspected meat. If you suspect suspicious activity, contact the Alberta Agriculture hotline at 866-525-6403 or online at [agi.iisadmin@gov.ab.ca](mailto:agi.iisadmin@gov.ab.ca).

## Moisture and Ground Water Situation Update: Trevor Wallace

In Oct 2024, the estimated soil moisture reserves for approximately 65% of the province tended to be near to above normal for that time of the year. Large parts of the eastern portions of the Central and Southern Regions were estimated to be above normal. However, throughout much of the North West Region, western portions of the Central Region and the western and northern portions of the Peace Region soil moisture reserves ranged from once in 3 to once in 12-year lows. Soil moisture



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in a large area south and east of Red Deer is trending toward a once in 25-year lows.

The winter or cold season, from November through March, is usually the driest time of the year in Alberta. The cold season precipitation accumulation, to date, is near normal across much of the east half of the province, north and east of Edmonton and north into the Peace. A large area running west of Lethbridge, north to Edmonton, then east to Lac La Biche County as well as around Peace River and High Level continue to report moderately low (once in 3 to 6-year lows), and low (once in 6 to 12-year lows) moisture accumulations relative to normal. Looking back over the past 365 days, precipitation accumulations continue to remain below normal across a large area from Mountain View County, north to Yellowhead County and then extending east to the Saskatchewan border. Similar below normal conditions are being recorded through much of the Northern Peace Region and around Grand Prairie. Once in 25-year lows continue to persist in areas in and around Red Deer. Once in 6 to 12-year lows extend around Red Deer, northeast of Edmonton, around and west of Grande Prairie, as well as north in the Peace Region to the border with the Northwest Territories. This area is reporting, relative to average, year-over-year precipitation accumulations 70 to 90% of normal (average) with some areas only receiving 50 to 70% of annual average precipitation.

Conversely, land south and east of a line between Calgary and Lloydminster, extending all the way down to the US border and east to the Saskatchewan border, are reporting moderately higher than normal precipitation accumulations. Here, some areas are reporting accumulations of 110 to 130% of normal (average) along with some relatively small pockets reporting accumulations of 130 to 150% of normal, which is positive news for those farming in these areas.

The normal precipitation for the agricultural area running east of the Highway 2 corridor from Bonnyville south to the Saskatchewan border over this time frame, averages 10 to 15 mm. Normal precipitation levels increase as you move north and east of this region to 15 to 20 mm and continues to increase to 20 to 25 mm across the Peace Region.

The estimated spring wheat soil moisture reserves relative to long term normal for much of the province appear to be near normal (once in 3-years) or moderately high (once in 3 to 6

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years). With some areas estimated to have high (one in 6 to 12-years) moisture reserves. There is a very high probability that this area will be returning to normal spring moisture conditions in May.

The area around Red Deer and south through Mountainview, around Edmonton, east of Grand Prairie and North of Manning to the border with the Northwest Territories are estimated to have moderately low (one in 3 to 6 year, low (once in 6 to 12 year) and a few pockets of very low (once in 12 to 25 year) soil moisture reserves. The probability, if current precipitation trends remain below normal, of these areas returning to normal spring moisture conditions is 40-50%.

It is important to emphasize that the cold season, on average, is the driest time of the year. Being the relative dry season, even above average moisture at this time of year is typically not enough to make a significant impact on "year-to-date" moisture deficits, nor would they usually be sufficient to create excess moisture conditions. For agriculture, May, June and July remain the most important months for receiving precipitation. The 2025 cropping season is only a few months away. We are beginning to move into what has traditionally been Alberta's wetter period; there is ample time to receive adequate moisture. The Alberta Climate Information Service (ACIS) is an on-line tool and mobile friendly web application that provides climate data for the province of Alberta. Weather data is collected from over 500 near real time hourly reporting stations.

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Data available from ACIS is quality controlled and reliable. While the specific elements collected at each station will vary slightly in general information on precipitation, temperature, wind speed and direction are collected. Other elements such as soil moisture, soil temperature, depth of snowpack, growing degree days, corn and potato heat units, frost probability, fine fuel moisture content and initial spread index are calculated or modeled for stations and townships across the province.

ACIS provides several weather information tools in one location including current weather conditions (in near real time), weather forecasts, radar imagery, climate and atlas maps, climate normal, and historical weather data. ACIS offers a variety of decision support tools based on the data collected such as: fusarium infection risk assessment tools and insect pest prediction.

A user can view climate data in your selected areas by choosing from the weather stations near a desired location. The service has the ability to display information from multiple stations at once in one convenient view using the weather station data viewer. Maps are published weekly to help producers, agronomist, consultants, planners, government and non-government organizations make decisions. Bookmark ACIS and visit it to help inform your farm and crop management decisions. <https://www.acis.alberta.ca/>.

## Sheep Green Certificate Program

High school students in Alberta have a unique opportunity to use their sheep knowledge to earn high school credits. The



Green Certificate Program has students learn on the farm under the direction of experienced farm personnel and under the supervision and administration of their high school's Off-Campus Education Coordinator and their Green Certificate Regional Coordinator. Students who already have sheep experience excel in the program, as their existing knowledge and training helps to achieve very high grades. Shelby Oldale, a grade 11 student from Crossfield completed the Sheep Green Certificate module. Also a sheep 4-H member, Oldale states "I took the sheep Green Certificate course because as a sheep owner you can never know too much. I thought it would be a great chance to learn more and improve my skills." Reading through the manual with a parent or other sheep producer helps to expand knowledge and potentially lead to discussions that may challenge the existing practices or way of thinking. While Oldale has the support of her parents on their sheep operation, Oldale was fortunate to expand her knowledge through a mentorship with a profes-



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sional. "My mentor was Dr Kathy Parker. I was lucky to have a sheep farmer who is a vet to help guide me. The program was a positive experience. I got to learn more, ask questions and challenge myself on something that I am personally interested in. This was a great opportunity for me to learn in an intentional way."

The program is open to any high school student in grades 10 through 12. There are 14 different areas of specialization that students can learn, with sheep being one of them. Students work through three modules, with an oral exam concluding each one.

This gives students a valuable experience of talking one on one with someone in the sheep industry and sharing their knowledge. While an oral exam may be daunting, it offers a unique learning opportunity. Oldale says "I found the oral exams stressful originally, only because I have never tested this way before.

It turns out, this is the best way to be tested. It is like you are having a conversation about something you have learned or experienced and you don't even realize they are grading you." Tara Kreese, Green Certificate Coordinator in the Central Region, confirms how valuable the program is for those interested in broadening their agriculture knowledge. She states "The Green Certificate Program is a transformative experience

that empowers Alberta's youth by equipping them with essential skills and knowledge in sustainable agriculture.

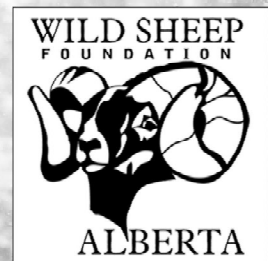
Through hands-on training and mentorship, participants gain practical experience that not only enhances their understanding of agricultural practices but also instills a sense of confidence in their abilities.

By fostering a connection to the land and the agricultural community, the program inspires young individuals to embrace their roles as future leaders in the province's agricultural sector.

As they develop a strong foundation in sustainable practices, these youth become not only competent professionals but also passionate advocates for a thriving, environmentally responsible agricultural future in Alberta."

Know of a high school student who may be interested? High schools should have an education coordinator familiar with the program, or go to the Green Certificate Program website <https://www.alberta.ca/green-certificate-program> to contact your Regional Coordinator.

# LETHAL BACTERIA FOUND IN WILD SHEEP



*Mycoplasma Ovipneumoniae*, or Movi for short, can be found in seemingly healthy domestic sheep and goats. This bacteria is transmissible typically from nose-to-nose contact to wild Bighorn Sheep. With deadly consequences, most Bighorn Sheep are dying within a week. This can have devastating impacts on Bighorn populations for many years to follow, due to low lamb survival rates.

**Funding may be available from GoA for producers to test their sheep and goats for Movi in high-risk areas of the province**



Report any sightings of Bighorn Sheep near domestic sheep and goats, or domestic sheep and goats in crown land/forestry areas. Report any sick bighorns to WSFAB or Fish & Wildlife



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***Under the Animal Pedigree Act, it is an offense to offer to sell, contract to sell or sell, as a purebred, any animal that is not registered or eligible to be registered as a purebred by the association authorized to register animals of that breed or by the Corporation.***

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this is something that interests you. Contact 780-993-2037 or [nmrs.business@gmail.com](mailto:nmrs.business@gmail.com)

Custom Woolen Mills would like to buy your coloured wool (black, greys or multi-coloured sheep). We cannot accept hair, kemp, extreme chaff or paint in the fleeces. For further details, contact Custom Woolen Mills Ltd. Carstairs, [www.customwoolenmills.com](http://www.customwoolenmills.com) or 403-337-2221

John Beasley Professional Shearing Services. Available anywhere in western Canada. All flock sizes. Specializing in low stress, kind and efficient handling of ewes. Early booking and volume discounts. Contact John Beasley at 403-857-9236 or [kelsey@integrityranching.com](mailto:kelsey@integrityranching.com)

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## Alberta Sheep Breeders' Association Online Purebred Sheep Sale

**DLMIS**  
Direct Livestock Marketing Systems



**June 10-11, 2025**

### Important Dates/Deadlines

- April 1 - Entries Open using Assist Expo
- May 16 - Payment due for entries
- May 23 - Deadline to upload video/pictures to DLMIS
- May 30 - Registration papers due at ASBA office
- June 10-11, 2025 - Sale



An opportunity for registered purebred sheep producers to consign to an online sale.

**Consignors welcome**

Buyers and consignors can check our website for more information



[www.albertasheepbreeders.ca](http://www.albertasheepbreeders.ca)

## SUCCESSION PLANNING RESOURCES



TO VIEW AVAILABLE RESOURCES  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

VISIT WEBSITE NOW



## AGRICULTURE AWARDS

Five unique award opportunities for students studying in the field of Agriculture and/or Veterinary Medicine.

**Calgary Black Chambers Nutrien Community Scholarship** One award valued at \$7,000

**Dr. Scott Rairdan Memorial Award**  
One or more awards valued at \$2,500

**Friends of the Stockmen's Memorial Foundation Award** Two awards valued at approximately \$1,500

**Shannon Burwash Award for Leadership and Excellence in Equine, Agri-Business and/or Agricultural Studies**  
Two or more awards valued at \$5,000

**Smillie Family Education Award**  
Three awards valued at \$2,000 each

For full award descriptions, please visit [calgaryfoundation.org](http://calgaryfoundation.org)  
All awards are applied directly to tuition.

Apply by June 1 at midnight.

## PUBLICATION SCHEDULE 2025



**ADVERTISEMENTS OR ARTICLES RECEIVED LATER  
THAN THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE WILL NOT BE  
INCLUDED**

### ISSUE

### DEADLINE

JANUARY  
APRIL  
JULY  
OCTOBER

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5 2024 ✓  
THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025 ✓  
THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

**JANICE ECKSTRAND - ADVERTISEMENT COORDINATOR**  
403-993-5245 | [ADS@ABLAMB.CA](mailto:ADS@ABLAMB.CA)

## Sheep Calendar

| What                               | Where            | When & How  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|---|
| Calgary Aggie Days                 | Calgary, AB      | April 12-13<br><a href="https://ag.calgarystampede.com/events/year-round-events/aggie-days">https://ag.calgarystampede.com/events/year-round-events/aggie-days</a>              |
| Mountain View Aggie Days           | Carstairs, AB    | May 23-24<br><a href="https://www.carstairsagsociety.ca/events">https://www.carstairsagsociety.ca/events</a>  |
| ASBA Online Purebred Sheep Sale    | Online           | June 10-11<br><a href="https://albertasheepbreeders.ca/online-sale">https://albertasheepbreeders.ca/online-sale</a>   |
| Necropsy Workshop                  | Bentley, AB      | June 21 (June 22 if interest)<br>In person at OC Flock Management Inc. 20 spots max per day.<br><a href="https://albertasheepbreeders.ca/">https://albertasheepbreeders.ca/</a> |
| Cache Valley Virus Workshop        | Airdrie, AB      | June 28<br><a href="https://albertasheepbreeders.ca/">https://albertasheepbreeders.ca/</a> or <a href="https://ablamb.ca/">https://ablamb.ca/</a>                               |
| Provincial 4-H Sheep Show          | Stettler, AB     | June 27 - 30 - <a href="https://4hab.com/">https://4hab.com/</a>  |
| Summer Synergy                     | Olds, AB         | June 7 - 11<br><a href="https://www.summersynergy.ca/">https://www.summersynergy.ca/</a>  |
| 2025 All Canada Classic Sheep Show | Brandon, MB      | July 9 - 12 - <a href="https://sheepbreeders.ca/2025-all-canada-classic">https://sheepbreeders.ca/2025-all-canada-classic</a>   |
| Lloyd Ex Fair 2025- Sheep Show     | Lloydminster, AB | July 12 - <a href="https://www.lloydex.com/lloydex-fair">https://www.lloydex.com/lloydex-fair</a>   |

Please e-mail [info@ablamb.ca](mailto:info@ablamb.ca) or call 403-948-8533 to provide details of your event for the N'ewesletter and website sheep calendar.

## ALP BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025

| Director                               | Phone        | Email  | Location                |
|--|--------------|--|-------------------------|
| Jordan Allen, Board Chair              | 403-923-4858 | <a href="mailto:jordan@ablamb.ca">jordan@ablamb.ca</a>       | Rocky View County       |
| Martin Winchell, Vice Chair            | 403-845-2577 | <a href="mailto:martin@ablamb.ca">martin@ablamb.ca</a>       | Clearwater County       |
| Adam French, Finance Chair             | 780-872-9908 | <a href="mailto:adam@ablamb.ca">adam@ablamb.ca</a>           | Vermillion River County |
| Darlene Hawco, Vice Finance Chair      | 780-292-4607 | <a href="mailto:darleneh@ablamb.ca">darleneh@ablamb.ca</a>   | St. Paul County         |
| Richard Van Driesten, Director         | 403-715-9324 | <a href="mailto:richardvd@ablamb.ca">richardvd@ablamb.ca</a> | Vulcan County           |
| Alison Neale, Director                 | 306-914-1362 | <a href="mailto:alison@ablamb.ca">alison@ablamb.ca</a>       | Mountain View County    |
| Olivia Blum, Director                  | 403-586-3800 | <a href="mailto:olivia@ablamb.ca">olivia@ablamb.ca</a>       | Mountain View County    |
| Vacant - Director in Training Position |              |  |                         |

**ALP Office - Executive Director, Jolene Airth 403-948-8533 [info@ablamb.ca](mailto:info@ablamb.ca)**

Address: Agriculture Centre, 97 East Lake Ramp NE, Airdrie, AB T4A 0C3

[www.ablamb.ca](http://www.ablamb.ca) for producer information, [www.albertalamb.ca](http://www.albertalamb.ca) for consumer information





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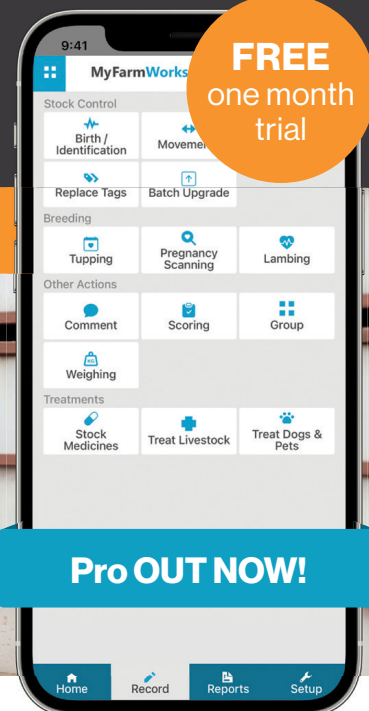
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# 19th ANNUAL POUND MAKER RAM SALE

& Blaine Kellington Memorial Day hosted by S.A.L.E



Thursday, May 22, 2025

11:00 am @ Fort Macleod Auction Market  
Fort Macleod, Alberta

## **\*Selling 159 Yearling Rams\***

75 Suffolk \* 10 Dorset \* 8 Charollais \* 10 Rambouillet \* 20 Ile de France \* 5 Hampshire  
10 North Country Cheviot \* 15 Canadian Arcott \* 5 Rideau Arcott \* 1 Coloured

**Auction barn will be open to view the rams from 1pm to 7pm on Wednesday, May 21, 2025.**

2 Ile De France yearling ewes  
donated by  
**Cool Ally Livestock of Tompkins, SK**  
will be auctioned off.  
All proceeds will be donated to



**Consignors:**  
Warren and Norine Moore  
Bert and Andrelei Grisnich  
Ty and Drew Mandel  
Mark, Louis and Jody Greidanus

**Trade Booths:**  
Zubot Welding  
Shearwell Canada  
CCWG Livestock Supplies  
Count Your Sheep  
Southern Alberta Sheep  
Producers Guild

**Look for the catalogue on the website after May 1st!**

Unable to attend? We offer the following options:

**Internet Bidding Available**

**DLMS**  
*www.dlms.ca*

For more information call DLMS:  
Mark Shologan 780.699.5082 or  
DLMS Purebred Team 780.991.3025

**OR**

**Contact one of our order buyers:**

|                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Warren Moore    | 403-625-6519 |
| Louis Greidanus | 403-894-2593 |
| Andy Pittman    | 403-308-7439 |

**Check out the sale website: [www.poundmakerrams.com](http://www.poundmakerrams.com), follow us on Facebook,  
or contact Warren Moore at 403-625-6519 or Louis Greidanus at 403-894-2593**