

Alberta Lamb Producers Be PREPared!

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 producers 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 *“Adaptation and Development of the Anesthetic Elastrator 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, or alternatively contact us by writing to PREP@rdar.ca.