



## Governance and priorities

The National Sheep Network held their Annual Meeting virtually, on November 15, 2021 where Pierre Lessard from Les Eleveurs d'ovins du Quebec was acclaimed as chair and John Hemsted from the Ontario Sheep Farmers was declared vice chair.

The NSN looks forward to working on the opportunities and challenges facing the industry this year. In addition to making commitments to continue to find ways for the provinces to work together on multijurisdictional issues, the NSN will remain focused on the business of sheep farming.

**Market Intelligence:** Understanding the influences on sheep market prices including supply, demand and lamb movements is a key priority for the NSN. They're committed to working together to continue to be able to gather intelligence that will allow for more robust market analysis.

**Environmental Stewardship:** The agriculture sector is going to be increasingly called upon to address issues related to sustainable production, emissions mitigation, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. The sheep industry is well positioned to address issues related to carbon sequestration allowing our farmers to benefit from ecological goods and services including the regeneration of soil, improving biodiversity, and protecting habitats. The NSN is committed to working on ensuring our farmers are in the position to capitalize on environmental programs and policies.

**Promoting Smart Animal Care:** As an active member of the Animal Health Canada (AHC) Working Group, the NSN was also pleased to hear the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ag Ministers endorse the progress that has been made. The purpose of AHC is to enhance stakeholder collaboration to implement actions to prevent, prepare and respond to animal health emergencies.

**Supporting provincial initiatives and projects:** Whenever relevant and possible, the NSN brings support to projects conducted by provincial organizations. These projects are always a good way to improve the production of lambs and sheep's at the farm level.

The NSN represents Canada's business of sheep farming. We are a formal collaboration currently consisting of the top three lamb producing provinces, Quebec, Ontario, and Alberta. Home to 72% of Canada's ewe flock and over 80% of processing, the NSN contributes over \$900 million to Canada's economy.