

## **Sheep Producers of North Central Alberta Educational Foundation Bursary**

For twenty two years now the Sheep Producers of North Central Alberta Educational Foundation (S.P.N.C.A.E.F.) in conjunction with Northlands has granted a bursary for a member of a Northern Alberta sheep producing family.

The bursary is granted to a full-time student at an approved College, University, Technical School, or because of a disability, you have “special needs” in the area of programming, service, or equipment while attending school at any grade level.

The history of the S.P.N.C.A.E.F. starts with the volunteers of the Alberta Provincial Sheep Breeder Association and at that time Northlands, known as the, Edmonton Exhibition Association. In the mid 1940s Bob Shopland, who was a director of A.P. S.B.A. managed the Edmonton Wool-Shack for the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers, and Leroy Emerson from the Edmonton Exhibition Association partnered and were instrumental in starting the North Central Sheep Breeders Association.

The Alberta Provincial sheep breeder Association dissolved over time and the North Central Sheep Breeders Association was established in 1983 and served as an advisory body and active partner with Northlands in all matters related to their sheep presentations. From this association a committee was set up and formed the North Central Sheep and Goat Sales and produced four hundred copies of the monthly newsletter “Sale Day News” that was mailed out in partnership with the Edmonton Public Stockyards from 1995 to 2001. Over the years membership and interest in the North Central Sheep Breeders Association decreased substantially and the association would be dissolved. The assets of the association are the founding of this bursary.

From the beginnings of the Alberta Provincial Sheep Breeder Association there has been one person that has been a constant supporter and organizer for the associations and following committees, and finally S.P.N.C.A.E.F. and that man is Jack Francis.

Jack Francis is the president and chairman for S.P.N.C.A.E.F. and has professionally organized and run the meetings of the board of directors while also being the main liaison with Northlands. Jack has an interesting history with the sheep industry. After leaving the family farm by Tofield in the late 1940’s he started a lengthy career in the Faculty of Agriculture. Most of this time was at the University Livestock Farm as an Animal Technician with his focus on feeding and general maintenance of the many animals in accordance with the professors, researchers, and student’s experimental requirements.

Jack was involved in important areas with the university’s animals, which included genetics, metabolism, environment, and physiology; also, some of the very first embryo transplant research was done on the university’s flock of sheep.

He held many volunteer positions over the fifty years at Northlands Park with the committees that coordinated the livestock shows. This relationship started the strong partnership base with Northlands and the S.P.N.C.A.E.F.

Jack has been awarded with many accolades over his years including the 1992 Good Shepherd Award, for outstanding dedication to the maintenance of the sheep industry, as well as, The 25 Year Roll of Honor Award, in recognition of his significant contribution to Northlands. Also, The Outstanding Edmontonian of the Century Award from the City of Edmonton for over 50 years of commitment to community volunteerism.

Jack has long retired from the University but is still very active in maintaining the A.L.E.S. Agricultural Museum in the 1930 Dairy Barn on the U of A south campus. The museum includes many displays that pertain to the sheep industry.

The Sheep Producers of North Central Alberta Educational Foundation Bursary is available to a member of a sheep producing family north of the 34<sup>th</sup> Township, Alberta.

To apply for the bursary of \$1000.00, your application to the Scholarship Committee should include:

1. A short letter of application including your complete Name, Age, School Attending: (Grade School, College, University, Technical School, Special School, etc.) – Academic standing, Faculty or program, and any other information that will support your application.

Or

2. A description of a Special Needs requirement.

Please include a recent school picture with your application.

For this year the application has to be received by December 31, 2020.

Send to:

Sheep Producers of North Central Alberta Educational Foundation

c/o Northlands, Agriculture Department

2693 Broadmoor Boulevard, Suite 132,

Sherwood Park, Alberta, CA, T8H 0G1

E-mail – [agriculture@northlands.com](mailto:agriculture@northlands.com)