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N'ewesletter

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Alberta Lamb Producers

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July 2025



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Sheep & Goat Special- August 9 at 10 am
Sheep & Goat Special - September 6 at 10 am

Odd 'N Unusual Sales

-Last Saturday of April, May, June and September

Equipment Sales

-As Announced Through the Summer

Summer Closures

-June 28, July 1, Aug. 2, Aug 30

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Email: info@ablamb.ca
Websites: www.ablamb.ca and
www.albertalamb.ca



Cover photo: Adam French

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 Chair

As the warm summer days settle in, it's hard to believe we're already halfway through 2025! I hope your lambing season was a success. Unfortunately, I've heard from some that Cache Valley Virus—spread by those ever-annoying mosquitoes affected their flocks this past season. The resulting drop in lambing rates is a tough blow, and our thoughts are with those impacted. On a more positive note, market prices have reached the highest levels we've seen in several years resulting in fantastic prices for lambs that make it to market.

In our area, the recent dry spell is becoming more worrisome by the day. Farmers are watching the skies and praying for rain, and with smoke drifting in from the north and east, those prayers are growing more urgent. The possibility of another drought year weighs heavily on the minds of many in agriculture—let's all hope for timely and much needed moisture.

As in previous spring updates, I'd like to remind everyone to visit the ALP website for emergency preparedness resources. These tools are available to help ensure your families and farms are safe and ready for whatever may come your way.

ALP & the Canadian Sheep Federation

Following the resolution passed at our AGM in November directing ALP to explore rejoining the Canadian Sheep Federation, we've continued meeting with other provincial sheep boards and gathering as much information as possible. We are committed to thorough due diligence to help guide a well-informed decision for Alberta producers.

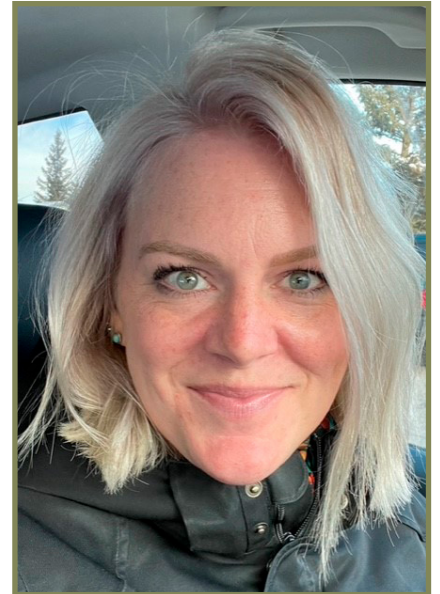
Board Elections: Get Involved!

Each year, half of our board positions come up for renewal. This fall, five Director-at-Large positions on the ALP Board will be open for election - three for two-year terms and two for a one-year term. We also have an opening for a Director In Training position. To run, you must be nominated by another eligible producer. Nomination forms must be submitted by August 15, 2025.

Serving on the board is a rewarding opportunity to advocate for producers and support the future of our industry. Directors gain valuable knowledge, develop leadership skills, and build strong connections across the agriculture sector. If you're interested or want to learn more, visit our website or reach out to a current director - we'd love to hear from you!

Save the Date: ALP AGM & Conference

Mark your calendars! We're excited to host a two-day AGM and Conference in Lethbridge at the Coast Lethbridge Hotel & Conference Centre, on Friday and Saturday, November 14-15, 2025. With lots of opportunities to network with fellow producers, the conference will include engaging



speakers, relevant topics, a farm tour, and a Friday evening banquet. The conference is open to all producers, with no eligibility requirements. However, participation in the AGM is limited to eligible producers - those who have purchased CSIP tags within the past two fiscal years (as of August 31). This promises to be our best event yet, so be sure to get your tickets early to take advantage of the early bird rate. We hope to see many of you there!

I wish you all a wonderful summer with the perfect amount of rain, green pastures, lush hay land, beautifully finished lambs and continued high market prices!

Jordan Allen

Message From Your Director: Adam French

Greetings Fellow Producers,

We may be at the time of year when the days are longest, but for me, 2025 is flying by. The economy has seen its share of volatility, politics are ever-present - whether online or in the coffee shop - but one constant remains: the sheep need our care and attention. Personally, I can't think of a better life.



As one season rolls into the next, I try to take time to reflect on the one just past. I ask myself what I could, should, or would do differently next year. I find the best time to plan is immediately after the season ends, rather than waiting until the next begins. The changes we make don't always have to be big - sometimes it's the small, continuous refinements to our production and management practices that help us move forward, both individually and as an industry. Not every change delivers the results we anticipate, but without experimentation, we'll never know.

On our operation, the biggest change this year has been in our genetics. We're a commercial operation running hair breeds. As I shared in a previous article, our initial flock had blackbelly genes. These were beautiful sheep: we had zero parasite issues, high lambing percentages, fantastic mothering abilities and... they just didn't grow quickly or get big enough. When selecting replacements, we chose only the best-performing lambs and purchased a Katahdin x Dorper ram, along with some commercial Katahdin ewes. The results were telling. Anything with blackbelly genetics - even as low as ¼ - significantly underperformed compared to the Katahdin-Dorper crosses. Thanks to recordkeeping, we had data to back up what we were seeing: lower birthweights, slower growth rates, and lower sale weights. Despite our broader goal of expanding the flock, we

made the decision to sell everything with any trace of blackbelly. This year's lambing numbers validated that choice.

Of course, every decision has its trade-offs. Larger ewes consume more feed, and our winter feed requirements went up. But the payoff is lambs will reach target weights sooner and head to market at a younger age. I've always seen myself as a student of agriculture, and I believe in learning from a wide range of sources. Not everything that works in one place transfers seamlessly to my farm - or to the Canadian context - but staying curious and open to change has served me well.

Growing up in Australia, I learned that ram lambs were typically discounted at market, and I carried that mindset with me to Canada. But after watching local markets, I realized that wasn't the case here. Sometimes I'm slow to adapt, but this year, we decided not to castrate our ram lambs.

As a relatively small part of Canada's agricultural landscape, the sheep industry doesn't attract a lot of research investment. There have been some great developments - like Lidoband - but overall, funding and attention are limited. That's why I look to other countries for insights. Competing with Australian and New Zealand lamb in the supermarket can be frustrating, but I still turn to their industry research to see what lessons I can apply at home. Their research is often deeper and more comprehensive due to the scale of their industries.

Just some of the resources I've found valuable include:

- Meat and Livestock Australia – mla.com.au
- Beef & Lamb New Zealand – beeflambnz.com
- Nextgen Agri – nextgenagri.com
- National Sheep Association (UK) – nationalsheep.org.uk
- USDA Agricultural Research Service – ars.usda.gov

The benefit of our connected world is that we can access research from anywhere - through webinars, podcasts, reports, and conferences. Not everything will apply to our individual farms or the Canadian environment, but learning, questioning, and experimenting is a privilege we have as independent producers.

Closer to home, I've also found great value in connecting with other producers. I recently participated in ALP's Targeted Grazing Course, which provided well-structured content and a collection of useful resources. Most importantly, it offered a platform to connect with fellow producers. The discussion forums and virtual meetings were a goldmine of insights and ideas I can apply on my own operation. I hope you've all had a successful lambing season, that spring rains have your pastures and crops growing strong, and that you're as optimistic about the future of our industry as I am.

Adam French

ALP Conference and AGM

ALP is pleased to announce that we are hosting our 2025 Annual General Meeting in conjunction with an educational conference for producers at the Coast Lethbridge Hotel and Conference Centre on Friday and Saturday, November 14 & 15, 2025. ALP's 2025 conference is a paid event, has no eligibility requirements and is open to anyone to register for and attend. Only eligible Alberta Lamb Producers can register to attend ALP's Annual General Meeting. To be an eligible Alberta Lamb Producer, you need to have purchased CSIP tags within the last two years from our fiscal year end (Aug 31). All producers are encouraged to attend, and there is no charge for the AGM.

There is no registration cost to attend ALP's AGM for our eligible producers; however, registration is required. To confirm your eligibility or to register, please email: info@ablamb.ca by November 1, 2025.

Please find the conference and AGM agendas below.

ALP AGM Conference Agenda

ALP AGM Agenda

ALP is also offering EARLY BIRD pricing for those who wish to register for and attend the educational conference component. Below you will find the early bird registration form to download, fill out and send into the ALP office.

Early Bird Pricing Registration Form (Or See Next Page)

Alberta Lamb Producers Director-in-Training Program

Purpose

Alberta Lamb Producers (ALP) Director-in-Training Program was developed to engage membership and stimulate Board

succession planning. A Board appointed eligible producer may participate in ALP Board meetings as a non-voting director to gain exposure to how the ALP Board operates and to become familiar with a number of topics that are critical to the current and future industry.

Director's Obligations

Each Director must act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of ALP. Directors receive confidential information, data and knowledge that is necessary for the Director to perform his or her responsibilities. A Director shall hold in strict confidence all information, relative to the activities, plans and affairs of the Board. Directors owe their fiduciary duty to ALP and the best interests of ALP must not be confused with the interests of any individual Board member or producer.

Roles and Responsibilities

- Adhere to the obligations as state above;
- Familiarity with the regulations, policies and administrative procedures of the Board as outlined in the ALP Board Handbook;
- Undergo ALP Director orientation training or governance training, if scheduled;
- Adhere to and act within all Board policies within the ALP Board Handbook;
- Whenever possible, participate in all scheduled Board of Directors meetings;
- Complete and sign the ALP Code of Conduct and Confidentiality form;
- Be open minded, evaluate all information, ask questions and participate in Board discussions;
- Commit to a one-year term;
- Express an interest in standing for election in the future.



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Attendee Registration Form
2025 Annual General Meeting and Conference
November 14 & 15, 2025
Coast Hotel Lethbridge, Alberta

Attendee Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Contact Number: _____

Representing Business Name: _____

Annual General Meeting -No cost to attend AGM only (check box please)

☐ in person ☐ virtual ☐ not attending

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION RATES *Includes Farm Tour, Meals & Speakers (UNTIL August 31, 2025)

\$225 per Individual _____ x \$225.00 (+ GST below) \$ _____

\$400 per Couple _____ x \$400.00 (+ GST below) \$ _____

REGISTRATION RATES *Includes Farm Tour, Meals & Speakers (EFFECTIVE September 1 to October 30, 2025)

\$250 per Individual _____ x \$250.00 (+ GST below) \$ _____

\$450 per Couple _____ x \$450.00 (+ GST below) \$ _____

Additional Tickets Available for Purchase Separately

Farm tour & bagged lunch only \$60 each: _____ # Farm Tour/Lunch Tickets \$ _____

Saturday Lunch only \$35 each: _____ # Saturday Lunch Tickets \$ _____

Cocktail Hour & Banquet (Friday) \$70 each _____ # Banquet Tickets \$ _____

Daily Registration only (Friday or Saturday) \$60 _____ # Daily Tickets \$ _____

SUBTOTAL: \$ _____

GST @ 5%: \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Hotel Accommodation Booking: Coast Hotel Lethbridge

526 Mayor Magrath Dr S, Lethbridge, AB T1J 3M2
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Please email your completed Early Bird Registration no later than August 31, 2025 to:

EMAIL: info@ablamb.ca

Registration deadline is October 30, 2025

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Appointment Process

The ALP Board of Directors may appoint a Director-in-Training, when they deem it necessary. A Director-in-Training must be an eligible producer as defined by Alberta Lamb Producers Plan Regulations.

Producers who are interested in the program should apply by submitting a letter of interest to the ALP office explaining why they might like to be an ALP Board Director.

The Board of Directors will consider the application and carry a motion to appoint the producer as a Director-in-Training.

Frequency of Meetings

The Director-in-Training will be encouraged to attend all scheduled in-person and teleconference meetings of the Board of Directors. The Director-in-Training will be mentored by an existing Director on the Board between meetings.

Expenses

The Director-in-Training will be reimbursed meal, hotel accommodation and travel expenses, as per the ALP Board Handbook.

Director in Training Nominee Profile

Please provide details about yourself and why you are interested in serving on the ALP Board. This information will be shared with the current ALP Board of Directors for review and approval.

[Complete Application Now](#)

ALP Directors-at-Large Positions

ALP Needs You! Join the ALP Board of Directors – Fall 2025!
Nominations are due by August 15, 2025

Five Director-at-Large positions on the ALP Board will be up for election this fall.

Alberta Lamb Producers is the voice of producers in discussions with industry stakeholders and government. ALP needs a strong Board of Directors to ensure the interests of producers are represented, viable marketing opportunities are developed, and that check-off dollars are spent wisely.

To stand for election, you MUST submit a completed nomination form to the ALP office by August 15, 2025. Nomination forms are provided on page 7 of this N'ewesletter or from the [ALP website](#). There are Five Director-at-Large positions open on the 2025/26 Board. Candidates can be nominated from any region in the province - there are no restrictions due to zone or geographical location. There are three two-year positions and two one-year positions available.

The official ballots for the 2025 ALP Director's election will be mailed with the fall issue of N'ewesletter. Producers have the option of advance voting by mailing the ballot to the ALP office or of voting in person at the AGM on November 15th at Lethbridge Coast Hotel & Conference Centre.

What do you need to serve on the ALP Board as a Director?

- No previous board experience is required.

- Must be an eligible sheep producer residing in Alberta (Eligible producers must have paid service charge (check-off) to ALP within the last two years i.e. after Sep 1, 2023.
- Enthusiasm, ideas and a vision for building a strong lamb industry.
- A commitment to collaboration and the ability to work with other board members for the benefit of the industry.
- Ability to make the minimum commitment of 3-4 in-person board meetings, bi-weekly conference calls, and the ability to monitor and respond to emails at least every 48 hours. Per diems and expense reimbursements are provided.

It's not all work! In addition to contributing to the industry, serving on the Board gives you opportunities for personal growth and skill development, such as making important industry contacts, and obtaining experience in board governance, leadership and project management.

[See Director Nomination Form](#)

Alberta Lamb Producers Resolution Procedure

The resolution process is an essential part of the larger democratic process which governs the Alberta Lamb Producers (ALP).



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It is designed to allow for input from the membership to the Board of Directors to maintain the grassroots system for policy development, call for formal action or support on a specific issue or concern.

Eligible producers that want to have resolutions discussed by the membership at the Annual General Meeting must submit them to the ALP office throughout the year on or before the **submission deadline of September 30, 2025**. Resolutions will NOT be accepted from the floor at the AGM.

Resolutions to the Board

- Resolutions may be submitted to the ALP office by eligible producers at any time throughout the year, prior to the submission deadline
- Resolutions brought to the Board are not binding on the Board
- Resolutions will be reviewed by the Board of Directors to determine which resolutions will be debated at the AGM and previous resolutions that have been debated and voted on will only be reviewed if new information/action is available to support
- Resolutions will not be debated if they are not directly related to Alberta Lamb Producers, extend acknowledgements to other organizations or individuals, or materially

ALP DIRECTOR NOMINATION FORM

(in accordance with the *Alberta Lamb Producers Plan Regulation*)

A. NOMINATOR

I hereby nominate _____ as a candidate for ALP Director-at-Large.
I declare that I am an eligible sheep producer as per current ALP Regulations.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

NAME (please print): _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

B. DIRECTOR NOMINEE

I declare that I am an eligible sheep producer as per current ALP Regulations.
I consent to the nomination.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

NAME (please print): _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

NOMINEE PROFILE:

On the reverse side or on a separate sheet, please provide details about yourself and why you are interested in serving on the ALP Board. This information will appear in the Fall issue of the ALP N'ewesletter to help inform producers before voting.

Producers may wish to contact you directly before voting. Please initial below to give consent for your contact information to be printed with your Nominee Profile in N'ewesletter. Please note that agreeing to have your contact information published is not required for nomination.

Initial: _____ Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

According to ALP Regulations, nomination forms **must** be returned to Alberta Lamb Producers by **August 15, 2025** to be considered eligible. Electronic (scanned or photographed) forms are permitted.

Please submit forms to:

- Email: info@ablamb.ca
- Mail: Alberta Lamb Producers, Agriculture Centre, 97 East Lake Ramp NE, Airdrie, AB T4A 0C3

related to another resolution that has been selected for debate. Resolutions submitted to ALP SHOULD NOT be a forum for airing personal grievances, deal with persons or personalities, or address issues that can be better dealt with reaching out to ALP staff or board members

- Resolutions discussed at the AGM have been reproduced as submitted by the eligible producer; corrections will be made for grammar and spelling and staff may be in contact with the eligible producer to seek further clarity around the resolution
- Eligible producers who have pre-registered for the AGM shall receive all resolutions to be discussed at the AGM in their AGM Meeting Package prior to the AGM
- Decisions on resolutions voted on at the AGM are not binding on the Board

The Board's actions on AGM resolutions will be reported to the originating eligible producer. The status of carried resolutions will be updated throughout the year and at the next AGM, as applicable. All AGM resolutions—whether carried, redundant, or defeated—will be recorded.

The Resolution Process

Resolutions are accepted at any time throughout the year, prior to the September 30th submission deadline ahead of the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The submitter and/or the seconder of the resolution must be in attendance (in person or virtually) at the AGM to have their resolution stand.

When it's time to cover resolutions, the chair/resolution officer will read the resolutions aloud as submitted.

If a resolution is seconded by another eligible producer in attendance, the person bringing the resolution to the table will be given a chance to speak to it. There is then time for debate and discussion before a vote is called.

Board Action Post AGM

While all resolutions are recorded, only those that are carried are taken to the board of directors.

It is the board of directors' job to determine action on carried resolutions.

How to Prepare a Resolution

As you think about writing resolution statement(s), keep in mind that a successful resolution needs to:

- resonate with other lamb producers,
- be specific/relevant to the lamb industry, and
- align with the scope of the work done at Alberta Lamb Producers i.e. ALP strategic plan. Resolutions also need to

include two key pieces: a "whereas" statement, and a "be it resolved" statement.

Whereas

The "whereas" statement, or "preamble," provides important background into the resolution. It's the "why" behind a resolution.

Whereas statements identify the problem, and may also speak to its urgency/timeliness, and any other facts that are relevant to understanding the reason(s) behind a resolution.

Be It Resolved

Sometimes referred to as the "operative clause," the statement beginning with "Be it resolved" provides a recommendation for specific actions.

Examples

Here are a couple of examples of previous resolutions:

- Whereas Alberta Lamb Producers currently support youth development in agriculture but lack a formal mentorship program for young lamb producers, therefore...Be it resolved that ALP establish a mentorship initiative to connect experienced lamb producers with young or new entrants to the industry.
- Whereas animal welfare is a growing concern among consumers and producers alike, and whereas clear, science-based guidelines can support both ethical treatment and industry transparency, therefore... Be it resolved that ALP develop and promote a set of best practices for lamb welfare, including handling, transport, and on-farm care, in consultation with veterinary and animal welfare experts.

[Review Resolution Form Here](#)

Photo Contest - Deadline of September 10, 2025

We've received some fantastic photos so far—but we'd love to see even more!

Alberta Lamb Producers is currently revamping our website, and we want to showcase your favorite lamb-related photos. Whether it's scenic shots, everyday farm life, or memorable moments, send them our way!

Submit your photos to admin@ablamb.ca for a chance to win one of three gift cards! Deadline for submissions is September 10, 2025.

Please note, all photos submitted will become property of ALP and may be used in website creation, learning modules and promotional material.

Producer Spotlight: Insights from Our Producers

We are currently seeking producers to feature in our N'ewesletter!

Last year, ALP introduced the Producer Spotlight section in our quarterly N'ewesletter to help our producers connect and learn about the diverse sheep operations across Alberta.

We invite you to share your story. Would you like to contribute an article about your business and activities? Here are some ideas to get you started:

- **Your Farming Operation:** Describe your operation, including the number of animals, your experience in the industry, the breeds you raise, and whether you use an intensive or extensive system. Highlight what you do best, regardless of the size of your flock.
- **Personal Perspective:** What are you passionate about in the sheep industry? Why did you join the industry, and what keeps you interested? Discuss any topic that excites you—innovation, wool, breeding, feed, medication versus holistic approaches, machinery, tips and tricks, or any other area of interest.
- **Future Plans:** What are your aspirations for the future of your sheep operation? Is there something you hope to see in the industry? Share your personal goals and ambitions for your farm.

These articles are an opportunity to showcase your operations and foster networking among producers. By sharing our experiences and knowledge, we can strengthen our industry.

Please express your interest by contacting us at info@ablamb.ca or calling 403-948-8533.

Thank you!

Lamb And Sheep Market Update

By Ann Boyda, Provincial Livestock Market Analyst, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

Summary

The 2025 spring season has supported strong lamb prices, but higher breeding stock values have contributed to the decline in flock size since 2023. Alberta sheep producers do not export but will be monitoring for any impacts that recent tariff threats may have on input supplies, cost of production and retail prices.

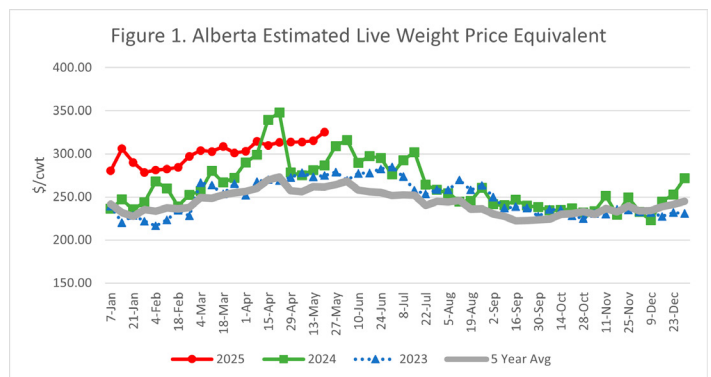
Robust market demand through Easter and upcoming ethnic religious holidays in June and September suggest stable market conditions throughout the rest of 2025.

Sheep and Lamb Inventories

According to inventory estimates from Statistics Canada, the January 1, 2025 survey reported a smaller ewe supply in Alberta (down 2.0 per cent from 2024) and an overall decline in total sheep and lamb inventory of 3.3 per cent compared to last year.

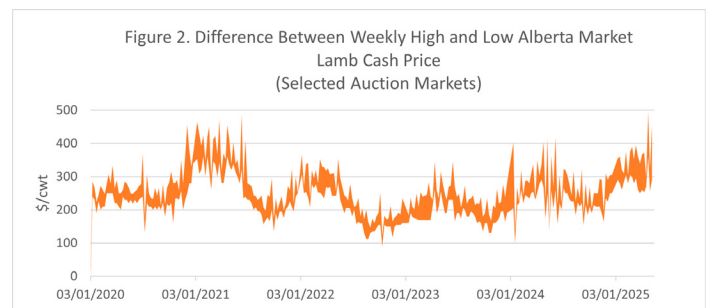
Market Prices

Alberta weekly slaughter lamb prices have performed well in 2025. Figure 1 shows market lamb prices on a live weight equivalent basis to May 16, 2025. With a year-to-date average price of \$301.21 per hundredweight (cwt), the market is up 10.3 per cent over the same period in 2024 and is 9.5 per cent above the 5-year average. Slaughter lamb prices have been on an increasing trend for a number of years.



Source: Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

Auction market prices have been rising as well as shown in Figure 2. Market lamb prices based on selected auction results ranged from a weekly average of \$280.42 per cwt to \$295.16 per cwt year-to-date to May 16, 2025. These prices are over 22 per cent higher than those reported in 2024 during the same period. Average year-to-date feeder lamb prices have ranged from \$335.68 per cwt to \$439.42 per cwt, a comparable 20 to 22 per cent increase over 2024 auction prices. The spread between the high and low price range has widened in 2025 compared to 2024, which is an indication of increasing market volatility.



Source: Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

A similar trend of increasing value but greater price variability is evident in the average monthly bred ewe market as shown in Figure 3. For the first four months of 2025, average monthly bred ewe prices ranged from \$369 per head to \$542 per head,



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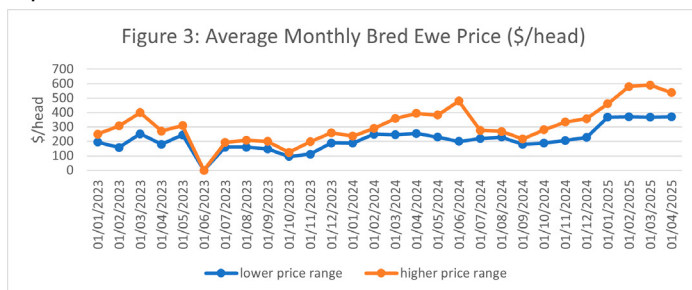
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reflecting an increased price range over the same period in 2024. The price spread between low and high increased from \$85 per head in 2024 to \$173 per head in 2025 in these four months. Alberta producers have taken advantage of higher lamb prices by marketing more ewe lambs that has contributed in part to lower ewe inventories.



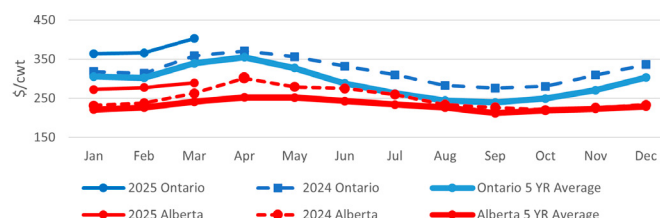
Source: Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

Ontario is the leading province in sheep production and serves as a good market for price comparisons. Price differences between the two jurisdictions can result from factors such as drought as well as local market conditions, but historic trends are evident between the two provinces.

Figure 4 shows data from Statistics Canada on both markets for the first quarter of 2025. Alberta and Ontario both reported strong monthly prices for lamb. The average lamb price in Alberta for this period was \$279.81 per hundredweight (cwt), which is 14.7 per cent higher than the same period last year and nearly 21.9 per cent higher than the Alberta five-year average for the first quarter.

The price spread between the two markets has widened slightly. The difference in average monthly lamb prices for the first three months of 2025 was \$98.07 per cwt as compared to \$86.32 per cwt for the same period in 2024. The price spread in 2024 had already increased in comparison to the 5-year average (\$71.55 per cwt versus \$58.98 per cwt, respectively). The following graph illustrates a widening spread in prices.

Figure 4. Alberta and Ontario Monthly Lamb Prices, 2025, 2024 and Five-Year Average

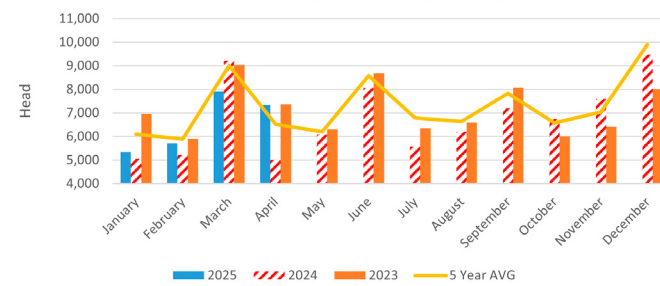


Source: Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0077-01 Farm product prices, crops and livestock

Slaughter

For the first four months of 2025, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency reported 26,293 head of lamb and sheep slaughtered in federally inspected packing plants in the West (including Ontario), a 7.4 per cent increase from the same period in 2024. Western Canadian slaughter volume represented 54 per cent of the total Canadian federally inspected slaughter for this period.

Figure 5. Monthly Sheep & Lamb Slaughter in Federally Inspected Establishments (West Including Ontario)



Source: Canadian Food Inspection Agency

The Easter season has supported the spike in slaughter in March and several other upcoming religious celebrations should support lamb demand as well. These include Eid al Adha (June 6-8); Muharram (Islamic New Year - June 26); Mawlid al-Nabi (Prophet

Mohammad Birthday -September 5) and Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year - September 22-24).

Global situation

The global market has witnessed some turbulence in the aftermath of tariff threats. The Alberta sheep and lamb industry remains relatively unscathed. The global sheep meat production reached 19.1 million tonnes in 2024, a modest 0.6 per cent increase year-over-year.

Global AgriTrends reports strong United States (U.S.) demand for lamb meat in their May 2025 report. Production was steady to lower, but prices tracked higher. Fresh lamb sales in the U.S., including seasonal adjustments, were up nine per cent in value and total lamb volume was up 11.5 per cent in April.

USDA reported production of 133.6 million pounds of lamb and mutton in 2024, a 2.4 per cent increase from 2023, with a projected production of 135 million pounds in 2025. The price of U.S. National choice and prime slaughter lambs are projected at US\$177.44 per cwt for 2025 and are forecast to rise to an average of US\$178.75 per cwt in 2026. Strong U.S. prices combined with lower feed cost should lead to improved profitability.

U.S. lamb imports of 73 million pounds increased by 2.0 per cent in the first quarter of 2025. The growth in imports were primarily from Australia.

China remains the country with the largest sheep population in the world with 194 million head in 2025. It is also the world's largest producer of wool with an estimated production of 356,200 tonnes (a 2022 estimate). India has the second largest flock at 75.3 million sheep, followed by Australia at 70.2 million head, then Iran with 55.6 million sheep and rounding of the top five producing regions is Nigeria with an estimated 50.3 million.

The Australian Government reports lamb meat export volume for the first four months of 2025 with total shipments of 514,840 tonnes. Canada received 2.5 per cent of the shipments whereas the U.S. received over 16 per cent. Asian countries (other than Japan, South Korea and Taiwan) received the greatest share at 36.5 per cent. As of May 2025, Australia has experienced prolonged dryness and poor pasture conditions, which led to a reduction of their ewe herd.

Keeping Foot-and-Mouth Disease, New World Screwworm and HPAI on the radar

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has raised concerns about potential cross-species exposure. This virus had been primarily associated with poultry, but the virus now affects wild birds, mammals, cattle and companion animals. United Kingdom (U.K.) has confirmed the first case of H5N1 of avian origin in a sheep in Yorkshire.

On January 10, 2025, Foot-and-Mouth disease (FMD) was detected in a German water buffalo farm; however, Germany has since resumed its FMD-free status. Hungary and Slovakia have

also had outbreaks that continue to persist. The U.K. banned imports of meat and dairy products from European countries where the virus has been detected.

Prevention of New World Screwworm (NWS) northward movement from South America is critical. The pest can cause deadly damage to livestock. In December 2024, NWS was detected in southern Mexico. USDA is addressing the emerging threat with sterile fly production. NWS is endemic in Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and South America.

Conclusion

Strong lamb prices in 2025 should provide optimism for Alberta's Sheep industry. Weather and feed costs likewise are working to producers' benefit. While remaining vigilant with disease surveillance and the potential economic turbulence, producers appear well situated for a prosperous year.

North Central Alberta Educational Foundation Bursary

There must be two Emily Yaremkos out in the world because one person cannot possibly do everything this young lady delivers. As a result, Emily is the 2024 winner of the \$1000 Sheep Producers of North Central Alberta Education Foundation bursary.

Emily grew up on a mixed farm south of St. Paul, Alberta. The family farms the land and raises cattle as well as a commercial and purebred Dorset flock. At her local 4-H, her family created a sheep project where they had market lambs, flocks, and female projects. Emily joined 4-H at a young age, being a cleaver for two years, then a member for nine. Throughout her time with 4-H, she held multiple executive positions and was a huge mentor for not only her own club but surrounding ones getting started, teaching members everything from selecting, feeding and overall health to showing.

Emily participated in the Provincial 4-H Sheep Show and Summer Synergy where her whole family have been very successful.



ful. She became a role model for area youth, always willing to help them improve their showmanship and trimming skills to try keeping them engaged in sheep programs.

She is currently attending school at the Northern Oklahoma College in Tonkawa, OK, taking the Animal Science Pre-Vet program with plans on going into AI and embryology for both cattle and sheep. In her spare time, she volunteers at the on-campus sheep center and is part of the Aggies Club. She chose to go to school in the States as they are further advanced in the sheep species. She wants to bring knowledge back to Canada to improve genetics and hopefully start making connections between American and Canadian breeders.

There are very limited scholarship opportunities available to Canadian students studying outside the country. She applied for this scholarship because she thinks it's a great opportunity to help youth achieve their educational goals and lessen the financial burden when studying abroad. "This scholarship is a great opportunity to invest in me and invest in the future of the sheep industry that I will be a part of." She's a very committed student, excelling in her studies with a 3.64 GPA and a full livestock judging team schedule. She has great excitement and ambition to excel in her future leading-edge agricultural field.

Members of the Sheep Producers of North Central Alberta Education Foundation (SPNCAEF) met with Emily at Farmfair 2024; she travelled back to Canada to specifically show livestock with her family at this show so we were able to present her with the \$1000 check. Emily's resume was very impressive but meeting her surpassed all expectations; she showed remarkable maturity for her age, both in spoken word and by her actions. She does the award proud! We have only one idea as to how she's managed to balance the enormity of her life and duties...

She's been cloned.

Alberta Sheep and Goat Producers are Stepping Up to Protect Alberta Bighorn Sheep Populations from M.ovi

By Dr. Heather Van Esch, Veterinarian with Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae (M.ovi) is a relatively common bacterium in domestic sheep and goat flocks/herds across North America, and typically does not cause clinical signs of disease in these species that adapted to it over many generations. However, when this bacterium infects bighorn sheep and other



wild sheep/goat species, it can cause serious pneumonia resulting in devastating population losses. M.ovi is primarily passed from animal to animal by direct/close contact. The last known outbreak of

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M.ovi in bighorn sheep in Alberta was in Feb 2023 in the Sheep River area SW of Calgary.

In an effort to conserve the bighorn sheep population, two provincial ministries (Environment and Protected Areas (EPA) and Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI)) are working together with Alberta veterinarians to provide a FREE M.ovi testing and fencing program for sheep and goat producers located within 50km of bighorn sheep ranges along the western border of the province (see green area on map). The testing program involves the collection and submission of nasal swabs by the veterinary clinic of your choice. The cost of all supplies, veterinary time, and lab testing is covered by the program.



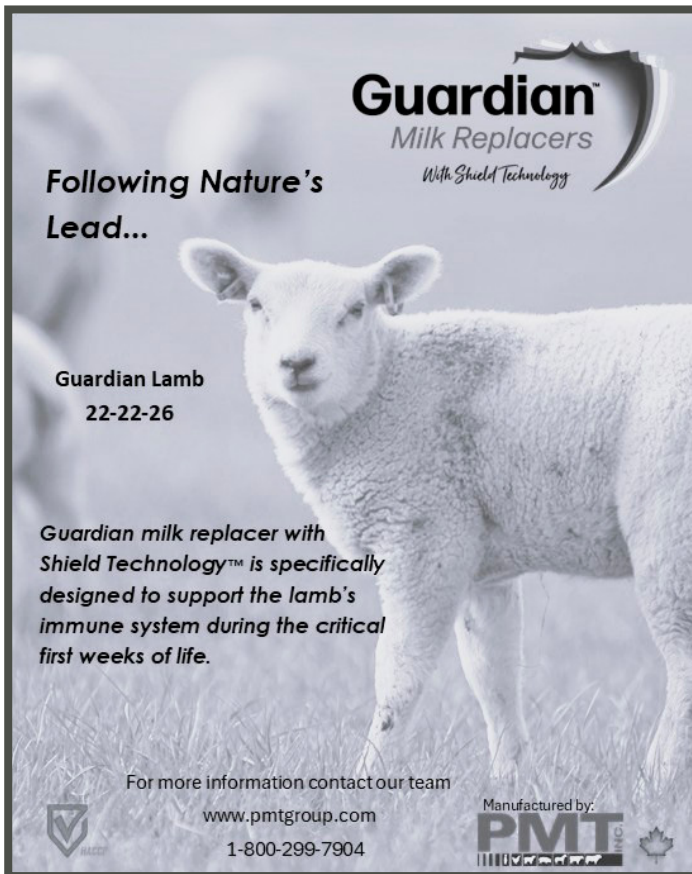
M.ovi is NOT a reportable or notifiable disease in Alberta. All test results are strictly confidential between you and your veterinarian. There are no consequences to having positive animals.

The goal of this program is to learn how prevalent/common M.ovi is in domestic small ruminant flocks/herds located close to bighorn populations, and to provide mitigation strategies such as fencing for producers in these areas. Physical separation between domestic and wild sheep is the key to preventing transmission.

Participating producers benefit by learning more about their flock/herd health, creating valuable relationships with their



local veterinarian, and being part of bighorn sheep conservation in their region. Flocks/herds with positive animals may apply for our free fencing program to help prevent contact between their animals and any nearby bighorn sheep populations.



We are happy to report that several producers have already accessed this program through their local veterinarians, but there are ongoing opportunities for you to take part if your animals are located in or near the disease surveillance zone. Please contact your veterinarian for more information on how to participate.

For more information:

- [Fact Sheet for Producers](#)
- [YouTube Video Made in Alberta](#)
- [Information About Pneumonia in Bighorn Sheep](#)

Alberta Sheep Industry Revitalization Project

As you may have heard from our last producer email, the Alberta Lamb Producers was able to secure research grant funding through Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR) through Sustainable CAP Program funding. The project will partner with Stolz Williams Consulting (SWC) to update our key business, infrastructure, and extension materials. The specific materials to be updated include business tools that were originally developed in 2012 by the Alberta Lamb Producers, Alberta Agriculture, and SWC Consulting. These tools represent a substantial investment and include a sheep industry specific business planning guide, an advanced cost of production computer

program that helps producers to calculate sheep farm profitability, and a comprehensive sheep producer resource guide that links to over 100 extension documents. The project will also demonstrate how to use these tools using different types of Alberta sheep farms as models, so that producers across Alberta can learn how to use them.

Learning how to use any new tool is hard, and business tools are no different. By adopting a hands-on approach to teaching business tool use, this project will help producers learn how to use these tools to increase their operation's efficiency and profitability. Likewise, these tools will be useful in helping to support new producers as they enter the industry.

The demonstration component of this project will model between five to seven different types of sheep operations based on real Alberta flocks. The project will model different sizes and types of farms including breeding stock operations, commercial producers, extensive / lower cost grazing operations, as well as the more intensive / higher cost operations that are most common across Alberta. We will showcase the use of the business tools as applied to these flocks via in-person and virtual (on-line) presentations later this year – likely in October. The Alberta Lamb Producers has already begun to solicit Alberta lamb producers to take part in the project by volunteering some of their time to help us build these models. If you are interested in becoming involved, please let us know!

The market for lamb is very well established world-wide and has been growing since 2009, seeing average prices nearly doubling today. The drivers for this market are rising incomes as well as a rise in ethnic (lamb eating) populations. In many areas of the world, lamb production is big business - much like the oil business is in Alberta in fact. According to the Australian sheep industry (sheepproducers.com.au), the average size of an Australian flock is 2,000 ewes. This compares to an average flock size in Alberta of just eighty-nine ewes. In fact, only fifty-three flocks Canada-wide had more than 755 animals in 2012. While we do not have current statistics on this measure, we believe it has not changed much.

The long-term goal of this project is to increase the size of the Alberta flock, reducing our reliance on imported lamb, by giving producers the tools they need to start and/or to expand their operations. In this era of political instability, tariffs, and trade uncertainty, the goals of this project are more relevant than ever! We believe the time is right as there is a clear opportunity for Alberta lamb producers since Canadian consumers now, more than ever, want to buy Canadian made products.

While the Alberta and Canadian sheep industry has been stable for several years, it has not grown substantially, and imported lamb continues to supply as much as 58% of Canadian demand! Most of the lamb imported to Canada comes from New Zealand, Australia, and the US. The opportunity is clear! Every project needs a "big hairy goal". The goal for this project is to engage about 10% of the approximately 1,700 lamb producers in Alberta, new and existing, to begin using these

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INDICATIONS	• For the vaccination of healthy sheep and cattle, 2 weeks of age or older • Aids in the prevention of diseases caused by the 10 bacterin-toxoids listed in the table below	
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1. <i>Clostridium (C.) chauvoei</i> (blackleg)	2. <i>C. perfringens</i> type C (hemorrhagic enterotoxaemia)	
3. <i>C. haemolyticum</i> (bacillary hemoglobinuria)	4. <i>C. perfringens</i> type D (pulpy kidney)	
5. <i>C. novyi</i> type B (black disease or infectious necrotic hepatitis)	6. <i>C. septicum</i> (malignant oedema)	
7. <i>C. perfringens</i> type A (enterotoxaemia, gas gangrene, sudden death syndrome)	8. <i>C. sordellii</i> (sudden death syndrome)	
9. <i>C. perfringens</i> type B (lamb dysentery)	10. <i>C. tetani</i> (tetanus)	
Bovilis® Covexin® 10 offers the broadest clostridial protection in the market.		
ADMINISTRATION & DOSAGE		
Primary Vaccination	Sheep: Initial and subsequent dose: 1 mL, 4-6 weeks apart. Subcutaneous injection. Cattle: Initial and subsequent dose: 2 mL, 4-6 weeks apart. Subcutaneous injection.	
Revaccination	An annual booster vaccination is required within twelve months.	
MEAT WITHDRAWAL PERIOD	21 days	

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tools to lower their costs and/or expand their production to ultimately achieve about a 10% improvement.

According to the Business Development Bank of Canada, a reasonable target for any business interested in increasing their production and/or lowering costs is about 10%. If true, and if we can achieve this, it would mean the Alberta flock would grow from its current (roughly) 100,000 ewes and estimated 130,000 lambs, to add 10,000 more ewes and 13,000 lambs. (Government of Alberta - Agri-News June 24, 2024). This increase, if realized, would be worth \$5 million dollars for the ewes, plus up to another \$3.9 million dollars for the lambs at today's market prices. Not a bad "big hairy goal"!

Before the Crisis: How Communities Can Proactively Support Mental Health

By The Do More Agriculture Foundation

Most rural communities understand that emergencies happen—and they plan for them. Those who understand a community's assets, strengths, resources, and people come together before a crisis to develop a strategy. Here's what we do when the air ambulance is coming to pick up someone who has had a heart attack. Here's what we do if a grass fire threatens the edge of town. When an emergency erupts, the community relies on that planning to marshal resources and rise to the occasion.

A mental health emergency rarely comes with warning signs, and it's common for communities to think: "That's a personal health issue. Let's give them space." In rural and agricultural communities, distance, stigma, and limited access to services can stop people from seeking help. When a person is experiencing a mental health crisis, they may not know what to do or where to turn.

The good news? Communities can play an important role in planning. Just like in other emergencies, communities can take meaningful, proactive steps to be ready before a mental health crisis hits. At The Do More Agriculture Foundation, we champion mental health in agriculture by raising awareness and breaking the stigma, cultivating a strong sense of community and connection, and helping bridge the gap in access to

mental health resources. One of the most effective things rural communities can do is build their mental health readiness, just like gearing up for harvest or preparing for an extreme weather event. Being prepared helps. Here's how.

1. Create and Share Local Resource Lists

Every rural community is different. Knowing what's available locally makes a difference when moments matter and someone needs help and they aren't sure where to go. Communities can identify and develop a list of nearby mental health supports. This list can include:

- Names and contact numbers for family doctors or nurse practitioners offering mental health check-ins
- Names and contact numbers for local or visiting counselors, therapists, social workers, and psychologists who provide mental health support
- National and provincial call-in crisis lines and text-based supports
- Contacts or regular dates and times for peer support groups (e.g., AA, grief circles, farming support networks)
- Information about online platforms offering virtual mental health care

Make the list accessible—printed and posted at the post office, farm supply store, local diner, or shared on bulletin boards and online platforms. Sign up for mental health newsletters to stay up to date on events, ideas, resources and supports, which you can add to your list. Update that list regularly, and keep it handy. You never know who might need it.

2. Train Community Champions

Often, it's not mental health professionals who notice first when someone is struggling, it's family, neighbours, teachers, faith leaders, friends, and the people you meet walking down the street. Communities can help equip more people to recognize the signs by offering mental health first aid training or awareness workshops to increase mental health literacy in your community. Community champions can develop the language, confidence, and tools to support others or guide them to help.

Training doesn't make someone a therapist, yet it does help them recognize signs of distress, ask caring questions, and connect people with resources. Organizations like ours, along with many allies, offer farm-specific and culturally sensitive mental health training grounded in the unique pressures of agricultural life, that help people recognize when someone could use support for their mental health.

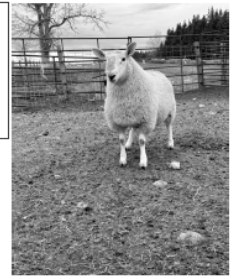
3. Talk About Mental Health

Reducing stigma is one of the most powerful things a community can do to prevent a crisis. When people know it's okay to seek help for mental health challenges, they're more likely to



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ask for support before things spiral. This culture shift begins with language, visibility, and leadership.

Share mental health information and resources in newsletters, at community events, or in farmers' market updates. Invite local leaders or respected farmers to speak about their own experiences.

Host focused mental health events, with trade shows and speakers. Encourage regular check-ins, asking "How are you doing lately?" should feel as natural as asking "How's the weather?" or "How's the farm?" Opening the conversation helps people realize that they are not alone.

Cultivating a culture of wellbeing in your community is a gift: everyone feels encouraged, supported, and empowered to care for their mental well-being. This shift builds trust and lays the groundwork for long-term resilience.

4. Embed Mental Health in Community Planning

Community safety and emergency preparedness plans often include floods, fires, or power outages. What about the mental health impact of such events?

Do you have a community plan in place if there is a catastrophic accident or large-scale farm crisis such as avian influenza or BSE? Ensuring that mental health is considered in local planning is a smart, proactive move.

Planning and preparation for mental health could look like having clear referral pathways, ensuring first responders and local doctors and nurses receive mental health awareness

training, bringing in counselors in response to crisis events, actively recruiting mental health specialists for your community, or budgeting for mental health support workers in the region.

5. Use Technology to Bridge Gaps

In agricultural and rural regions with limited mental health services, digital tools can play a critical role. Ensure your community knows about free or low-cost virtual counselling platforms, mental wellness apps, and text-based helplines. Set up a community Wi-Fi hotspot or telehealth space where people can privately access these services.

If digital literacy is a barrier, consider hosting informal tech tutorials at the local library or community centre. You never know what might help someone access what they need.

6. Support Youth and Caregivers

Young people and caregivers often bear invisible emotional loads. Youth in rural communities may feel isolated or unsure of where to turn, especially if their family isn't comfortable talking about mental health struggles. Caregivers also carry a big load - whether they're supporting children, elders, or partners - and can often neglect their own well-being.



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Be proactive by including mental health supports in school programming, offering caregiver groups or respite services, and creating accessible spaces for youth to connect and learn about mental health, such as a Stigma-Free club or as an add-on to existing youth programming.

Preparedness is a Form of Care

Every farming community understands the importance of preparation, whether it's before seeding or before winter sets in. Mental health is a good space to prepare. The more we equip ourselves, our neighbours, and our communities before a crisis, the better we can respond with compassion, clarity, and care.

At The Do More Agriculture Foundation, we believe that community is an essential part of a mental health journey. By building proactive, people-centered support, agricultural and rural communities have the power to ensure that help is always within reach - long before any moment of crisis.

To learn more and to access resources, visit www.domore.ag.

Prevent *C. ovis* Carcass Loss with Preventative Measures

Cysticercus ovis (*C. ovis*), the infective larval stage of *Taenia ovis* (*T. ovis*), a cestode parasite of dogs (and perhaps free-ranging carnivores), occurs around the world, including in Canada. The parasite transmits from dogs to sheep by ingestion of infec-

tive eggs in dog feces, and from sheep to dogs by ingestion of infective cysticerci in skeletal muscle, heart and occasionally other tissues. Although the parasite is usually of minimal clinical significance in dogs and sheep, the presence of the macroscopically visible larval stages in meat from infected sheep is unattractive to consumers and reduces carcass value. There has been an increase of carcasses condemned in Canada as of late, and producer awareness is key to prevention. Key ways to minimize *C. ovis* impacting your flock include:

1. Don't feed raw sheep meat to your dogs or allow dogs to scavenge carcasses. Farms that allow scavenging are four times more likely to have *T. ovis* condemnations.
2. Dispose of dead stock properly to prevent scavenging by dogs and wild animals.
3. Deworm all dogs regularly. *T. ovis* eggs can survive on pasture, in feed, or in water for up to a year.
4. Deworm dogs with the right oral medications prescribed by your veterinarian. Topical dewormers are not effective.

For more information, visit the [ALP fact sheet on *T. ovis*](#).

CSIP Tag Myths Debunked

While sheep producers have become accustomed to applying Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP) tags, several myths about the program still persist.



Shearwell CSIP RFID Double Tag



Shearwell CSIP RFID Strip Tag



Allflex CSIP RFID Combo Tag



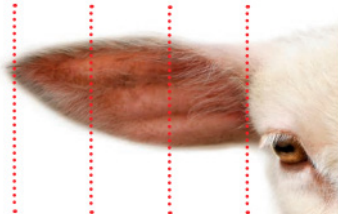
Allflex CSIP RFID Button Tag

Myth #1: I'm just selling lambs to my neighbor, so they don't need a CSIP tag.

Actually, every sheep and lamb must be identified with an approved, uniquely numbered ear tag before it is moved from its farm of origin.

Myth #2: I can use a cattle RFID tag.

No, cattle tags cannot be used on sheep. Approved CSIP tags are yellow, are imprinted with the official CSIP logo and are radio frequency identification (RFID) enabled. Only tags approved for CSIP may be used on sheep.



Myth #3: It doesn't matter where I put the tag in the sheep's ear.

Regardless of your approved tag of choice, application and placement are key to tag retention. The most common tag used is the 'strip' or 'loop' tag. Remember to apply in the right ear, avoid cartilage and apply the tag in the first third of the ear, closest to the head.

Results from the Livestock Guardian Dog Survey

By Louise Liebenberg

Thank you to all the Alberta producers who took the time to complete the survey to investigate whether Alberta Lamb Producers (ALP) should pursue finding funding to run a pilot project to implement a Livestock Guardian Dog (LGD) rebate program in Alberta.

This article will cover some of the responses and concerns brought forward through the survey. The first question was whether producers were supportive of ALP spending time and resources to investigate a LGD rebate program. Over 84% of the respondents were positive to at least investigating the possibilities. From the survey only a small minority of producers do not use LGD on their sheep operation, about 15%. This clearly indicates that most sheep operations in Alberta do utilize LGD to help mitigate some losses from predators. About 87 % of the

producers perceived their LGD to be effective in their duties of keeping the sheep safe, about 7 % felt dogs helped and the remaining producers did not feel they were effective or did not know as they had never used LGD before. One can deduce from this that most producers certainly feel that LGD are an integral part of their operation.

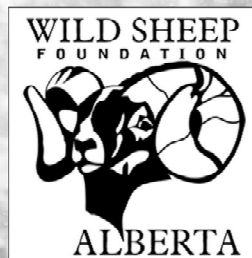
Many of the respondents felt they were fairly to very experienced with working with LGD and raising LGD. About 20% of the producers had either never raised a LGD before or did not regard themselves as experienced.

It is great to see that sheep producers have really embraced a "toolbox" mindset for keeping their sheep safe and that many producers use multiple "tools" and approaches to help prevent predation. Sheep producers are truly leaders in trying to mitigate conflict with predators, in part out of necessity, because everything likes to eat sheep. In this regard, sheep producers are far ahead of the cattle industry in understanding that livestock needs to be protected, regardless of compensation programs. From the survey it is clear that most sheep producers do utilise LGD, other guardian animals such as llamas and donkeys, fencing, hunting and trapping, keeping lambs in doors and other deterrents to keep their livestock safe. Most use a combination of all these methods.

The most commonly used LGD breeds are often called the Big White Dogs, including the Great Pyrenees and Maremma, and following this are the Turkish breeds such as the Anatolian, Akbash and Kangal. About 25% of the respondents use LGD cross-breeds and about 10 % use some of the lesser-known breeds such as the Tatra, CAS, and Karakachan. Prices for the pups varied a fair amount, but not many pups were purchased for under \$300, and few folks bought dogs that cost over \$1000. The majority of respondents indicated a price range of \$300-\$1000 per pup. This gives a good indication of where one would need to focus on a potential rebate program.

Many respondents noted in an earlier question that they felt they were fairly experienced at raising LGD however about 65% of the folks who participated in the survey did say they would like to see some more resources on raising and working with LGD. The biggest majority wanted to see a training manual, clinics and workshops and webinars. One respondent said that they would like to see breeders attend a clinic on how to raise right from birth. This was interesting, as I assumed that most

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



wsfab.org

people who purchase LGD for their operation would automatically buy a pup from a breeder who raises livestock and LGD in a manner that is similar to what the buyer would be looking for. Perhaps, buyers need to be pickier where they purchase their pups from?

The survey asked if a rebate program is to be considered, should there be parameters set on this grant money. Only 6% of respondents felt that there should be no parameters set. This is a fair consideration, if one is to implement such a program that has "rules" surrounding it, it would require someone to police them, monitor and follow up. This of course will require time and money to administer. It was a split opinion on who should be eligible for a rebate. Approximately 50% felt it should be open to anyone with sheep, regardless of the size or number of sheep and the other half felt that there should be a minimum size in property and number of sheep. Other parameters highlighted were that the welfare of the dogs was important, spaying and neutering and the type of fencing a producer has. Many respondents felt it was important to consider how many dogs would be eligible for this rebate program. Many folks voiced concerns about backyard breeders, or breeders who might start breeding to profit on a rebate program and concerns for dogs being a nuisance on smaller acreages to neighbours.

The final part of the survey was an open-ended question just asking for general comments or ideas. There were some

thoughtful comments and suggestions. One such suggestion was that any dogs acquired through a rebate program should be microchipped to track if a dog ever ends up in a shelter. Some other comments suggested that having LGD was part of the "cost of doing business" in the sheep industry here in Alberta. Some people asked about a rebate for other prevention methods, not just LGD. Someone commented that offering a rebate program would "spawn irresponsible ownership". Another comment was that maybe ALP should lobby for compensation to be paid for coyote kills, or more fencing grants.

I do want to add in some extra information that we purposely did not add to the initial survey is that we have been looking at the Saskatchewan rebate program, along with some other international organizations and how they run a LGD program. It varies from a program with no parameters other than payment is limited to certain breeds of pups, to other organizations who are very hands on. In one such program, the dog is donated and monitored for two plus years, helping with veterinary treatments and feed, training advice and management. This type of program is often through non-Government organization's who are funded in a different way.

We will take this survey and make a recommendation to the Board of Directors of ALP. Ultimately, the decision to move forward, or not, with this investigation will lie with them and of course with any funding organization.

The number of comments and suggestions was really good to see and provided valuable insights for us to consider moving forward. Thank you for your participation in the survey.

Changes to Come for Traceability Authority for Sheep in Canada

The Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF) applied to become the responsible administrator for sheep under Part XV of the Health of Animals Regulations in June of 2022. In late May of 2025, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) announced that they have found the CSF to be qualified to become a responsible administrator for information related to ovine animals kept in Canada. This authorization is subject to the conclusion of an agreement specifying the terms and conditions for the exercise of this function. Once said agreement is ratified, the CSF would be designated the responsible administrator for sheep in Canada. As of publication date, we have no timeline to share on these changes.

ALP commits to keeping producers updated on the responsible administrator changes for sheep in Canada. Until the new agreement is ratified with the CSF, the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) continues to be the responsible administrator.

The CCIA became the responsible administrator for sheep identification and traceability in Alberta—and across Canada—under the Livestock Identification and Traceability (LIT) Program, which was formalized in the early 2000s. The Health of Animals Regulations (Part XV), which governs livestock identification, began including sheep alongside cattle and bison as early as 2002–2004, with CCIA designated as the responsible administrator.

About Traceability and the CFIA and Current Tracking Information

Simple Blood Test Could Help Farmers Target Sheep Parasite

A Canadian study of a parasitic roundworm that is increasingly threatening the profitability of the world's sheep producers could lead to a new diagnostic device to quickly detect the infection days before any symptoms are visible.

"What we are planning to do in the future is something similar in shape to a lancing device for diabetes," said Dr. Desiree Gellatly, Senior Research Scientist at the Technology Access Centre for Livestock Production (TACLP) at Olds College of Agriculture & Technology.

"The device would take a drop of blood, and it would indicate whether sheep have the parasite. Producers could pinpoint much earlier, even without animals showing clinical symptoms,

which of their sheep need to be treated with dewormers to prevent the parasite from spreading."

The study found that small molecules called metabolites have the potential to serve as blood biomarkers in sheep for detecting *Haemonchus contortus* infections – commonly known as the barber's pole worm, said Gellatly.

Detections can be made up to two weeks before the parasite begins shedding its eggs in sheep feces, she said. "The biomarkers act like a kind of chemical fingerprint as they are specific molecules produced or altered as a result of the host-parasite interaction."

The finding could pave the way to a handheld diagnostic device allowing sheep producers to affordably and accurately test for the worms themselves. This technology could also potentially be used to detect the parasite in other ruminant livestock, such as cattle and goats, pending further research.

The study was co-led by Dr. Gellatly; Dr. Yaogeng Lei, Research Scientist at TACLP; and Sean Thompson, Director of TACLP, in collaboration with Dr. Ghader Manafiazar of Dalhousie University and Dr. John Gilleard of the University of Calgary.

The Life Cycle of Barber's Pole Worms

- Eggs in feces hatch into larvae (L1 and L2).
- Develop into infective third-stage larvae (L3) that migrate onto pasture grass.
- Sheep ingest L3, which develop into adult worms in the abomasum (fourth stomach).
- Female worms produce 5,000–10,000 eggs per day.

Though only ~2 cm long, adult worms feed on blood and can cause anemia, affecting the sheep's ability to gain weight or grow wool, and can be fatal if untreated.

"Although the L3 infective stage does not tolerate harsh winter conditions of Western Canada, the L4 stage can survive inside the host in a dormant state through a process called hypobiosis. These larvae resume development in the spring, contributing to reinfection," said Gellatly.

Rising Dewormer Resistance

Common dewormers like ivermectin and benzimidazoles are becoming less effective. Dr. Gilleard's team confirmed *Haemonchus contortus* as the most prevalent roundworm in Western Canada and confirmed anthelmintic resistance.



The 57-day study, funded by Alberta's RDAR agency, Alberta Lamb Producers, and Ontario Sheep Farmers, began in 2023. It tested 60 Rideau Arcott sheep in 4 groups:

1. Infected and dewormed
2. Infected and non-dewormed
3. Non-infected and dewormed
4. Non-infected and non-dewormed

These groups allowed researchers to track metabolomic changes before and after deworming.

Limitations of Current Detection Methods

Current tools include: 1) AMACHA chart: compares eyelid color to assess anemia, 2) Visual symptoms: like diarrhea, "bottle jaw" (swelling under jaw), and 3) Lab tests: fecal egg counts.

However, these tests detect parasites only after symptoms appear, forcing producers to treat entire flocks preemptively—raising costs and accelerating resistance.

In summary, the study offers a science-based solution to parasite control in sheep through early, on-farm detection of *Haemonchus contortus*. It reduces reliance on mass treatment, enhances animal welfare, and supports long-term profitability.

With further development, the handheld device could become an essential tool for sustainable sheep farming.

Targeted Grazing Course Available this Fall

The Targeted Grazing Course had a successful launch this past winter. ALP looks forward to the next session beginning September 15. An online course, students work at their own pace through a series of modules. The information is designed for existing sheep or goat producers or those looking for new opportunities in grazing. Modules covered include the principles of grazing, successfully managing tame and native forages, stockmanship and animal welfare, and building a business plan. A highlight of the course is a dedicated module featuring real-world case studies, showcasing grazing in powerline cutblocks, urban areas, solar/rangevoltaic sites, forested landscapes, and targeted weed management. Participants will also benefit from interactive online sessions with the instructor, fellow students, and ALP. Past students appreciated the chance to share experiences, exchange insights, and build lasting connections.

The next course is set to begin September 15. If this is something of interest to you, please get in touch with ALP at admin@ablamb.ca

[Targeted Grazing Course Online Information](#)

How to Over-Graze Your Sheep Pasture

**By Ken Van Driesten, MSc, CCA (Prairie Provinces), an Al-
bertan, shepherd, and Forage Specialist for More Than
Just Feed and Renovo Seed.**

As sheep-producers, we have a pretty good idea of what an over-grazed pasture should look like. For some of us, passers-by may think we own a golf course. Especially if we flag our gopher holes. For others, I guess depending how many vehicles are parked out there, passers-by will assume our farmyard comes with its own Walmart-scale parking lot. But if the farthest fence-lines still show a few inches of forage, it's not over-grazed yet, is it? I guess that depends if the pasture's main purpose is forage source or exercise area. These stereotypes of over-grazed sheep pastures have not helped our image as land stewards and have given credence to such endearing terms as "range maggots" from our cattle-ranching neighbours.

The ability of sheep to graze close to the ground is a misdirected strength of the species. The prehensile lips that your sheep use to extract that last half inch of grass out of the ground are actually designed to allow your sheep to select specific nutritious parts of forage plants. That is, when they have enough forage available to give them the luxury of selectivity. It also means that sheep excel at turning their total mixed ration into a totally sorted ration, but that's a story for another day.

Over-grazing technically occurs when a plant is grazed before fully recovering from the previous time it was grazed. So over-grazing is less about what the pasture looks like from the road, and more about rest and recovery periods. Interestingly enough, a golf course-looking sheep pasture may not be technically over-grazed (probably is, but not necessarily). And a green pasture with a foot of lush grass could technically be over-grazed. It all depends what forage species are in that pasture, the time of year, and where the forage is at in its recovery period.

If you live in moist country and your pasture composition is bluegrass and white clover, you could move sheep onto a paddock when it is just six inches tall and graze the top third of the forage. In this situation the sheep may just take one bite of each forage stem. This will leave just three to four inches of what looks like freshly mowed turf, and since you have the soil moisture this sward will be recovered and ready to graze again in just a couple of weeks, with no concerns of over-grazing. Parasites, on the other hand, could be a problem in this pasture.

If your pasture composition is orchard grass and red clover, you'd typically be grazing when the orchard grass tillers have at least four leaves, or when the red clover is blooming. This would not happen at six inches of sward height, but likely eighteen inches or taller. If you graze this pasture to a four-inch residual height, that's 80% removal, and it will take more than a month of recovery before it is recovered and ready to graze again. If your sheep just graze six inches off the top, or 33%

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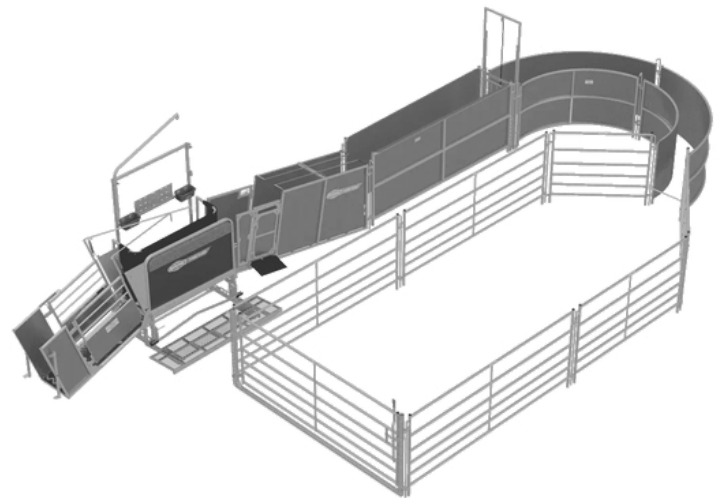
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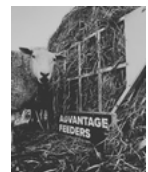
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removal, it may be ready to graze again in a couple of weeks, and total season grass production will likely be maximized.

If you're lucky enough to live on the semi-arid prairie and your pasture composition is crested wheatgrass and alfalfa, the last couple of pasture examples may sound a bit unrealistic, and they are, for you, for most of the year. Grazing the top third off before rest and regrowth only applies for the active growing season. For your crested wheatgrass pasture, this means your sheep should graze the tops off the plants once or twice within a six-week period in May-June and then left untouched until next year. Yes, don't touch the fall regrowth on your rangeland! And dormant-season grazing requires a totally different management paradigm.

If you are in dry country, you may practice 'total-grazing' of your stock-piled pasture in the dormant season. This involves removing 90% or more of the standing dormant grass, moving your ewes at least once per day to prevent any selectivity. As you move your flock across your operation, more and more of your pastures may be left looking "over-grazed". As long as the grass is dormant and the material being grazed has senesced, this is technically not over-grazing. Some may argue with me on this, but when the next opportunity for grass growth occurs, this grass can recover quickly since its roots are not compromised. And it needs a full recovery in the next growing season, of course.

Each of these grazing scenarios has a lot more nuance to it than can be described in a short article. The specific context on your operation will require its own management plan that must be adapted to changing growing conditions and livestock needs from year to year. We know that over-grazing will reduce total pasture productivity from its potential, certainly in the long-term, but even within one growing season.

So how do we over-graze?

It's surprisingly easy! Just keep the sheep on the same pasture long enough to re-graze the sward before it has recovered. During the peak growing season, you may only need to keep them on the pasture for a few days to accomplish this. If you want to fully master the art of over-grazing, repeat this process over and across multiple growing seasons. Of course, the sheep will lower their mowing height as needed, until they are pulling out roots. Only the least palatable weeds and most rhizomatous grass species will remain. The result will be a pasture that resembles a golf course, and if you are successful, may produce a similar amount of forage to a parking lot!

What is CgFARAD? How Does it Apply to Alberta Lamb Producers?

CgFARAD™ stands for the Canadian Global Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank. It is a Canadian initiative that provides veterinarians with scientifically based withdrawal recommendations for drugs used in food-producing animals, es-



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pecially when those drugs are used in an extra-label manner (i.e., in a way not specified on the product label approved by Health Canada). Alberta Lamb Producers supports this initiative, and this is why it matters:

- **Food Safety:** It helps ensure that meat, milk, and eggs from treated animals are free from harmful drug residues by recommending appropriate withdrawal times.
- **Veterinary Support:** When a veterinarian uses a drug off-label, they can consult CgFARAD to determine how long to wait before the animal's products are safe for human consumption.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** CgFARAD numbers are often required on veterinary prescriptions or feed slips, especially during audits by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

[Read the latest CgFARAD newsletter here](#)

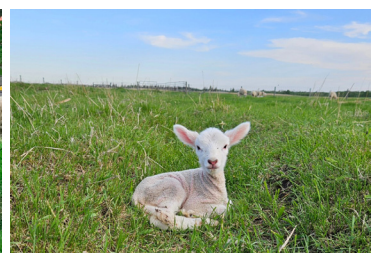
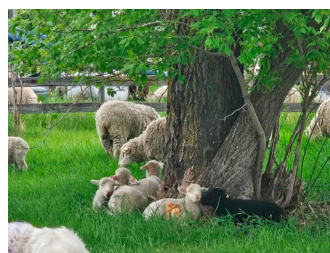


Photo Credit: Darlene Hawco

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 - OR**
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4. You have a need for the award money.
5. You have not received this award on any two previous occasions.

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Your application to the Awards Committee should include:

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- OR**
2. A description of a Special Needs requirement
- AND**
3. Include a recent school picture

All applications must be received by October 15, 2025. Applications will be reviewed by the **Awards Committee**. The **final selection** of a recipient will be reviewed by this committee and the recipient will be approved on or before October 31, 2025. Award will be presented shortly thereafter (TBA).

All applications to be addressed to:

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www.sheepbreeders.ca

Classified ads are available free to Alberta producers. In addition to being published in the newsletter, they are available on-line under News and Advertising at <http://www.ablamb.ca/index.php/news-advertising/advertising>.

Email info@ablamb.ca or call 403-948-8533 to place, amend or delete your classified ad. Alberta Lamb Producers does not endorse or promote any of the advertisements or advertisers in the Newsletter.

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Contact one of your ALP Directors if you have lambs suitable for 4H project lambs or are looking for 4H lambs.

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Sheep Bytes.ca

Ration Balancer

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

AlbertaLambProducers

TARGETED GRAZING:
Sheep & Goat Vegetation
Management with Unique
Grazing Scenarios

**NEXT INTAKE:
SEPTEMBER
15, 2025**

OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED!

For landowners, managers
and sheep/goat producers

For more information and registration Contact
info@ablamb.ca | 403.948.8533

- No prerequisites
- 15-hour online course
- Learn at your own pace
- Real case studies
- Virtual course facilitator
- Industry-recognized certification

Increase your knowledge in:

- Grazing principles
- Tame and native forage grazing
- Stockmanship and animal welfare
- Building a business plan
- Unique grazing case studies

Explore opportunities in grazing:

- Powerline cutblocks
- Urban areas
- Solar/Rangevoltaics
- Forested areas
- For weed management

For more information and to register
contact the Alberta Lamb Producers at:
info@ablamb.ca • 403.948.8533



Funding through the Rangeland Sustainability Program

Alberta Environment and Parks



Sheep Calendar

What	Where	When
Targeted Grazing Course	Online	Registration Deadline is September 15. admin@ablamb.ca
Summer Synergy	Olds	July 8-11 https://oldsregionalexhibition.com/events/summer-synergy/
2025 All Canada Classic	Brandon, MB	July 10-12 https://sheepbreeders.ca/2025-all-canada-classic
Lloyd Ex Fair 2025 Sheep Show	Lloydminster	July 12 https://www.lloydex.com/lloydex-fair
Southern Alberta Grazing School for Women	Twin Butte	July 16-17 https://www.foothillsforage.com/sagsw2025
Grasslands Sheep Exhibition	Humboldt, SK	July 18-20 https://sksheep.com/events/grasslands-sheep-exhibition/
Sheep and Goat Health Workshop	Brookville Community Hall	July 24, 2025 https://www.strathcona.ca/recreation-events/festivals-and-events/event-calendar
AgSmart	Olds	July 29-31 https://agsmartolds.ca/
Open Farm Days	Alberta Wide	August 16-17 https://albertaopenfarmdays.ca/
Please e-mail info@ablamb.ca or call 403-948-8533 to provide details of your event for the <i>N'ewesletter</i> and website sheep calendar.		

ALP BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025

Director	Phone	Email	Location
Jordan Allen, Board Chair	403-923-4858	jordan@ablamb.ca	Rocky View County
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Adam French, Finance Chair	780-872-9908	adam@ablamb.ca	Vermillion River County
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Olivia Blum, Director	403-586-3800	olivia@ablamb.ca	Mountain View County
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ALP Office - Executive Director, Jolene Airth 403-948-8533 info@ablamb.ca
 Address: Agriculture Centre, 97 East Lake Ramp NE, Airdrie, AB T4A 0C3
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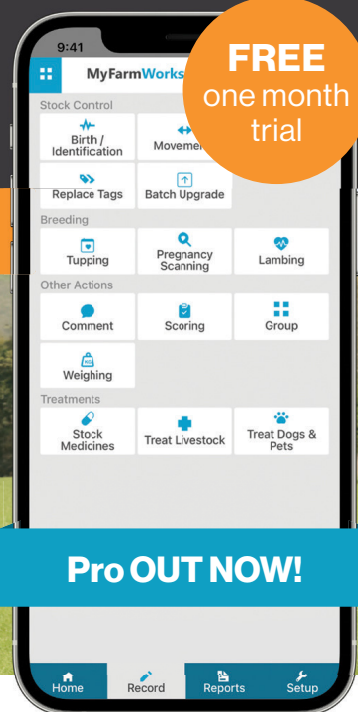


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SAVE THE DATE

ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE

November 14 - 15, 2025
Lethbridge



Annual General Meeting – Have Your Say!

The future looks bright for the sheep industry—don't miss your chance to be part of the discussion and help shape what's next.



Farm Tour – Learn from Fellow Producers

Explore real-world production methods and gain insights directly from experienced producers on the ground.



Conference – Be Informed & Inspired

Enjoy a fantastic lineup of expert speakers delivering valuable take-home messages.

PLUS: Don't miss the engaging Producer Panel moderated by Shaun Haney – a unique opportunity to learn from peers.



AlbertaLambProducers

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 30.
SEE ABLAMB.CA FOR MORE DETAILS.

