

ALP 2023 AGM & CONFERENCE

PRESENTED BY:



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Prairie Lamb Co-op

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CONTACT THE ALP OFFICE BY PHONE AT 403-948-8533
OR EMAILING INFO@ABLAMB.CA

ALP 2023 AGM & CONFERENCE



Alberta Lamb Producers 2023 Annual General Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Chair Address
4. Acceptance of 2022 AGM Meeting Minutes
5. Director Acclamations
Board Appointments & 1 Director-at-large position available, Director in Training
6. Financial statements for 2022-2023
7. ALP Operational Budget 2023-2024
8. Your Check-off at Work: Review
9. Looking Forward
10. 2023 Photo Contest Winners
11. Moderated Producer Q & A
12. Producer Resolutions
13. Adjournment of ALP AGM

Current ALP Board of Directors

Emilie Wilson, Chair

Jordan Allen, Vice-Chair

Judy Buck, Finance Chair

Jolene Airth, Vice-Finance Chair

Nicole Schieck, Director

Richard Boscher, Director

Martin Winchell, Interim Director

Jessica Chitwood, Director in Training

ALP Staff

Ashley Scott, Executive Director

Lianne Knechtel, Project Administrator

Mission

We empower the sheep industry through education, innovative research, and advocacy. Our focus is on working in the best interests of our producers by building connected relationships through accountability and transparency.

Vision

We support our producers in the advancement of a successful and sustainable industry.

Values

- We prioritize the betterment of our producers.
- We are accountable to our producers through transparent communication.
- As a volunteer board comprised of eligible producers, we are committed to guiding industry innovation and enhancement.
- Our board leads with integrity and honesty.
- Staff provides a stable connection between producers and the board with consistency, reliability, and confidentiality.



2023 Chair Address

Hello everyone and a very warm welcome to all present, our respected producers, special guests and industry advocates.

I write this, feeling lucky, to be a part of a small aspect of our producers lives. This is my first year as chair of the board and it has been a very enlightening challenge!

I would like to start by thanking our current board of directors for their continuous contributions over the last year. Without producers like yourselves and volunteering your time, we would not be able to accomplish the projects that come to ALP, on behalf of our industry. I would also like to wish our retiring directors, Judy and Niki all of the best in their future endeavors.

While our strength lies in the fact, we are a grass-roots, strong provincial organization, led by producers, the force of our arguments and the solutions we offer, rest to a large extent on the quality and hard work of our staff. If members could have sneak peek behind closed doors and see for themselves the workload our organization takes on, it's astounding! So, I'd also like to thank Ashley and Lianne for their "behind the scenes" contributions to ALP.

In the 2022/23 year, we have seen the wrapping up of research projects, including the "LidoBand" lidocaine loaded elastrator band for castration and tail docking project and the VIDO vaccine trial of Ovipast Plus project. We continue to seek important research projects that can benefit our producers, so please reach out to the board if there is something you wish for us to investigate!

Alberta Lamb Producers (ALP) is committed to funding research. Partnering with other organizations, wherever possible, to work on projects provides better value as expertise can be shared, and resources and funding can be leveraged.

As a reminder, ALP changed the way we accept research proposals in 2021. By creating structure to this process, it allows for ALP to properly budget for research projects each year fiscal year and ensures the projects we support, align with ALP's strategic plan.

Our Research Proposal Structure is as follows:

- ALP will be placing a call out to researchers to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) for upcoming research projects that will be seeking a monetary or in-kind investment from ALP. This call out will happen once a year, beginning in January of each fiscal year and will have a submission deadline provided.
- The LOI's that are submitted by the deadline will then be reviewed by the ALP Board of Directors by the end of April each fiscal year, who will then select which projects ALP would like to see full

proposals from. Those who have been selected to submit full proposals for further consideration, will have until the end of June, each fiscal year to do so.

- The ALP Board of Directors will then review the full proposals and decide which projects to fund by mid-end of August.
- Lastly, ALP will then reach out to all proposal applicants by the end of September, of each fiscal year to let them know if they have been approved or declined.

We have been able to attend many exciting events over the past year, including the ASI convention in Texas, the CFA Summer meeting in Fredericton on behalf of the NSN and the ASBA symposium in Red Deer, to name a few!

Some highlights for 2022/23;

1. From feedback, producers have been struggling with having timely access to dewormers for their flocks, with options like Startect becoming unavailable in Canada due to short supply. We were pleased to work with a Canadian Company, whereby they were able to create a new ivermectin-levamisole compound that producers across Canada now have access to as an alternative method for worm control.
2. The Sustainable CAP agreement for Alberta was announced in April, bringing more grant options for producers. One to highlight is RALP; the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program. This program will allow producers funding for riparian area management, rotational grazing, targeted grazing and crop land conversion, just to name a few!
3. ALP was also very proud to introduce our “Scotiabank Yield More Financing” program. This program allows ALP members to access funds to purchase ewes and/or feeder lambs as a revolving line of credit with a simple application and approval process, helping to grow producers’ businesses.

Engagement has been another topic at the forefront of the board’s mind, and I would like all of our producers and sponsors to know that new exciting developments are in the works for our 2024 event, so please stay tuned!

From now, we start a new journey again, another year and often will have to deal with challenging situations alone along the way. I’d like to highlight our mental health resources that can be found at ablamb.ca and AgTalk. As farmers, we understand that mental health journeys are deeply personal, and everyone progresses at their own pace. AgTalk is designed to support individuals in their next steps toward improving their mental wellbeing, allowing you to share and connect when you are ready. Visit domore.ag/agtalk for more information.

I would like to end this address and say good luck to our producers in the coming year and we hope to continue to engage with you to build a stronger industry!

Sincerely,
Emilie Wilson
Chair, Alberta Lamb Producers

Acceptance of 2022 AGM Meeting Minutes

**Alberta Lamb Producers Annual General Meeting
November 19, 2022
(In-person and virtual)**

The meeting was opened at 7:03pm with 62 attendees (in-person and virtual combined).

1. Motion: To accept agenda as presented.

Motion: Cindy Crawford

Seconded: Siemen Vandermeer

Carried.

2. Motion: To approve the 2021 meeting minutes as presented.

Motion: Hannah Logan

Seconded: Cindy Crawford

Carried.

3. Acclaimed Director Speeches

a. **Jordan Allen**

b. **Rick Cromarty**

c. **Jolene Airth**

Director in Training Speech

d. **Raelene Schulmeister**

4. Alberta Lamb Producers Financial Statements

Shannon Troke with King and Company Chartered Accountants presented the ALP financial review statements.

Note: The financial review statements include the project funded money that has flowed through ALP during the year for the sheep vaccine, lidocaine band and sheep and goat management accreditation program research projects.

Motion: That the 2021/22 Financial Statements of Alberta Lamb Producers be approved as presented.

Motion: Scott Schieck

Seconded: Janna Greir

Carried.

Notes:

The ALP financial review was clean. The financial allocation and grants were explained. Net income and overall expenses were similar to the previous year.

King and Company financially reviews and audits other agricultural organizations under the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act, including Alberta Pork, Alberta Turkey, and Alberta Chicken. Marketing Council was informed of this change.

Motion: That the 2022/23 Financial Statements of the Alberta Lamb Producers be financially reviewed by King and Company Chartered Accountant.

Motion: Scott Schieck

Seconded: Emilie Wilson

Carried.

5. **Alberta Lamb Producers budget 2022/23** was presented by Judy Buck. This document excludes all project funding so is more representative of how ALP has used and proposes to use check off dollars.

6. **Presentation of ALP Annual Report**

Brittany Albers, Emilie Wilson and Ashley Scott presented the ALP Annual Report.

7. **Alberta Lamb Producers Proposed Bylaw Amendment**

ALP Chair, Brittany Albers presented information on the proposed bylaw amendment for ALP. A motion was made followed by a producer vote for the approval of the ALP bylaw amendment.

Motion: To accept the proposed ALP bylaw amendment as presented (section 28 of the bylaws be amended to reflect that terms will be staggered by electing 4 directors in one year and 3 directors in the following year).

Motion: Ryan Greir

Seconded: Cindy Crawford

Votes For: 39

Votes Against: 0

Vote Abstain: 1

Carried.

8. **Proposed Resolutions**

To submit a resolution for discussion at this year's AGM, eligible Alberta Lamb Producers needed to complete our resolution form and submit it to the ALP office by September 15, 2022. **Proposed resolutions would not be accepted past this deadline or from the floor at the virtual AGM.**

ALP did not receive any proposed resolutions by our submission deadline and therefore there was no conversation at the AGM regarding Resolutions.

9. **ALP Plebiscite Outcome**

Brent McEwan, the General Manager of Marketing Council presented the preliminary results of the Alberta Lamb Producers (ALP) service charge model plebiscite. Final results of the plebiscite will be official once the last day to contest the plebiscite has passed - 15 business days after the announcement of

preliminary results. The last day to contest the plebiscite is December 9, 2022, in accordance with the ALP Plebiscite Directive.

The ALP plebiscite was held between October 18, 2022 and November 16, 2022 (at noon) on the question of service charge model of the ALP.

There was no set voting criteria established for this plebiscite, therefore, the criteria is set at 50% + 1 of votes cast.

Results:

The results of the plebiscites show most producers that voted, were in favour of the status quo, a refundable service charge model for ALP. The numerical results are highlighted below.

- Number of votes cast electronically = 118
- Number of votes submitted by mail-in ballot = 137
- Total number of votes submitted = 255
- Number of votes for a non-refundable service charge model = 105 (41.7%)
- Number of votes for status quo (refundable service charge model) = 147 (58.3%)
- Mail-in ballots rejected = 3
- Participation Rate = 15.38%
- The directive required a report from the Deputy Returning Officer of any potential anomalies or errors that may have arisen during the electronic voting process and given that there were none, the tabulation is final.


Next steps:


- Formal letters will be sent to key officials (Minister and the ALP Chair) following the date to contest the plebiscite (December 9th).
- The preliminary results of the plebiscite will be posted to Marketing Council's website (by November 28th).
- Official results will be shared once the date to contest the plebiscite has passed (December 9th).
- Given the results of the vote are for the status quo, refundable service charge model, there will be no change to the current service charge structure or regulations.

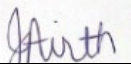
10. Motion to Adjourn: Cindy Crawford


11. Adjournment: 8:55 pm.

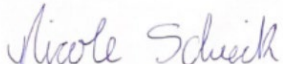
12. Approval of Minutes:

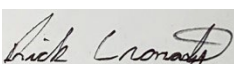
Signature:  Date: November 24, 2022
Emilie Wilson (Rowe), ALP Director


Signature:  Date: November 24, 2022
Judy Buck, ALP Director

Signature:  Date: November 24, 2022
Jolene Airth, ALP Director

Signature:  Date: November 24, 2022
Richard Boscher, ALP Director

Signature:  Date: November 24, 2022
Nicole Shieck, ALP Director

Signature:  Date: November 24, 2022
Rick Cromarty, ALP Director

Signature:  Date: November 24, 2022
Jordan Allen, ALP Director

Alberta Lamb Producers Director Acclamation for 2022-23

There were four Director-at-large positions open on the 2023/24 ALP board. Three eligible producers submitted valid nomination forms before the July 31, 2023 deadline to be entered as candidates in the 2023 election. As we received three valid nomination forms for the four Director-at-large positions, no election needs to be held this year. The three nominated producers will be acclaimed to the board at the ALP AGM on November 18, 2023.

Due to [Alberta Lamb Producers Plan Regulation AR 263/2001, s. 34 Election of directors](#), it is clear that the authority for nominations is once a year, so an additional call for nominations in the 2023 calendar year is not aligned with the regulation. Subsection (9) states that if a position is vacant (after following the nomination process), the Commission must, in accordance with section 20, move forward with filling the position by appointment from among eligible producers. ALP followed due process for nominations and would be adhering to our regulation by appointing, as per s. 20 of the regulation, to fill the one vacant position.

ALP will have one Interim Director-at-large position available and will be recruiting to fill the position after the AGM, as per our Plan Regulation.

As mentioned above, ALP is pleased to announce that Jordan Allen and Martin Winchell, who currently sit on the board, and Darlene Hawco will be acclaimed to the board at our AGM on November 18, 2023. Their profiles are below.

Please help us welcome our acclaimed directors to the board.

Acclaimed Directors

Jordan Allen Contact: 403-923-4858, jordan@ablamb.ca

Jordan Allen, along with her husband Dustin and their three children, own and operate ClaireLee Ranch. Jordan grew up on a cattle ranch/grain farm south of Cochrane. When Jordan and Dustin bought their home and land in 2015, the plan was always to have livestock, but cattle weren't a possibility at the time. In January 2020, their daughter got her first 4-H lambs and they decided that they would like to start a flock. In March 2020, they purchased 30 bred commercial Rambouillet ewes and prepared for lambing that spring. Even though that first lambing was a steep learning curve and very hard work, they loved every minute of it.

Now, two years later, they have 120 ewes, have added Suffolk, Ile de France and Rideau Arcott to the flock, and plan to expand their operation over the next few years. Jordan is honored to sit on the Alberta Lamb Producers Board of Directors and looks forward to meeting other producers as well as acquiring the knowledge she will gain from being in this position.

Martin (Marty) Winchell Contact: 403-845-2577, martin@ablamb.ca

Marty Winchell is the newest interim board member with ALP. He has been raising, wrestling, fighting, and swearing at sheep since the age of 15. He grew up on a broiler farm in Rocky Mountain House, attended the U of A in Agriculture, and has been working in the ag industry his entire professional life, with stints in the lower mainland and Edmonton before returning to the family farm. Currently working in municipal government, Marty and his wife Cindy (of 25 years) have four kids and a hodge-podge of recreational not for profit animals.

In addition to sheep, the Winchells also have a cow herd, put up hay, and often have a few pigs roaming around.

Always trying to adapt, they have recently made the transition to lambing indoors and have yet to lose a lamb to ravens this year! With the recent improvement in facilities, there is hope they will increase frequency of lambing as well as lambing percentage.

Darlene Hawco **Contact: 780-292-4607** darleneh@ablamb.ca

I am excited to join the ALP Board and have the opportunity to represent fellow producers here in our amazing province of Alberta. I feel there is an amazing wealth of knowledge in our industry that we can continue to tap into, to keep supporting and advocating for lamb producers in our province as well as offering opportunities for improvement and innovation.

My background has not always been in agriculture, as I was born and raised in the City of Edmonton; however, I have always felt that it was in my blood, and I just needed a place to make that magic happen. I have been involved in the agriculture industry through my day-job at UFA in St. Paul for over four years now. Agriculture has grown from a “job” into a passion. My sheep obsession all began when I had the opportunity to purchase two bottle babies ‘Lamb Chop and Molly’. From there, as many others can relate, it just took off, with our flock expanding to approximately 120 breeding ewes. I farm with my boyfriend Vern, who looks after a lot of the tractor work (a skill I am working on). I also have a small cow herd, pigs, horses, and a team of guardian dogs to help me with the sheep.

ALP has always been a great source of information for me as I have been learning and expanding my knowledge from my early days to present. I continue to see an ever-growing interest in the lamb industry, and I often find myself turning to ALP for information which I share with other new producers. I have met some amazing people in this industry so far, people who have also been wonderful mentors and have inspired me to be a resource and mentor to others.

I am really looking forward to having a chance to meet with more producers in the industry and see from your perspectives where we, as the ALP, can better serve to make an improved impact on the lamb industry through partnerships, advocacy and advertising. I also see opportunities to collaborate with our industry partners in other provinces that can be of benefit to us all.

I look forward to gaining your valuable feedback and encourage you to keep taking part in any webinars and seminars offered by ALP and I would also like to invite all of you to our AGM this fall. There are so many ewe-nique ways to be involved in raising sheep; whether you have a herd of 10, 100 or 1000 we can all learn from each other, and I look forward to hearing your comments and ideas.

Director in Training

ALP is pleased to announce that Jessica Chitwood has filled the Director in Training position on the 2023-24 ALP board. Please help us in welcoming Jessica to our board in her new role!

Jessica Chitwood **Contact: 403-916-4333** jessica@ablamb.ca

My name is Jessica Chitwood and I have been raising sheep outside Bashaw in Central Alberta since 2011. After being raised on a mixed grain and cattle farm, sheep were a new experience and I have truly

enjoyed raising them. My husband and I, along with our youngest child, now have 200 commercial ewes with plans for continued expansion.

As director in training, I am looking forward to getting to know more producers and learning from the different perspectives each operation offers. I have always had a passion for connecting people to the resources they need for success, and working with the directors on the ALP board will be a wonderful opportunity to contribute to the advancement of our industry.

Retiring Directors

Judy Buck

Hello fellow sheep producers. I am Judy Buck, and it has been my pleasure to serve on the ALP Board for the last three years. It was a steep learning curve but very rewarding. As a producer, I had no idea just what goes on behind the scenes to run our organization and I encourage each and every one of you to get involved, be it by joining the Board or just by communicating with the Board as to your wants and needs when it comes to raising sheep. I recommend that you check out the ALP website frequently to keep up to date with the happenings in the sheep industry and take advantage of all the resources presented there. Feel free to contact any member of the Board – all are ready and willing to either answer your questions/comments or find the answers through other resources and/or discussion at the Board level.

As my term is ending, I would like to thank Ashley, our Executive Director, for her dedication and tireless effort to keep our organization functioning smoothly. Without her we would be lost. Thank you to the current Board members for your unfailing enthusiasm and commitment to the sheep industry. And in closing I want to wish the incoming Board all the best going forward and hope you will continue to strive to make the sheep industry in Alberta the best that it can be.

Nicole Schieck

Greetings fellow sheep producers! It seems like just yesterday that I stood up at the 2019 ALP AGM and symposium with the opening line "In 1996, a 2-year-old girl walked her lamb into the show ring for the first time, won a red ribbon, and had her first defining moment as a Canadian sheep producer". Back at that AGM, I didn't know nearly as many Alberta sheep producers as I do now. Over the last 4 years, sitting on the ALP board as a director has helped me cultivate so many treasured friendships, acquaintances, and business relationships, and that is only a portion of the amazing experiences that I have had as a director.

I am truly going to miss sitting on the board, with my finger on the pulse of what's going on in the sheep industry both in Alberta as well as across Canada and helping to bring ideas to the table of how we can push the industry forward. Best of luck to the new board coming in, I have heard some of the new and exciting ideas that are already in the works for the next couple of years, and I can't wait to attend them in the capacity of a fellow producer.

For those producers that have made the decision to tough out the next few years as the markets, weather and cost of production make for a lot of belt tightening and reassessment of how we run our operations, I tip my hat to you. I firmly believe that ALP is on the right track to help support you where and when you need them.

And finally, I sincerely hope to see many of you as I continue my brand of sheep education, through judging, hosting clinics and mentorship. I still plan on staying active in the industry, so look for me at events!

Sheepishly yours,
Niki Schieck

Financial Statements for 2022-2023: See next page for full financial report.
Presented by Shannon Troke, Partner, King & Company

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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ALP 2023 AGM & CONFERENCE

ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS

Financial Statements

Year Ended August 31, 2023

ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS

Index to Financial Statements

Year Ended August 31, 2023

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INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER'S REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

To the Members of Alberta Lamb Producers

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of Alberta Lamb Producers (the Organization) that comprise the statement of financial position as at August 31, 2023, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Practitioner's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Conclusion

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Alberta Lamb Producers as at August 31, 2023, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

King + Company

Edmonton, AB
October 16, 2023

CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS**Statement of Financial Position****As at August 31, 2023**

	2023	2022
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash (Note 2)	\$ 323,144	\$ 447,190
Short-term investments (Note 3)	141,714	140,659
Accounts receivable (Note 4)	26,752	29,108
Prepaid expenses	3,306	2,850
	<u>494,916</u>	619,807
CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 5)	<u>7,478</u>	11,082
	<u>\$ 502,394</u>	<u>\$ 630,889</u>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 6)	\$ 33,694	\$ 74,613
Deferred revenue (Note 7)	1,100	825
Deferred contributions (Note 8)	16,503	151,430
	<u>51,297</u>	226,868
NET ASSETS		
Invested in capital assets	7,478	11,082
Internally restricted (Note 9)	443,619	392,939
	<u>451,097</u>	404,021
	<u>\$ 502,394</u>	<u>\$ 630,889</u>

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD_____
*Director*_____
Director

ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS**Statement of Operations****Year Ended August 31, 2023**

	2023	2022
REVENUE		
<u>Checkoff</u>		
Sheep	\$ 252,131	\$ 243,089
Wool	4,447	4,039
	<u>256,578</u>	<u>247,128</u>
<u>Other</u>		
Advertising	11,432	14,061
SheepBytes	10,911	12,043
Expense recoveries	7,918	238
Interest	4,652	1,216
Annual General Meeting sponsorship and registration	4,585	-
Grant administration fee	-	15,000
	<u>39,498</u>	<u>42,558</u>
Grants (Note 8)	<u>189,848</u>	<u>381,699</u>
	<u>485,924</u>	<u>671,385</u>
EXPENSES		
<u>Advocacy</u>		
Industry liaison	18,314	7,085
Industry support	14,129	6,785
Research	6,723	13,500
Plebiscite	5,039	-
	<u>44,205</u>	<u>27,370</u>
<u>Extension</u>		
Newsletter	13,388	12,084
Promotional items and events	5,603	2,280
SheepBytes	3,396	2,534
AFAC	1,000	665
Producer education	200	1,500
	<u>23,587</u>	<u>19,063</u>
<u>Operating</u>		
Salaries, benefits and staff development	99,966	100,120
Directors	21,031	22,166
Accounting and legal	10,313	11,674
Administration and communications	8,508	8,901
Website	5,280	3,470
Amortization of capital assets	3,605	4,724
Insurance	2,049	1,802
Annual General Meeting	1,578	67
Strategic planning	1,300	1,300
Bad debts	-	85
	<u>153,630</u>	<u>154,309</u>
Grants	194,816	363,365
Checkoff refunds	22,610	48,453
	<u>438,848</u>	<u>612,560</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	<u>\$ 47,076</u>	<u>\$ 58,825</u>

ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS
Statement of Changes in Net Assets
Year Ended August 31, 2023

	Invested in Capital Assets	Internally Restricted (Note 9)	Unrestricted	2023	2022
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 11,082	\$ 392,939	\$ -	\$ 404,021	\$ 345,196
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(3,604)	5,509	45,171	47,076	58,825
Transfer of cash for SheepBytes	-	(2,352)	2,352	-	-
Transfer to internally restricted	-	47,523	(47,523)	-	-
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 7,478	\$ 443,619	\$ -	\$ 451,097	\$ 404,021

ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS**Statement of Cash Flows****Year Ended August 31, 2023**

	2023	2022
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 47,076	\$ 58,825
Item not affecting cash:		
Amortization of capital assets	<u>3,605</u>	4,724
	<u>50,681</u>	63,549
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	2,356	(653)
Prepaid expenses	(456)	(178)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(40,920)	55,862
Deferred revenue	275	(3,265)
Deferred contributions	<u>(134,927)</u>	68,209
	<u>(173,672)</u>	119,975
Cash flow from (used by) operating activities	<u>(122,991)</u>	183,524
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of capital assets	-	(2,088)
Purchase of short-term investments, net	<u>(1,055)</u>	(662)
Cash flow used by investing activities	<u>(1,055)</u>	(2,750)
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH	(124,046)	180,774
CASH - BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>447,190</u>	266,416
CASH - END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 323,144</u>	\$ 447,190

ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended August 31, 2023

NATURE OF OPERATIONS

Alberta Lamb Producers (the "Organization") is a producer supported organization that operates under regulation of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act of the Province of Alberta. Its mandate is the promotion and enhancement of the sheep and wool industry in Alberta.

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Presentation

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Revenue Recognition

Alberta Lamb Producers follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured. Endowment contributions are recognized as direct increases in net assets.

Restricted investment income is recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted investment income is recognized as revenue when earned.

Checkoff fees are recognized as revenue when received or receivable. Checkoff fees are set at \$1.50 for each tag issued, less an administration fee of 3%.

Financial Instruments

Initial Measurement

The Organization initially measures its financial assets and liabilities originated or exchanged in arm's length transactions at fair value. Financial assets and liabilities originated or exchanged in related party transactions, except for those that involve parties whose sole relationship with the Organization is in the capacity of management, are initially measured at cost.

The cost of a financial instrument in a related party transaction depends on whether the instrument has repayment terms. If it does, the cost is determined using its undiscounted cash flows, excluding interest and dividend payments, less any impairment losses previously recognized by the transferor. Otherwise, the cost is determined using the consideration transferred or received by the Organization in the transaction.

Subsequent Measurement

The Organization subsequently measures all its financial assets and liabilities at cost or amortized cost, except for investments in equity instruments that are quoted in an active market, which are measured at fair value. Changes in fair value are recognized in earnings in the period incurred.

Financial assets measured at amortized cost using the straight-line method include cash, short-term investments and accounts receivable.

Transaction Costs

Transaction costs attributable to financial instruments subsequently measured at fair value and to those originated or exchanged in a related party transaction are recognized in earnings in the period incurred. Transaction costs related to financial instruments originated or exchanged in an arm's length transaction that are subsequently measured at cost or amortized cost are recognized in the original cost of the instrument. When the instrument is measured at amortized cost, transaction costs are recognized in earnings over the life of the instrument using the straight-line method.

(continues)

ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended August 31, 2023

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(continued)*

Impairment

For financial assets measured at cost or amortized cost, the Organization determines whether there are indications of possible impairment. When there are, and the company determines that a significant adverse change has occurred during the period in the expected timing or amount of future cash flows, a write-down is recognized in earnings. If the indicators of impairment have decreased or no longer exist, the previously recognized impairment loss may be reversed to the extent of the improvement. The carrying amount of the financial asset may be no greater than the amount that would have been reported at the date of the reversal had the impairment not been recognized previously. The amount of the reversal is recognized in earnings.

Cash

Cash is comprised of cash held with financial institutions.

Capital Assets

Capital assets are stated at cost less accumulated amortization. Capital assets are amortized over their estimated useful lives at the following rates and methods:

Office equipment	20%	declining balance method
Computer equipment	30%	declining balance method
Leasehold improvements	20%	declining balance method
Database	20%	straight-line method

The Organization regularly reviews its capital assets to eliminate obsolete items. Government grants are treated as a reduction of capital assets cost.

Contributed Services

The operations of the Organization depend on both the contribution of time by volunteers and donated materials from various sources. The fair value of donated materials and services cannot be reasonably determined and are therefore not reflected in these financial statements.

Measurement Uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Such estimates are periodically reviewed and any adjustments necessary are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

2. CASH

Cash includes \$16,503 (2022 - \$151,430) held for deferred contributions included in Note 8.

3. SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS

Short-term investments represents a guaranteed investment certificate that has a maturity date of March 7, 2024 and bears interest of 5.20% (2022 - 0.75%). It is internally restricted.

ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS**Notes to Financial Statements****Year Ended August 31, 2023****4. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Operations	\$ 22,734	\$ 19,527
Interest	4,018	575
Goods and services tax	-	9,006
	<u>\$ 26,752</u>	<u>\$ 29,108</u>

5. CAPITAL ASSETS

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	2023 Net book value	2022 Net book value
Office equipment	\$ 4,494	\$ 4,494	\$ -	\$ -
Computer equipment	4,268	2,390	1,878	2,682
Leasehold improvements	2,154	2,154	-	-
Database	14,000	8,400	5,600	8,400
	<u>\$ 24,916</u>	<u>\$ 17,438</u>	<u>\$ 7,478</u>	<u>\$ 11,082</u>

6. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Checkoff refunds	\$ 22,639	\$ 34,945
Operations	5,687	9,129
Goods and services tax	5,368	-
Grant expenditures	-	30,539
	<u>\$ 33,694</u>	<u>\$ 74,613</u>

7. DEFERRED REVENUE

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Annual General Meeting sponsorship	\$ 1,100	\$ 825

ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended August 31, 2023

8. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS

Deferred contributions represent restricted operating funding received in the current year that is related to subsequent periods. The following is a summary of the changes for the period ending August 31:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 151,430	\$ 83,221
Contributions received	54,921	449,908
Recognized as revenue	<u>(189,848)</u>	<u>(381,699)</u>
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 16,503</u>	<u>\$ 151,430</u>

Deferred contributions are comprised of:

Rangeland sustainability project	\$ 16,503	\$ 22,584
Anaesthetic elastrator band project	-	69,989
Vaccine research project	<u>-</u>	<u>58,857</u>
	<u>\$ 16,503</u>	<u>\$ 151,430</u>

9. INTERNALLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

The board of directors has internally restricted net assets for the following purposes:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Emergency operating funds	\$ 240,000	\$ 240,000
Industry research funds	54,596	54,596
Industry events	42,523	-
SheepBytes	41,500	38,343
Staffing	40,000	40,000
Marketing	20,000	20,000
AV equipment	<u>5,000</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 443,619</u>	<u>\$ 392,939</u>

10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year, the Organization paid fees and reimbursed expenses to directors totaling \$21,031 (2022 - \$22,166).

These transactions are in the normal course of operations and are measured at the exchange amount, which is the amount of consideration established and agreed to by the related parties.

ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended August 31, 2023

11. COMMITMENT

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is responsible for Canadian traceability. At the time of implementation, the CFIA chose the Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF) as the representative for the sheep industry for traceability. The CSF contracted the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) as its responsible administrator to meet CFIA requirements. The purpose of this agreement is to govern the distribution and sale of approved tags to sheep producers across Canada. Alberta Lamb Producers has an agreement with Canadian Cooperative Wool Growers (CCWG) that automatically renews every year unless the contract is renegotiated or terminated by either party. Amendments to this agreement require being agreed upon by the parties on or before October 15 of each year to be in effect on January 1 of the following year.

12. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Organization is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments and has a comprehensive risk management framework to monitor, evaluate and manage these risks. The following analysis provides information about the Organization's risk exposure and concentration as of August 31, 2023.

Credit Risk

Credit risk arises from the potential that a counter party will fail to perform its obligations. The Organization's financial instruments that are exposed to credit risk are primarily cash and accounts receivable. The Organization maintains its cash in a major financial institution. An allowance for doubtful accounts is established based upon factors surrounding the credit risk of specific accounts

The Organization's accounts receivable are exposed to credit risk as the majority of receivables are from entities that conduct their business within the same industry.

13. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Some of the comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.

ALP Operational Budget for 2023-24

Alberta Lamb Producers Operations Budget: excluding all external project funding.

			Budget amounts	Budget amounts
			2022-23	2023-24
Account	Item	Revenue		
4000	1	Check off - sheep	\$240,000.00	\$225,000.00
4005	2	Check off - wool	\$3,500.00	\$3,900.00
4105/15	3	Newsletter Advertising	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
		Online/Web Advertising	\$500.00	\$0.00
4200	4	Recoveries	\$0.00	\$3,500.00
4900	5	Interest	\$800.00	\$7,000.00
4300	6	Manuals, programs and courses	\$0.00	\$0.00
4400	7	SheepBytes - ALP income	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00
-	8	Transfer from reserves*	\$22,392.40	\$3,630.00
4700	9	AGM Meals/Conference Registration	\$0.00	\$7,500.00
4410	10	AGM Sponsorship	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
	11	Refunds from Government	\$0.00	\$0.00
		Canada Summer Jobs Grant	\$5,000.00	\$7,500.00
	12	Total	286,992.40	271,830.00
		Expenses		
7500		Advocacy*		
7595	13	Industry support	\$6,500.00	\$8,500.00
7530	14	Industry liaison (govt & ind)	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
7550	15	Promotion	\$5,500.00	\$1,500.00
7561	17	Provincial 4-H	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
7565	18	Industry events - Symposium	\$1,250.00	\$0.00

8200	20	Calgary Stampede Sponsorship	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
7105	21	Promotional Events	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
8055	23	AFAC membership	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
7500	24	Total	\$ 32,250.00	\$ 29,000.00
8000		Extension		
8005	25	Newsletter	\$9,750.00	\$11,000.00
8010	26	Newsletter ads commission	\$2,650.00	\$2,500.00
8025	27	Industry Research	\$13,500.00	\$10,000.00
		Producer Education	\$2,000.00	\$4,500.00
8000	29	Total	\$ 27,900.00	\$ 28,000.00
9000		Operating Expenses		
-	30	Admin & communications		
9030	31	Admin	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
9025	32	Communications	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00
9040	33	Website	\$5,500.00	\$7,000.00
9045/50	34	Service charges/penalties	\$250.00	\$250.00
9070	35	Office Supplies	\$2,200.00	\$2,500.00
7110	36	Office Equipment/I.T.	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
-	37	Total Admin & communications	\$16,950.00	\$18,750.00
9038	38	Staff Recruitment	\$0.00	\$0.00
	39	Capital Purchase	\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00
9005	40	Salaries & Wages	\$99,912.40	\$109,000.00
	41	Staff Development	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
9010	42	Director expenses	\$37,580.00	\$37,580.00

9007	43	Governance Training	\$0.00	\$0.00
9009	44	Strategic Planning	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00
9015	45	Audit & legal	\$12,000.00	\$7,000.00
9060	46	Insurance	\$2,100.00	\$2,200.00
9100	47	AGM meeting expenses	\$3,500.00	\$12,500.00
	48	Loss on disposal of assets		
	49	Amortization		
7000	50	Check off refunds	\$50,000.00	\$21,000.00
9000	52	Total	\$226,842.40	\$214,830.00
	53	Total expenses	\$ 286,992.40	\$ 271,830.00
	54	Excess of revenue over expenditures	\$ -	\$ -

** Projections show deficit however we do not run one.*

Your Check Off at Work: 2022-23 Year in Review

ALP wishes to thank producers for your continued support and understanding that the check-off you pay is your investment in your industry. Your funds provide for the organization's operational expenses, communications and advocacy efforts. In addition, it enables the organization to obtain funding and manage industry development projects. From providing management resources to promoting the lamb you produce; ALP gives you a beneficial return on your investment.

During the past year, despite the challenges endured throughout the past few years, ALP worked diligently to ensure that our producers' and industries' best interests were represented on both the provincial and federal conversations. ALP staff were also able to maintain key services and built on an existing foundation to pose the organization for progress as the 2023/24 year begins. Your dedicated Board of Directors and staff worked tirelessly this past year, which helped propel key initiatives forward that will continue into this new year.

Producer Engagement

ALP Producer Town Hall Meetings

Following the 2020 ALP AGM, the ALP Board of Directors decided to create a Producer Consultation Committee, as we recognized that we as an organization can do better to engage and connect with our eligible producers between AGMs. The Producer Consultation Committee's first step was to create and distribute a producer survey, which was sent out following the 2020 AGM. Through the feedback we received, ALP followed up by hosting two town hall meetings in 2021 (July 20, 2021 and October 21, 2021) and one town hall meeting in 2022 (July 6, 2022).

At the July 6th, 2022 town hall meeting we hosted a Producer Panel Discussion, with the topic of conversation focusing on Flock Health. Nathaneal Polson, Shey Sotlar and Jordan Allen were able to sit on this panel and we would like to extend another thank you to them for their time and participation. Following the panel discussion was an update on our research projects: Sheep and Goat Vegetation management Accreditation program, the pregnancy detection handheld pen side kit project and the pneumonia vaccine project. We also discussed the upcoming AGM and plebiscite and opened it to the floor for producer Q & A.

Due to the low attendance levels, in 2023, ALP decided, moving forward, to host one town hall a year. Should we get higher attendance levels, this will signify that we can consider bringing a second one into the fold.

Our 2023 Town Hall Meeting was supposed to take place on Wednesday, July 5, 2023, at 7pm. However, due to extremely low registration numbers (3), the ALP Board decided to cancel the event. It takes a considerable amount of time organizing these town halls, including creating the meeting package that contains in-depth background information. The board has decided to put these town hall meetings on hold as little to no registration signifies these meetings are not wanted by our producers at this time.

ALP would like to thank those eligible producers who were able to attend the meetings and for the dialogue that took place on the call.

ALP Large Producer Committee and Meetings

The large producer committee was established this year to provide an opportunity for larger producers to share their feedback and experience on the sheep industry and to offer a platform for them to speak directly to the board of directors on what ALP can do to better support them.

The criteria to attend the Large Producer meetings is as follows; producers who purchase 800+ tags in the past two years. We chose this parameter as this is the most reliable information, we have access to on our database, as we do not have access to individual producers' flock size.

These meetings were created to try and provide an opportunity for large producers to connect with ALP and network with others in the same boat, to share any concerns/obstacles they face and to come up with solutions, together with ALP, that can better the industry.

The large producer committee sent out their first doodle poll to the large producers that were identified to pick a date that worked for as many of them as possible to attend in order to engage with them and get their perspective on what they would like to see from ALP. The first meeting was May 2, 2023 and we saw a good turn out as far as numbers of large producers. The second meeting was the evening of September 11th to which one larger producer came, and despite the lack of attendance, good conversation ensued. After the October 26th meeting, the board will make a final decision as to whether these large producer meetings will continue, depending on the turnout.

Industry Events

The 2021-22 Board of Directors acknowledged the importance of attending more industry/producer-initiated events across the province this year, which provided ALP with the opportunity to engage more directly with producers, outside of ALP related workshops and meetings. Some of the events attended this

year were the annual sheep/ram sales, sheep producer meetings, and various workshops.

ALP understands the importance of producer engagement and as such has decided to continue with increasing ALP presence at the 2023-24 industry/producer events. Our intent is to improve our connection with producers and continue to develop communication strategies to maintain and enhance producer engagement.

If there is an event you would like to see an ALP Director at, please email the office at: info@ablamb.ca.

The Board acknowledges the need to pivot what we are doing as an organization when it comes to producer engagement, and we hope to have an outline released to producers in early 2024 that outlines our plans moving forward. Stay Tuned!

Producer Resources

ALP continues to provide resources to producers both as downloads from the website and as printed copies, including factsheets and production modules developed in Alberta for Alberta flocks. All production modules may be downloaded for free and printed copies are sold at cost. Our YouTube Channel, Sheep Central Alberta, houses over 50 recorded webinars from past years for producers to view at their own leisure on a wide variety of topics.

ALP was also pleased to offer a new financing option available to sheep farmers in Alberta in February of this past year. Please review the press release below for more information.

February 13, 2023 [Airdrie, AB] – Sheep farmers in Alberta have access to a new short-term financing option to add animals to their operations as part of a new partnership between Alberta Lamb Producers (ALP) and Scotiabank.

The Scotiabank Yield More Financing™ program allows ALP members to access funds to purchase ewes and/or feeder lambs as a revolving line of credit with a simple application and approval process. “We’re excited to partner with ALP to offer a financing solution for their members,” says Eleni Ladacakos, Senior Client Relationship Manager, Scotiabank.

The program is open to Alberta sheep farmers with at least two years of experience. There are no security requirements, but credit scores are required.

“We know our members are eager to expand their operations because of the optimism and opportunities in the sheep industry – for meat, dairy and wool,” says ALP Chair, Emilie Wilson. “ALP worked together with Scotiabank to create this opportunity that will provide resources that our members are looking for.”

Farmers looking to access the new funding contact the ALP office to work with staff to complete the application form, or the application can be completed directly with Scotiabank. Application information is available at www.ablamb.ca under the resources section, under the “Farm Finance and Business Programs” tab or by calling ALP directly at 403.948.8533. Interested sheep farmers can also contact Scotiabank directly by email at yieldmorefinancing@scotiabank.com or calling 1.866.603.4188.

Since 1972, Alberta sheep producers have strongly supported their provincial organization, started as the Alberta Sheep & Wool Commission and renamed Alberta Lamb Producers (ALP) in 2009. We believe passionately that sheep farming is an agricultural business sector that is profitable, contributes to the

wellbeing of our communities and our province and offers unique opportunities to develop new markets, provide needed environmental benefits and grow both our domestic and international markets.

For more information, contact: Ashley Scott ALP Executive Director ashley@ablamb.ca

Advocacy

ALP enables the sheep industry and its producers to have a voice, to be at the table when decisions are being made and to encourage the development and success of the industry. Alberta Lamb Producer staff and directors participate in weekly calls across a variety of organizations both federally and provincially to represent the best interest of sheep producers, from animal welfare, transport regulations, to government policy changes, we do our best to cover issues that are or will be a concern to producers. Some examples of recent advocacy efforts include:

- Minister Round Table Discussions.
- **External committees**, e.g. Alberta Farm Animal Care, Farmer Led Research - RDAR Advisory Committee, ABVMA ABVTA ERVPWC working group, VAMI Stakeholder Committee, Industry/Government BRM Working Committee, DSU Working Group, Agri-talent Advisory Committee and participate at the National Scrapie Surveillance Program meetings.
- **National Sheep Network:** Communication and collaboration with government and industry stakeholders regarding national issues: e.g. Business Risk Management Programs, national animal health/biosecurity program. The NSN website was published in 2019: www.nationsheepnetwork.com.
- **Canadian Agricultural Human Resources Council:** The Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council (CAHRC) is a national, non-profit organization focused on addressing human resource issues facing agricultural businesses across Canada.

The Council represents farming in all its forms: raising traditional and non-traditional livestock; producing, cultivating, growing, harvesting or collecting conventional and non-conventional agriculture commodities; and any practices performed as an integral part of an agricultural operation.

VISION

A qualified and motivated workforce that is sufficient to sustain profitable agriculture in Canada.

MISSION

Research, develop and communicate solutions to human resource issues identified by Canadian primary agriculture.

MANDATE

The centre for reliable agriculture research such as labour market information and access point for customizable solutions related to HR management and training carries to the grass-roots level.

For over ten years, CAHRC has been working with industry associations, educators, and all levels of government to examine agriculture human resource issues and build meaningful solutions.

Preparing for the future of agriculture

Our efforts have resulted in clarifying jobs and worker requirements for modern agricultural operations so the industry can plan for the future. Our comprehensive research explores emerging labour issues, tracks the number of positions required, and quantifies vacancies and their impacts on competitiveness.

We are collaborative, working with industry associations, educational institutions, and government departments to deliver practical staff management tools and training programs that support Excellence in Agriculture HR. We are working hard to grow the AgriWorkforce and ensure it is skilled and resilient.

- **Canadian Federation of Agriculture:**

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) was formed in 1935 as a unified voice to speak on behalf of Canadian farmers. Our work continues today as a farmer-funded, national umbrella organization comprising of provincial general farm organizations and national and interprovincial commodity groups. We represent producers of all commodities, who operate farms of all sizes. Through our members we represent approximately 190,000 Canadian farm families from coast to coast.

How CFA Works for Farmers

CFA aims to achieve a thriving and sustainable agriculture sector in Canada, which delivers real social and economic benefits across the country. We develop policies and programs through a grassroots, democratic process that engages our members in comprehensive discussions, considering policy issues from various points of view. Earning and maintaining public trust in the agriculture sector, through our words and actions, is vital to the CFA and its members.

Our objectives are to:

- Coordinate the efforts of agricultural producer organizations throughout Canada for the purpose of promoting their common interest.
- Assist members and where necessary, government, in forming and promoting national agricultural policies to meet changing domestic and international economic conditions.
- Promote and advance acceptance of positive social, economic, and environmental conditions for those engaged in agricultural pursuits.
- Collaborate and cooperate with organized groups of producers outside Canada to further our objectives.

The NSN's General Manager representative for the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) is our very own Executive Director, Ashley Scott. This past year she represented Sheep Producers at numerous CFA events, where she ensured that the sheep industry's voice was heard.

- Animal Health Canada (AHC) Working Group/CAHSS Small Ruminant Network. AHC is a pan-Canadian, public-private approach to managing animal health in Canada and successfully implement the animal health components of the Plant and Animal Health Strategy for Canada.

It is built on the guiding principles of accountability and shared decision making between the federal, provincial, and territorial governments and all animal agriculture industry sectors.

It engages expertise to address important topics such as animal welfare, emerging diseases, animal health surveillance, and AMU/AMR.

- Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System:
 - There is a small ruminant group that meets quarterly via teleconference, and monitors and shares information on animal health issues.
 - Key topics covered in the past year include parasite management and the 3 cases of Bluetongue virus in wild bighorn sheep in the Okanagan.

Why it matters:

- Enables the sheep sector to provide guidance on a functional and responsive farmed animal health and welfare system in Canada.
- The sheep industry voice at the table will help ensure that animal health and welfare policies are practical and address the needs of the industry.
- Participating in the Animal Health Canada Working Group has enabled the industry to ensure that the industry has a voice in the governance, and strategic planning for the organization.

ALP Advocates on behalf of Producers

Update to Producers

By: Ashley Scott, ALP Executive Director

The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP), formerly referred to as the Next Policy Framework, is a five-year (2023–2028) investment by federal, provincial, and territorial (FPT) governments to strengthen and grow Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector. It will replace the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP), which ends March 31, 2023.

FPT governments have and will continue to consult with Canadians, including stakeholders such as producers, processors, Indigenous communities, women in agriculture, youth, environmental organizations, and small and emerging sectors, to develop the successor Partnership.

Initial consultations on the Sustainable CAP sought stakeholder feedback on both current and potential challenges and opportunities facing the sector, and on prospective priorities and vision for the Partnership.

Ongoing consultations on the Sustainable CAP have focused on seeking stakeholder input on how to realize the priorities articulated in the [Guelph Statement](#) and their desired outcomes, and recommendations to inform the policies and programs to be implemented under the Sustainable CAP.

ALP worked to ensure that our voice is being heard and that our priority areas for funding would be considered, as our producers need the supports now more than ever. These priorities included:

1. Funding for wool pelleting machines, which addresses green/environmental initiatives on behalf of producers.

2. Funding for specialized feed equipment to improve efficiency and align with green/environmental initiatives.
3. A predation management grant program for upgrades to predation fencing, rebates on livestock guardian animals (LGAs) and trapping training subsidies.

When it comes to speaking about predation, we have advocated for more mitigation tools for producers and have stressed the importance of having coyotes added back to the eligible predators list, along with the inclusion of all birds of prey, of the Predator Compensation program, which producers can access.

On December 9, 2022, I had the opportunity to meet with our Assistant Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development, Karen Wronko, when I was able to convey our concerns on a number of key issues facing our producers and the industry as a whole.

I was able to address the current state of the Business Risk Management (BMR) programs for our producers and offered a number of changes that needed to be made to benefit our producers.

I also conveyed to her how the government, perhaps not intentionally, is hindering our industry with the import of New Zealand and Australian lamb, specifically when it comes to the lack of price competitiveness Alberta producers have, due to their ever-increasing costs of production. We need to take a serious look at what has to change to ensure that our local producers can compete on a level playing field when it comes to marketing their product, to *their* local marketplace.

We had the opportunity to further discuss interprovincial trade barriers and abattoir capacity, with a receptive and open Deputy Minister hearing some suggestions offered on what could be done, provincially, to help alleviate these concerns.

Next, we discussed the full enforcement of the federal electronic logging device (ELD) mandate that took effect on January 1, 2023. In short, truck drivers had to go to a mandatory ELD and this contradicts livestock transportation regulations for humane transfer of sheep. The distances that sheep/lambs must travel in some regions of the country to reach markets often requires truck drivers to balance the Hours of Service regulatory requirements with the safety and humane treatment of their cargo. As an example, our offloading feed and water station in Brandon will put the drivers over hours coming from Alberta, so lambs will need to stay on a truck for eight hours until they can move again, creating higher stress and longer transportation hours. This creates a livestock humane transport issue by unloading and reloading sheep more than is necessary.

The United States Department of Transportation (DOT) has recognized the negative impact that strict enforcement of ELDs can have on animal health by offering a livestock exemption in the (DOT) mandate that took effect in 2019 and we are urging our government to do the same.

If we are able to align our exemptions with the DOT regulations of having livestock and ag haulers exempt, or creating ELD mandate exemptions issued by provincial or federal authorities, it would save our producers a lot of logistical issues and would save a lot more livestock as they will not experience high stress transport.

While we understand this issue needs to be addressed at the federal level, we would appreciate having the support of our provincial government on the matter.

The meeting was rounded out with discussions on Traceability and the lack of access our producers have to drugs. For example, Startech is no longer available in Canada, which means there are very few dewormers left in the market for producer use. Right now, producers can only access Closantel (Flukiver) for *Haemonchus*. Most populations have fenbendazole (Safeguard) and ivermectin resistance now but are still susceptible to Closantel. This is not a good situation and makes monitoring even more important than previously for deciding treatment and control options etc. **ALP was working behind the scenes with a number of other industry specialists, stakeholders and veterinarians about small ruminant anthelmintic needs. We were successful in welcoming some additional dewormers to the market. More details are shared further in this update.*

After my meeting with the Deputy Minister, I also met with our provincial Livestock Traceability and Animal Welfare team at the GoA to express our concerns with the current traceability system/program in place, the proposed changes to the program, and who will act as our industry National Administrator for the program if it shifts away from CCIA.

Following this initial meeting, the Traceability team members from the GoA and I connected with the Canadian Sheep Federation to learn more about the status and nature of the regulatory amendment, CSF's digital ecosystem AgroLedger for managing sheep traceability, and CSF's proposal to become the responsible administrator of the program.

CSF Responsible Administrator Proposal

In June of this year, the CSF submitted a proposal to the CFIA to become recognized as the Responsible Administrator for the Canadian Sheep Identification program, motivated by:

- A desire to recognize AgroLedger as the program's information management system.
- The importance of having the sheep industry lead its own trace system.
- The need to better manage program costs and reinvest program fees into the industry.
- The necessity to do a better job of preparing and protecting the sheep industry against disease outbreaks.
- The opportunity to bring valuable, innovative tools to the sheep industry.

The proposal would see:

- AgroLedger implemented as the industry's trace information management system.
- Industry leading program development, facilitated by the CSF with input from industry by way of a revitalized CSIP working group.
- A dedicated program manager, customer support staff and ongoing technical support for users.
- Reinvestment in program improvements.
- A trace program that protects the industry in times of disease outbreaks.
- The realization of value-added traceability.

I also had the privilege of representing the National Sheep Network (NSN) and advocating on behalf of their producers at the Canadian Federation of Agriculture's AGM in Ottawa on Monday, March 6, and Tuesday, March 7, 2023. The Prime Minister was in attendance delivering a speech and he then took questions from some of the CFA members in attendance, along with our Agriculture and Agri-Foods Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau. The leaders for the five federal parties represented in the House of Commons (Conservative Party leader Pierre Poilievre, Bloc Quebecois leader Yves-Francois Blanchet, NDP leader Jagmeet Singh, and Green Party leader Elizabeth May) were also on the agenda to speak. The meeting was followed by a brief Q & A session from CFA members.



Trudeau was asked about a wide range of topics, including helping farmers cope with the increased costs of production, grassland preservation, the fertilizer emissions reduction target and recognizing how innovative Canadian farmers are.

At the meeting, the CFA membership passed 54 resolutions that will outline much of its advocacy efforts in the coming year. This year's resolutions cover a range of issues, including conservation, climate change, labour, rural infrastructure, crop protection, international trade, risk management and much more. ALP had already been advocating on behalf of our producers for a number of resolutions that were passed, so we are pleased to have the added support of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and their voice within the federal government. Some of the advocacy efforts we have mutual interest in and will collaborate on are:

- Climate change – prioritize and channel investments in favour of structuring initiatives that will ensure the sustainability and resilience of our agriculture industry, along with enhancing income support programs. The goal is to more adequately protect producers from the financial risks of extreme weather events and to adequately support them in their efforts to adapt to climate change.
 - Federal carbon tax – more transparency on the tax being charged on petroleum products such as gasoline, diesel, oil, propane and natural gas, to ensure there is a tax break being received by producers.
 - Calling on the federal government to work with farm organizations to examine and support the development of national cost shared insurance programming for all livestock.
 - Electronic log mandate exemption for livestock.
 - Increased access to anti-microbials and alternatives.
 - Vaccine bank for foot and mouth disease.
- Enhancing the Business Risk Management (BRM) programs, to make them more beneficial for all producers who access the program.

On Monday, March 13, 2023, ALP Vice-Chair Jordan Allen represented our industry and ALP at a roundtable discussion on the Sustainable Agriculture Strategy, a long-term vision and strategic approach to further advance the sustainability, competitiveness and vitality of Canada's agriculture and agri-food

sector. She was joined by a small number of agricultural industry representatives to share their views on what should be taken into consideration in the Sustainable Agricultural Strategy (SAS). Feedback received through this, and other consultation sessions being held across the country, will inform the development of the SAS and support the work of the SAS-advisory committee, co-chaired by AAFC and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

In May 2023, ALP announced the new parasite prevention compound, Ivermectin Levamisole drench was available through producers local veterinarians. The Alberta Lamb Producers (ALP) was aware that producers have been struggling with having timely access to dewormers for their flocks, with options like Startect becoming unavailable in Canada. We were pleased to share that ALP was able to work with a Canadian Company whereby they were able to create a new compound that producers across Canada will have access to.

Sheep that are maintained on pasture commonly become infected with nematodes (roundworms) that live in their gastrointestinal tract. The three most important gastrointestinal nematodes (GINs) infecting sheep are Haemonchus (barber's pole worm), Teladorsagia (brown stomach worm) and Trichostrongylus (stomach hairworm). The barber pole worm has been shown to be resistant to ivermectin in some Canadian flocks but has been shown to be sensitive to the anti-parasitic drug levamisole. To address this concern an ivermectin-levamisole drench formulation has been developed which is available through most large animal veterinary clinics through a prescription. This formulation should provide protection for both internal and external parasites.

On July 18-19, 2023, the CFA held its Summer Board Meeting in Fredericton, NB, where I was in attendance. This meeting brought together farm leaders from across the country to discuss the priority issues in Canadian agriculture, and to prepare for the following Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Agriculture Ministers Roundtable. Priorities included Farm financial health, the Sustainable Agriculture Strategy (SAS), and the Grocery Sector Code of Conduct. Farm leaders also discussed the current transportation challenges affecting the sector, noting the recent passage of Bill C-47's extended interswitching measures as an important step in expanding access to competitive rail services.

On the afternoon of July 19th, CFA also hosted the Annual FPT Agriculture Ministers Roundtable, where Canada's Agriculture Ministers met with farm leaders to discuss the pressing challenges confronting Canadian agriculture, including a producer perspective on the critical drivers of success for Canada's proposed SAS. During this meeting, CFA highlighted that the SAS presents an opportunity for FPT governments to demonstrate a true partnership with industry to achieve shared environmental, economic, and social sustainability ambitions, by working continuously with farmers and investing in the full range of tools needed to make Canadian agriculture a global leader in truly sustainable productivity growth.

The key objectives of this year's FPT Roundtable were to:

- Articulate what Canada's primary producers see as the critical drivers of agricultural sustainability in Canada and the foundational elements required for successful implementation of the SAS.
- Hear the perspectives of FPT Ministers on their prospective roles in the SAS, the prerequisites for their engagement and support, and critical issues that require attention as the SAS is developed.

Following the Roundtable, the Ministers met on July 20th and released a statement on July 21st, **which you can view [here](#)** .

The CFA was particularly pleased to see Ministers aligned with many of the recommendations raised by farm leaders at the FPT roundtable, acknowledging the key roles innovation, scientific research and collaboration play in advancing productivity and economic growth, while protecting the environment, as well as “the importance of building on a foundation of strengths and expertise from across jurisdictions... noting actions already taking place across the supply chain to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, sequester carbon and improve the environmental and economic sustainability of the sector.”

CFA was also appreciative of the Ministers’ continued support for the industry-led Grocery Sector Code of Conduct and the potential for short-term financial support, in recognition of the industry leadership provided by CFA and the other steering committee members.

CFA also welcomed FPT Ministers’ continued focus their attention on critical issues facing producers today, including the continued impacts of extreme weather events, animal health and disease prevention, and the importance of evidence-based decision-making in regulating crop protection products.

“Industry and government must work together to best harness the incredible potential agriculture has for the environment, economy, and Canadian society. Canadian agriculture is uniquely positioned to drive the Canadian economy while feeding Canadians and being a powerful tool in the fight against climate change. We can only achieve our shared ambition, positioning Canada as a world leader in sustainable agriculture, a global food provider and significant contributor to global food security, if we work together.” said Keith Currie, CFA President.

Currie further noted, “What we can’t lose sight of is that the SAS must create an enabling environment that’s grounded in the understanding that investments in sustainability only take place if they make business sense. We need to see the importance of productivity, profitability, and competitiveness reflected as a central consideration in all aspects of how agriculture can advance its environmental performance.”

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture, in partnership with COPA-COGECA, the American Farm Bureau and the Consejo Nacional Agropecuario, hosted the biannual North American and European Union Agricultural Conference in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, September 12-14. I had the privilege to attend this conference and represent the Canadian sheep industry, to ensure our industry voice was heard during the conversations.

The conference brought together around 280 representatives from EU Member States, Canada, Mexico and the United States. It provided an opportunity for producers from all sectors, representing many different countries, to discuss their shared challenges, opportunities and priorities, with the aim of finding solutions.

From increasing production costs and imposing restrictive regulations and policies, to balancing society's expectations of sustainability and animal welfare with profitability, to improving communication with consumers and governments about modern agricultural practices, it was clear from the outset of the Conference that producers, regardless of their origin, face many of the same pressures.

One of the key messages ALP and the NSN has taken away from this Conference is the need to continue to work closely with our international counterparts, to share and benefit from our different experiences, approaches and lessons learned in relation to all these issues as well as other topics of mutual interest.

ALP's affiliation with the NSN and their membership with the CFA support the sheep industry's capacity to be heard and included in advocacy efforts on topics that matter to our farmers, as the CFA provides a unified voice to advocate for Canadian farmers at the national level.

I was also able to attend the VIDO Animal Health Summit – An Update on FMD on August 24, 2023 in Saskatoon, which was a half day symposium on an emerging infectious disease of livestock. This year, the VIDO Animal Health Summit brought together stakeholders from the livestock sector to learn more about Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) - a highly contagious and reportable viral disease that affects hoofed livestock and wildlife species. There were engaging presentations from world-renowned experts.

While at times it might seem as if ALP is not doing much when it comes to advocating on behalf of producers, I want to take the time to reassure you that ALP staff and the Board of Directors work tirelessly to advance the industry in all aspects, and not just when it comes to government policy, programming and supports.

Research

Research and development provide on-going improvements to sheep production, and collaboration between industry and researchers facilitates these advances. ALP has an important role in setting research priorities and directing research funds. Industry endorsement helps researchers secure funding by validating the significance of their projects to the sheep industry. Industry financial contributions can be further leveraged to ensure projects are adequately funded. Research into sheep production in Alberta happens, in part, because of the support and endorsement of producers through ALP.

Project title: Sheep/Goat Vegetation Management Accreditation Program

Year two of Lakeland College's partnership with Alberta Lamb Producers and the Alberta Goat Association is wrapping up. The team successfully obtained an Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) grant in 2022 through the Rangeland Sustainability Program to develop a Sheep/Goat Vegetation Management Accreditation Program.

A series of vegetation management modules is being developed for Alberta sheep and goat producers to learn best practices for grazing forages under typical and unique situations, forming a vegetation management accreditation program. Stakeholders requiring or offering vegetation management services using livestock would benefit from these resources for contract and partnership development purposes.

Sheep and goats provide land stewards with a unique opportunity to graze areas that cattle cannot access, and they consume plants that cattle find unpalatable. Resources that provide the details necessary to successfully graze sheep or goats and maintain forage health under typical and novel circumstances are limited for flock managers. These typical and uncommon grazing situations include invasive weeds, solar farms, low-quality marginal lands, forests, inner city vegetation control, and powerline cut blocks.

With the content generated, Katrina Gallan, a summer student of Dr. Susan Markus with Lakeland College, is transferring the information into the D2L format that will become an online accreditation program through Lakeland College.

The modules will educate flock owners and serve as a go-to resource for comprehensive grazing and sheep/goat management under specific situations. The project will engage land and animal stakeholders

to balance and show both perspectives and needs related to vegetation management.

In addition to the content Alberta has developed, Ontario Sheep Farmers (OSF) has successfully obtained funds for a year-long project through the Amplifying Research Impact Fund. In partnership with the University of Guelph and Alberta Lamb Producers, OSF is developing a course for Canadian farmers interested in offering grazing services to other farmers and businesses requiring vegetative management. The course will be offered as a second stage to the content developed in Alberta for producers to learn about the basics of grazing management and forage nutrition.

The Grazing Management business development course, entitled “Grazing for Hire,” will address contract writing, fencing, transportation, animal welfare, tips for working in the public eye, marketing ideas, and a financial plan. Each producer will finish the course with a custom business plan for the grazing business they plan to launch.

When the programs are available, ALP will communicate with its members. Be sure to watch for more information about these learning opportunities in the future.

Project title: The adaptation and development of the anesthetic releasing elastator band for the use in the Canadian lamb industry project update

The device has not yet been approved by Health Canada; however, AVL is currently working with Health Canada on a submission and a path to make this available under veterinary supervision in the interim. AVL will provide Alberta Lamb Producers’ membership with further information and updates as it becomes available.

Project title: Ovipast Plus® Vaccine Clinical Trial update by Megan Gardner, Drs. Cathy Bauman and Joyce Van Donkersgoed

**Alberta Lamb Producers Final Report
VIDO Experimental Sheep Respiratory Vaccine Clinical Trial
By Megan Gardner (MSc) and Dr. Joyce Van Donkersgoed**

Introduction

A controlled vaccine field trial was conducted in a large commercial lamb operation in southern Alberta, which had approximately 9000 breeding ewes and an adjacent feedlot with a one-time standing capacity of approximately 25,000 feeder lambs. The vaccine that was evaluated was an experimental sheep respiratory vaccine produced by the Vaccine Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO) in Saskatoon. This experimental subunit vaccine contained 2 antigens, leukotoxin A and a transferrin-binding protein B (TbpB). Previous experimental research conducted at VIDO in sheep had shown this vaccine to be effective in reducing respiratory disease in sheep caused experimentally by the bacteria *Mannheimia haemolytica*. This bacterium had previously been shown to be a common cause of fatal bronchopneumonia in Canadian feedlot lambs (ALMA Final Report 2015R031R).

Trial Methodology

A total of 3500 ewes were enrolled into the vaccine trial between April 15th, 2022, and July 15th, 2022. Ewes were randomly allocated to the vaccinate and nonvaccinate group by systematic randomization. Ewes were vaccinated 6 weeks pre-lambing and revaccinated 2 weeks before lambing. Vaccinated ewes were administered 2 ml of the experimental vaccine subcutaneously in the left neck area. Unvaccinated

ewes were not administered the experimental vaccine. Ewes were housed separately in outdoor pens by vaccine status until they were moved into their lambing jugs, a few days before lambing. Ewes remained in their lambing jugs with their newborn lambs for a few days, before being moved into a barn with group pens of approximately 44 ewes with lambs, where they were housed separately by vaccine status. After 2 weeks in these indoor pens, ewes with lambs were moved into another barn with larger group pens of approximately 132 ewes with lambs, and housed separately by vaccine status until the lambs were weaned.

Lambs borne from vaccinated ewes were vaccinated at weaning with the experimental vaccine (2 ml SC) and revaccinated with the same vaccine when they entered the finishing phase of the trial. Lambs borne from unvaccinated ewes were not vaccinated with the experimental vaccine. Lambs were weaned at approximately 8 weeks of age, and then housed separately by vaccine status and sex in outdoor feedlot pens until approximately 13 weeks of age. This was the growing phase of the study. At approximately 13 weeks of age, lambs were weight sorted, revaccinated if previously vaccinated, and housed by weight, vaccine status, and sex into finishing pens. Lambs were housed in these finishing feedlot pens until slaughter, at approximately 50 kg of live body weight.

Lambs were placed on feed at weaning and fed to slaughter with a well-balanced ration of roughage, grain, and protein, mineral and vitamin supplements, as per NRC guidelines and the feedlot nutritionist's recommendations. The feeding program was the same for vaccinated and unvaccinated lambs. Any sick lambs were treated by trained feedlot staff using a standardized treatment protocol developed by the feedlot veterinarian. All feeding records were stored in a computerized software feeding system called DeliverIT™ and animal health data were recorded in the software program called FeedIT™ (ITS Global, Okotoks, AB). All lambs that died were necropsied by the researchers or trained feedlot staff to determine the cause of death, based on gross morphologic lesions, using a standardized procedure. A lung scoring system was used to score the location and severity of the pneumonia lesions. Lung tissues were collected and submitted to the Ontario Veterinary College for bacterial culture, to identify any pathogenic bacteria associated with pneumonic lung lesions (Table 3).

Ewe and lamb data were entered into an Excel spreadsheet and then analyzed in R/RStudio®. A univariate analysis was conducted to evaluate the effect of vaccination on morbidity, mortality, performance, and carcass outcomes. Birth weight was significantly different between the vaccine groups; thus, it was forced into the univariate models to control for potential confounding effects.

Pre-weaning Results

A total of 4874 lambs were enrolled in the vaccine trial between May 28th, 2022, and September 8th, 2022. Lambs born to vaccinated ewes had a lower average birth weight than those born to unvaccinated ewes (Table 1). Between two days of age and weaning, 10% of the lambs died. The main causes of death were: 1) enteritis/scours (22.4%), 2) starvation (21.9%), and 3) pneumonia (21.5%) (Table 2). The pneumonia mortality rate was 2.1%. There were no significant statistical differences in overall mortality, pneumonia mortality, average daily gain, weaning weight, and days to weaning between lambs born to vaccinated or unvaccinated ewes (Table 1). Three percent more lambs born to vaccinated ewes were treated for pneumonia than those born to unvaccinated ewes.

Growing Phase Results

The last trial lambs were weaned on October 19th, 2022. A total of 4215 lambs were weaned and entered the growing phase of the trial. The overall mortality rate during the growing phase was 3.8%. The leading cause of death during the growing phase was pneumonia, causing 47% of all deaths. The

pneumonia mortality rate was 1.8%. There were no statistical differences in overall mortality rates, pneumonia mortality rates, pneumonia treatment rates, average daily gain, days on feed, or body weight between vaccinated and unvaccinated lambs (Table 1).

Finishing Phase Results

The overall mortality rate during the finishing phase was 3.6%. The leading cause of death was pneumonia, causing 31.7% of all deaths. The pneumonia mortality rate was 1.1%. There were no significant differences in overall mortality rate, pneumonia mortality rate, pneumonia treatment rate, average daily gain, days on feed, hot carcass weight, fat cover, or carcasses scoring as yield grade 1's between vaccinated and unvaccinated lambs (Table 1). While final slaughter weights were 0.5 kg lower in vaccinated lambs compared to the unvaccinated lambs, weight gain was not different between the two groups after controlling for differences in birth weight and days on feed.

Discussion

An experimental *Mannheimia haemolytica* subunit vaccine with leukotoxin A and transferrin-binding protein B, which was administered to ewes twice pre-lambing to improve colostral immunity, and administered to lambs borne from vaccinated ewes, twice, at weaning and post-weaning, was not effective in reducing lamb mortality from pneumonia, pneumonia treatment rates, or improving growth performance or carcass traits from birth to slaughter. Failure to see a vaccine effect may be due to the complex nature of respiratory disease. Pneumonia is often caused by a complex interaction between bacterial and viral infectious agents, environmental stressors, and the animal's immune response. While we did isolate *Mannheimia haemolytica* from some lungs of lambs that died of pneumonia, it was not the only infectious agent cultured (Table 3). In the previous experimental challenge studies conducted at VIDO, the vaccine showed promise under very controlled laboratory conditions, where sheep were experimentally infected with *Mannheimia haemolytica*. Further research is required to determine if other protective antigens from *Mannheimia haemolytica* need to be added to this vaccine to improve its effectiveness, or other common infectious agents, such as *Mycoplasma spp.*, may need to be added to the vaccine, to reduce the occurrence of pneumonia in sheep. As evidenced by the treatment and deaths rates at this commercial lamb operation, pneumonia is a significant production limiting disease in sheep flocks, and effective respiratory vaccines are needed to improve animal health and welfare, reduce antimicrobial use, and reduce the disease's negative economic impacts.

Acknowledgments

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Table 1. Effectiveness of an experimental sheep subunit *Mannheimia haemolytica* respiratory vaccine in lambs at a commercial feedlot

OUTCOME	NONVACCINATES	VACCINATES	P VALUE
PRE-WEANING PHASE			
Number of trial lambs	2453	2421	
Birth weight (kg)	4.12	4.03	0.002
Mortality rate (%)	9.0	10.4	0.15
Pneumonia mortality rate (%)	1.8	2.4	0.31
Pneumonia treatment rate (%)	23.4	25.7	0.04
Average daily gain (kg/day)	0.22	0.22	0.72
Days to weaning	51	51	0.34
Weaning weight (kg)	15.6	15.4	0.12
GROWING PHASE			
Number of trial lambs	2146	2069	
Entry weight (kg)	15.6	15.4	0.12
Mortality rate (%)	4.2	3.5	0.23
Pneumonia mortality rate (%)	1.7	1.9	0.71
Pneumonia treatment rate (%)	3.5	3.6	0.93
Average daily gain (kg/day)	0.30	0.30	0.53
Days on feed	35	35	0.96
Final weight (kg)	26.3	26.2	0.60
FINISHING PHASE			
Number of trial lambs	2008	1984	
Entry weight (kg)	26.3	26.2	0.60
Mortality rate (%)	3.4	3.7	0.83
Pneumonia mortality rate (%)	0.9	1.3	0.64
Pneumonia treatment rate (%)	0.8	1.1	0.43
Average daily gain (kg/day)	0.28	0.27	0.42
Days on feed	111	111	0.69
Final slaughter weight (kg)	56.3	55.8	0.02
CARCASS DATA			
Number of carcasses	1919	1895	
Hot Carcass Weight (kg)	28.0	27.7	0.72
Fat cover (mm)	18.5	18.4	0.88
Yield Grade 1 (%)	20.1	22.1	0.79
Yield Grade 2 (%)	31.2	30.7	
Yield Grade 3 (%)	11.7	11.5	
Yield Grad 4 (%)	37.0	35.7	

Table 2. Causes and number of deaths in lambs vaccinated with an experimental respiratory *Mannheimia haemolytica* subunit vaccine.

Cause of Death	Pre-Weaning*		Growing Phase		Finishing Phase	
	Unvaccinated	Vaccinated	Unvaccinated	Vaccinated	Unvaccinated	Vaccinated
Pneumonia	43	59	36	39	19	26
Enteritis/scours	52	54	3	2	0	3
Starved	50	54	3	3	0	0
No post mortem	28	22	13	10	8	9
Other	13	15	7	3	5	3
Unknown	4	6	8	1	7	7
Digestive disease	8	7	2	5	5	4
Injury/trauma/crushed	9	11	3	3	0	0
Kidney Disease	4	1	2	3	6	8
Waterbelly	0	0	4	1	10	9
Septicemia	5	11	5	0	1	0
Liver disease	1	3	1	0	0	0
Navel infection	2	3	0	0	0	0
Peritonitis	0	5	0	0	0	0
Arthritis	1	0	1	1	1	0
Rectal prolapse	0	0	0	0	2	1
Abscess	0	1	0	1	0	0
Lungworm	0	0	0	0	0	2
Orchitis	0	0	0	0	2	0
Pleuritis	0	0	0	0	1	1
Watery mouth	1	1	0	0	0	0
Congestive heart failure	0	0	0	0	1	0
Heat stroke	0	0	1	0	0	0
Conjunctivitis	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total by Vaccine Group	221	253	89	72	68	74

*lambs in the vaccine group were born to ewes vaccinated twice with the experimental vaccine pre-lambing to boost colostral immunity.

Table 3. Bacterial and mycoplasma culture results for lambs vaccinated with an experimental respiratory *Mannheimia haemolytica* subunit vaccine.

PRE-WEANING PHASE	Pre-wean Count		Pre-wean Percent		Total
Bacterial Culture Results	Unvaccinated (n = 19)	VIDO (n = 24)	Unvaccinated	VIDO	P-value
<i>Mannheimia haemolytica</i> (type I or II)	12	16	63.16%	66.67%	1.000
<i>Bibersteinia trehalosi</i>	4	3	21.05%	12.50%	0.681
<i>Pastuerella multocida</i>	6	6	31.58%	25.00%	0.892
<i>Trueperella Pyogenes</i>	9	6	47.37%	25.00%	0.228
<i>Moraxella bovoculi</i>	0	1	0.00%	4.17%	1.000
Mycoplasma Results	Unvaccinated (n = 10)	VIDO (n = 12)	Unvaccinated	VIDO	P-value
<i>Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae</i>	5	8	50.00%	66.67%	0.666
<i>Mycoplasma arginini</i>	7	11	70.00%	91.67%	0.293
POST WEANING PHASE	Post-wean Count		Post-wean Percent		Total
Bacterial Culture Results	Unvaccinated (n = 17)	VIDO (n = 19)	Unvaccinated	VIDO	P-value
<i>Mannheimia haemolytica</i> (type I or II)	12	12	70.59%	63.16%	0.732
<i>Bibersteinia trehalosi</i>	0	4	0.00%	21.05%	0.106
<i>Pastuerella multocida</i>	6	7	35.29%	36.84%	1.000
<i>Trueperella Pyogenes</i>	7	5	41.18%	26.32%	0.555
<i>Moraxella bovoculi</i>	1	0	5.88%	0.00%	0.472
Mycoplasma Results	Unvaccinated (n = 12)	VIDO (n = 11)	Unvaccinated	VIDO	P-value
<i>Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae</i>	7	9	58.33%	81.82%	0.371
<i>Mycoplasma arginini</i>	10	8	83.33%	72.73%	0.640

Olds College: Optimizing Ovine Operations: Enhancing Sheep Production through Feed Efficiency Measurement and Early Detection of Gastrointestinal Parasitic Infection

Feed cost and parasite infections are two major constraints to the profitability of sheep producers in Canada. The cost of feed alone represents a significant portion, ranging from 45 to 80%, of total production expenses. In the face of climate change, fluctuating feed prices place a substantial financial strain on sheep farmers. Research on beef cattle suggests that selecting feed-efficient animals could reduce 10-12% feed intake, 25-30% greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and 15-17% nutrient loss. Despite promising results in cattle, research on sheep feed efficiency is lacking. Additionally, current practices for measuring feed efficiency in ruminants are costly and time-consuming, demanding extended trials lasting between 40 to 90 days to measure individual daily feed intake and animal growth.

Simultaneously, parasite infections jeopardize the welfare, health, and productivity of the flock. Parasites, such as gastrointestinal worms can lead to reduced weight gain, illness, and even death in extreme cases. The conventional approach of blanket deworming has contributed to the development of anthelmintic resistance, further challenging the sheep industry. Meanwhile, the diagnosis of parasite infection relies

on passive observation of clinical symptoms. Unfortunately, by this stage, sheep production has already incurred substantial losses, resulting in animals being culled when infections become untreatable. Production losses at the subclinical stage and the expense of diagnosis and treatment at the clinical stage both increase the cost of production.

The Technology Access Centre for Livestock Production (TACLP) at Olds College is conducting a research project to improve sheep production efficiency using genomics and metabolomics technologies. This project aims to identify and quantify a panel of predictive blood and genomic biomarkers for feed efficiency and sheep parasite infection. The TACLP is a research and innovation hub that supports the livestock industry by offering access to cutting-edge facilities, equipment, expertise and training for producers, entrepreneurs, students and researchers, and it aims to enhance animal health, welfare, productivity and sustainability through applied research, technology development, and knowledge transfer.

This research project involves two sequential feeding trials with 80 lambs, from June to November, 2023. Initially, lambs were assessed for feed efficiency for 64 days using the Vytelle SENSE™ systems (Vytelle, LLC; Calgary, AB). At the end of this trial, back fat thickness and rib eye area were measured using ultrasound. Following this test, animals were randomly and equally assigned to four parasitic treatment groups. Lambs in the parasitic group were orally inoculated with a specific concentration of barber's pole worm (*Haemonchus contortus*) to induce subclinical infections. The remaining lambs received a placebo (water), representing the control group. Four weeks later, half of the lambs in each group were drenched with anthelmintics, while the other half were left untreated by using a placebo.

Serum samples have been collected for both trials for metabolomics analysis, and tissue samples will be collected for genomic analysis in the next few weeks. Preliminary analysis has been carried out for residual feed intake (RFI) by regressing dry matter intake (DMI) against average daily gain (ADG), metabolic mid body weight (MMBW) and back fat. Blood biomarkers identification for RFI will be conducted upon the completion of metabolite quantification at The Metabolomics Innovation Centre (TMIC) at University of Alberta.

The approach outlined in this study aims to revolutionize the detection of parasitic infection in sheep by focusing on early detection through the use of blood biomarkers. By identifying sheep that test positive for these biomarkers, the industry could selectively administer anthelmintic drugs to specifically targeted individuals. This shift towards targeted treatment is expected to significantly reduce the development of parasite resistance, in addition to minimizing the costs associated with anthelmintic purchases. Furthermore, the TACLP intends to develop and optimize standard operating procedures required for measuring feed efficiency in sheep, something that does not currently exist for the industry. Finally, genomic and metabolomic analysis of sheep feed efficiency may open the door to future testing options for identifying more efficient animals without requiring lengthy, expensive trials at a testing facility.

The parasitic infection trial is approaching its conclusion, and is expected to be completed in early November. Trial results and preliminary findings are anticipated by spring of 2024. Hamza Jawad and Olufemi Osonowo, both Master students from Dalhousie University, are working with the TACLP on this project and will utilize the results to fulfill their graduate study requirements. Any questions or inquiries can be directed to Dr. Yaogeng Lei, Research Associate (ylei@oldscollege.ca) or Dr. Desiree Gellatly, Research Scientist (dgellatly@oldscollege.ca), from the TACLP. This project was made possible by funding through Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR), Mitacs, Alberta Lamb Producers and Ontario Sheep Farmers.





Looking Forward

Consumer Awareness Initiatives

Alberta producers take pride in their ability to raise the highest quality lamb. Our clean air, sparkling water, rich and hearty feed grains and forages create a pristine and world-class environment to produce premium quality meat.

The ALP Board of Directors continues to recognize the importance for us to continue to focus on consumer awareness initiatives to get more attention on our products – Alberta lamb! In order to achieve this, ALP continues to be an official partner of Alberta on the Plate. Alberta on the Plate is a province-wide celebration of the incredible bounty grown and produced across our beautiful province.

Anchored by a ten-day dine around festival highlighting local restaurants and products, Alberta on the Plate connects consumers to agriculture through our local restaurant industry and by continuing the conversation started by initiatives like Alberta Open Farm Days.

Throughout the year, Alberta on the Plate shares the Alberta food story with media and consumers through targeted outreach and its social channels. This includes celebrating and sharing the stories of our local restaurants, producers, farms, destinations, and businesses to encourage visitation and investment in our local food economy. AOTP also helps chefs and restaurateurs to develop new relationships and/or strengthen existing relationships with local farms and producers.

Each year during Local Food Week in August, AOTP hosts a province wide Dine Around where participating restaurants offer multi-course, fixed price menus highlighting local producers, growers, distillers and brewers. These restaurants range from casual to fine dining and everything in between. Each menu has recommended local pairings to be sure you get the perfect match for your meal (not included in pricing).

Alberta on the Plate takes place in conjunction with Alberta Local Food Week and wraps up the same weekend as Open Farm Days. Closing the loop of farm-to-table, it brings the same farm freshness to the plate across Alberta.

New in 2022-23, ALP partnered with ChatterHigh, Ag in the Classroom program to help raise awareness and educate youth. All partners come from a variety of sectors and were seeking innovative ways to inspire youth and increase their hope for the future. This partnership allows ALP to inform Alberta students about our organization, programs and opportunities in our industry, digitally on ChatterHigh with mindful modules and daily quizzes.

ALP also planned to increase our presence at the Calgary Stampede, which offers a great opportunity for us to connect directly with thousands of potential consumers. We partnered this past year with the Sheep Committee at the Calgary Stampede to create new marketing videos which featured local producers, as well as investing in updated display items to help make our sheep showcase more modern and appealing to consumers and stampede attendees.

ALP is committed to providing consumers with education and encouragement to embrace an often-under-appreciated treasure—our local producers and their appetizing offerings! In order to do this, ALP has placed an internal restriction of \$20,000.00 to be strategically spent on this initiative.

The Board acknowledges the need to pivot what we are doing as an organization when it comes to

producer engagement, and we hope to have an outline released to producers in early 2024 that outlines our plans moving forward. Stay Tuned!

ALP Check-Off History

The Alberta Sheep and Wool Commission (ASWC) conducted a producer vote by ballot at their seven annual zone meetings held between October 27 and November 17, 2007, to seek support from the producers for increasing the service charge from \$1.00 to \$1.50 for each sheep. A similar vote conducted in November 2006 to increase the service charge to \$1.30 was defeated. The service charge rate has not increased since July 1, 1982. The service charge is attached to the purchase of identification tags. The additional service charge revenue will enable the Commission to carry out its operational activities as budgeted and approved by the membership. At a board meeting on November 21, 2007, the board of directors approved a motion to amend the regulation to implement the service charge increase effective January 1, 2008.

Check-Off Refund Request Statistics

Fiscal Year	Number of Produces requesting check off refunds	Amount of the refund requests
2022-23	24	\$22,640.00
2021-22	24	\$48,272.50
2020-21	20	\$50,040.00
2019-20	23	\$36,583.50
2018-19	21	\$16,498.33

ALP 2023 Photo Contest Winners

ALP decided it was time to hold another photo contest this year! There was one general category and all photos showing any aspect of life on a sheep farm were considered. This included flock shots, around the sheep farm, sheep farmers, all about the wool and possible fan favorites just to name a few examples.

The deadline for entries was September 1, 2023 and prizes would be awarded for the top 3 placing photos.

The prize structure is as follows:

Cash prize (e-transfer) for 1st place \$250.00, cash prize (e-transfer) for 2nd place \$150.00 and cash prize (e-transfer) for 3rd place \$75.00.

Congratulations to our winners! The ALP office will be in contact with them to organize receiving their cash prizes.

Our 1st place winner is Ilona Franklin



Our 2nd place winner is Laura Elsinga



Our 3rd place winner is Jackie Dixon



ALP Producer Proposed Resolutions

ALP made some changes to how eligible producers can submit Proposed Resolutions that are discussed and voted on by eligible producers at our Annual General meeting. Effective December 2020, eligible Producers were able to submit proposed resolutions year-round for board consideration.

Providing eligible producers with the opportunity to submit year-round submissions allows the board and staff to research and provide information to the proposed resolution(s) in advance of the AGM to help make the discussion more effective at the AGM before the voting period begins.

To submit a resolution for discussion at this year's AGM, eligible Alberta Lamb Producers needed to complete our resolution form and submit it to the ALP office by September 15, 2023. Proposed resolutions would not be accepted past this deadline or from the floor at the AGM.

ALP did not receive any proposed resolutions by our submission deadline of September 15, 2023, therefore there will be no conversation at the AGM regarding Resolutions.

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