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N'ewesletter

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November 23, 2024

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Cover photo: Jackie Dixon

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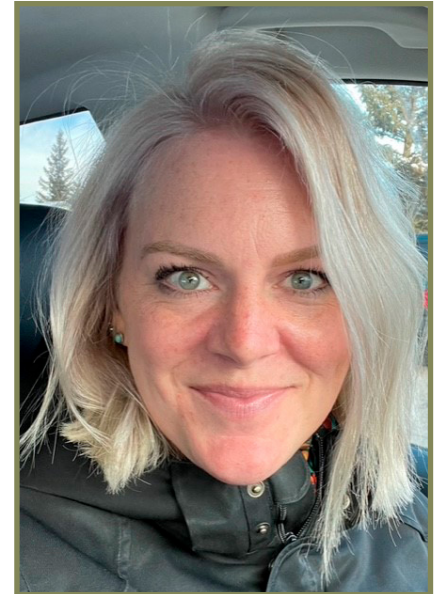
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Message From Your Chair

I am excited to be addressing you in my second term as Chair of the ALP Board of Directors. This past year was an excellent experience (albeit not without its challenges) and I look forward to another year as Chair. This year, I would like to see the board continue our focus on engagement with producers, reconnect, strengthen existing or build new relationships with other provinces and investigate the resolutions that were brought forward and passed at our 2024 AGM.

Despite the poor weather conditions, our 2024 conference and AGM at the Olds Pomeroy Inn & Suites was a fantastic event with a good turnout! After great feedback on our networking event last year, we decided to host a Friday evening networking event again this year to give producers a chance to meet and network with other producers. On Saturday, we started the day with the AGM which had lots of involvement from producers as we had four resolutions presented which encouraged excellent discussion. Three of four resolutions passed, so the board now will investigate as directed. The conference was excellent and included our keynote speaker, Kristen Ritson-Bennett from Blue Rock Nutrition presenting on her journey into sheep farming and some of the challenges and successes she and her family have gone through. We also had presentations from Hamid Khazanehei, PhD, from Masterfeeds, a Ruminant Nutrition Manager for Western Canada and Montana on feeding lambs and from Marisa Schubel to give an intro to the Targeted Grazing Accreditation Program & Mentorship Opportunities as this program is planned to launch in February 2025. Maaike Van Kuilenburg from CCWG Lethbridge gave an update on the wool industry and all the new and exciting changes that have been happening at CCWG. Dr. Merle Olson spoke to us about the Lidoband, the lidocaine loaded elastrator band, a project ALP is very proud to have been a part of and we are very excited to that it is now available with a prescription through AVL/Solvvet. The CFIA sent a great video presentation by Dr. Amanda Amaratunga on the Scrapie surveillance program, Barry Yaremicio gave us a demonstration of the SheepBytes program and Westfine Meats gave a market overview from this past year and a look at the projections for 2025. The trade fair this year was fantastic with many educational and informative booths that had great feedback. Overall, the board feels that the weekend was a success, and we appreciate everyone who joined us online and those who braved the weather to attend in person!

ALP has faced and overcome those challenges this past year from a staffing/organization perspective, but we have overcome those challenges and we've seen success as well. I am excited to be starting this year with a full board of directors, a new Executive Director and a new part time office administrator. In 2025, we are looking forward to seeing more achievements starting with the launch of The Sheep and Goat Vegetation Management Course in January 2025. ALP and Lakeland College have been working on this program together for the last 3 years and it consists of five modules. The pilot program has been launched with the pilot testers who will supply feedback on the course content so that any final improvements can be made prior to the final launch of the program in January. The board was so excited about the release of the LidoBand, the lidocaine loaded elastrator band this past year, that we suggested to Chinook Contract Research Inc. the idea



of developing another band impregnated with an insecticide for the prevention of flystrike. CCR has developed a prototype insecticide-containing version of the LidoBand which would provide both pain and flystrike mitigation. Currently, ALP is asking for volunteers to join in on a study for the project. If you would like more information on this, please reach out to Jolene Airth at jolene@ablamb.ca.

I am really looking forward to 2025 and seeing what it holds for the sheep industry in Alberta. Hopefully this next year will bring forth exciting and positive engagements between producers and the ALP board and for the ALP board to make connections with other provincial organizations to encourage national unity in the Canadian sheep industry. On behalf of the Alberta Lamb Producers board of directors and staff, I wish a happy, healthy and prosperous 2025 to you and your flock!

Jordan Allen

Message From Your Director: Alison Neale

Winter is Officially Here!

Winter has arrived, and mid-November has brought with it our first major snowfall. Yet somehow, I feel completely unprepared! After enjoying such a mild fall, I convinced myself there was still plenty of time to get ready for the snow and cold.



But with this first snowfall came darkness—making a reliable headlamp my new best friend—frozen waterers, wind whipping tarps off my precious hay stacks, and mountains of unfinished projects now buried under snowdrifts. My fencing plans? Postponed until spring.

Like many livestock producers at this time of year, I've had moments of asking myself, Why am I doing this?

Then I remind myself: who am I kidding? This has been my dream since I was a little girl playing with Schleich animals in my parents' basement. I've spent years in school gaining the knowledge I thought I needed and have built connections with amazing people in the field of agriculture. The shifts I picked up on nearby farms—helping with vaccinating, weaning, or milking—were just glimpses into the big picture of livestock farming. And now, here I am. I work full time in the industry I fought tooth and nail to be part of, and I wouldn't trade it for anything.

Winter is, of course, cold and dark. But it also has its benefits. It reduces parasite pressure on my ewes, as the cold interrupts parasites' life cycles—especially important on our limited pas-

tures. Snow-covered fields provide a season of rest for the land, preventing overgrazing and setting the stage for spring regrowth. Frozen ground improves pen conditions in high-traffic areas, reducing mud-related issues like hoof rot and keeping wool cleaner. And when the outdoor chores are finally done, winter allows for more time indoors to tackle that mountain of paperwork that never seems to get done in the summer—I'd much rather be outside when the weather's warm.

I'll be honest—this is only my second winter with sheep, and I've learned a lot already. This year, I have quite a few more breeding ewes than I started with, which has made feeding and watering more strenuous. Two key lessons I've learned as a first-generation livestock producer are:

Lesson One

"Make-do" supplies, equipment, and facilities not only make everything more difficult, but they can make the work downright unpleasant. If something didn't work well last year, don't try to force it to work again this year.

For example, last year I fed my sheep with homemade feeders cobbled together from boards and repurposed cattle panels. It worked, but I dealt with significant hay wastage and spent far too much time forking hay daily. This winter, I switched to feeding bunk-style, and it's been a huge improvement.

The frozen waterer? Tackled it with heat tape and insulation, and it's been holding up well so far.

As for the hay stack, it's been re-tarped, and I've started feeding the bales that were exposed to snow first while re-evaluating my feeding plan.

Lesson Two

There simply isn't enough time in the day to do everything yourself. Don't feel like you need to carry the weight of it all alone.

I work a 9-to-5 job before starting my 5-to-9 shift with the sheep at home. Especially in winter, I often feel like there's everything to do and no time to do it, and that feeling can be mentally draining. My family has played a major role as my support system. Asking for help is not a weakness. Build a support system, prioritize tasks, and, if possible, hire out specific jobs. For example, let the nutritionist handle the rations—it's one less thing for you to stress over.

Winter can be challenging, but I know spring will come with its own rewards, and lambing season will remind me exactly why I chose this. How are you managing winter's challenges? Share your strategies—I'd love to hear them!

Alison Neale

Alberta Lamb Producers Annual General Meeting Results

The Alberta Lamb Producers (ALP) held its 2024 Annual General Meeting on Saturday, November 23, 2024, with 52 producers and guests in attendance, both in-person at the Pomeroy Inn & Suites in Olds, Alberta and virtually via Zoom.

ALP Chair Jordan Allen commenced the meeting with introductions of the board and staff and acknowledged the significant industry stakeholders present. She also reviewed ALP's mission, vision, and organizational values.

The business meeting included the acclamation of Directors. Four Director-at-large positions were available on the 2024/25 ALP board. Four eligible producers submitted valid nomination forms by the July 31, 2024, deadline, resulting in no election being necessary. ALP is pleased to announce the acclamation of Adam French, Richard Boscher, Alison Neale, and Olivia Blum. Additionally, ALP has one Director-in-training position available and will be recruiting to fill this role.

Finance Chair Adam French introduced Mr. Shannon Troke from King & Company Chartered Accountants, who reviewed the 2023/24 financial statements. Adam then presented the 2024/25 budget.

To submit a resolution for discussion at this year's AGM, eligible Alberta Lamb Producers were required to complete and submit a resolution form to the ALP office by September 15, 2024. In accordance with ALP policy, no resolutions were accepted past this deadline or from the floor at the AGM. Four producer resolutions were received, and Vice Chair Marty Winchell facilitated the discussion and voting. The results are as follows:

1. Research alternative and/or additional distribution of CSIP tags.
 - Motion: Alicia van Oeveren
 - Seconded: Ken Smith
 - Result: Defeated
2. Discuss a lower shipping rate with CCWG.
 - Motion: Alicia van Oeveren
 - Seconded: Marisa Schubel
 - Result: Carried
3. Research rejoining the Canadian Sheep Federation.
 - Motion: Kathleen Raines
 - Seconded: Hannah Logan
 - Result: Carried



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4. Lobby for a national non-refundable check-off.
 - Motion: John Beasley
 - Seconded: Alicia van Oeveren
 - Result: Carried

Jordan Allen presented updates on ALP activities, and Adam French moderated the producer question and answer period.

The AGM is just one day, but we want to hear from you throughout the year. ALP is your producer organization. Communicating with directors and staff ensures you get the most from your check-off dollars. If you have concerns, comments, suggestions, or just want to say hello, please contact the directors or the office. Contact information is available on the ALP website and in every N'ewesletter.

New ALP Board Executive Elected

Elections for the ALP executive and committee positions were held on November 23, 2024, during the first Board meeting following the 2024 AGM. Elections results were:

Chair: Jordan Allen
 Vice-Chair: Martin Winchell
 Finance Chair: Adam French
 Finance Vice-Chair: Darlene Hawco

Jordan Allen and Richard Boscher will be representing ALP on the National Sheep Network (NSN).

New Program/Office Administrator

ALP welcomed Jennifer Wood to the team on October 13, 2024. Jennifer comes from an agricultural background with experience in the grain and sheep sectors, as well as experience in the ag business world. Jennifer resides on her family farm in Red Deer County with her husband and three children. We are excited to have Jennifer on board and she can be reached at admin@ablamb.ca.



Invitation to Submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) for Research Funding in Fiscal Year 2025-26

Alberta Lamb Producers (ALP) is dedicated to advancing research through strategic funding. We prioritize collaboration with other organizations to enhance value by sharing expertise and leveraging resources and funding. In 2021, ALP restructured its research proposal submission process to ensure proper budgeting and alignment with our strategic plan. The structured process is as follows:

1. Call for LOIs: Annually, starting in January, ALP invites researchers to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) for projects seeking monetary or in-kind investment. A submission deadline will be provided.

2. Review of LOIs: The ALP Board of Directors will review submitted LOIs by the end of April each fiscal year. Selected projects will be invited to submit full proposals.

3. Submission of Full Proposals: Researchers invited to submit full proposals must do so by the end of June each fiscal year.

4. Final Review and Decision: The ALP Board will review full proposals and decide on funding by mid to late August.

5. Notification: All applicants will be informed of the decision by the end of September each fiscal year.

Researchers are invited to submit their LOIs using the form provided (see page 5) by March 31, 2025. Full proposals will be requested in April, with final approvals targeted for September 2025.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Alignment with ALP Priorities: Projects addressing multiple priorities will be noted. Priority areas are listed on the ALP website.
- Funding Leverage: Projects with additional funding partners will be ranked higher. Maximizing leveraged funds is advantageous.
- Communication of Results: Effective knowledge transfer to producers is crucial. Mandatory activities include articles in the ALP quarterly N'ewesletters, factsheets, reports for producers and the ALP Board. Additional activities may include presentations at producer events and articles in agricultural press. Failure to provide communication materials may result in loss of funding or future funding opportunities.

For inquiries, please contact Jolene Airth at info@ablamb.ca or 403.948.8533.

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Alberta Lamb Producers Letter of Intent

Date of Application (month/day/year):			
APPLICANT INFORMATION			
Organization:			
Project Coordinator Name and Title:			
Mailing Address:			
City:	Postal Code:	County:	
Phone:	Fax:		
E-mail:	Website Address:		
Signature:		Date:	
PROJECT INFORMATION			
Project Title:			
Project Start Date:		Project End Date:	
1. Provide a brief project description: <i>(Use plain language terms) (Maximum 150 words):</i>			
2. List the goals and objectives of the project:			
3. Project Activities: <i>Provide a brief summary or a list of the activities of the project:</i>			
4. Anticipated Benefits and Impact on the Industry: <i>(Maximum 100 words):</i>			
5. Communication: <i>Provide a brief description of how you plan to share the details of the project and results.</i>			
6. Indicate whether this is a new project, part of a larger project or a continuation of a project previously funded and now complete. <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> part of larger project <input type="checkbox"/> continuation			
SOURCE(S) OF FUNDING			
Applicant Cash		\$	
Applicant In-Kind		\$	



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Lamb & Sheep Market Update

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

November 22, 2024

Overview

In recent years, Alberta’s lamb sector has faced challenges such as drought events, high feed costs and uncertain access to a federal processing plant.

In addition to challenges related to domestic events, producers continue to face competition on the price point of lamb meat imported from New Zealand and Australia – a fixture in our market as our producers do not have capacity to meet consumer demand.

Alberta auction market prices for market lamb are running 18 per cent higher in 2024 compared to 2023 and prices reached record highs in 2024 (on a live weight price equivalent out of the Innisfail plant). Feeder lamb prices also performed well in 2024 averaging \$292 per hundredweight year-to-date (January to November) compared to \$231 per hundredweight in 2023 over the same period.

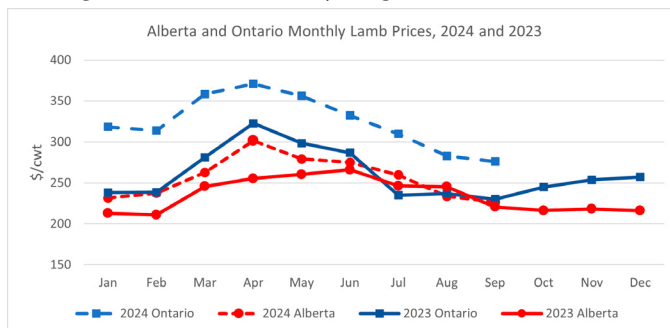
Overall, the domestic industry continues to make progress on supply. However, concerns related to market volatility and costs continue. While factors such as solid market demand and higher red meat prices support a positive outlook for 2025 – there is uncertainty about the potential impact of U.S. tariffs and economic conditions in general. It is worth noting the lamb sector is not reliant on the U.S. market for growth.

This article shows the dramatic price volatility in the lamb market during the past two years, and how current market prices have stabilized and are approaching historical average trends.

Prices

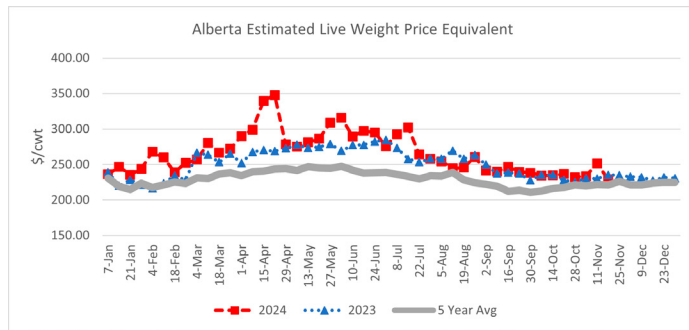
Ontario is the top sheep and lamb producing province in Canada with nearly 31 per cent of total inventory as of July 1, 2024, at 320,300 head. Alberta is second with 226,700 head and Quebec is a close third at 211,100 head. Given Ontario’s market dominance, it remains the benchmark market for sheep and lamb pricing in Western Canada. Differences between the Alberta and Ontario market should reflect the cost of shipment (freight, insurance, commission, etc.).

Data from Statistics Canada for the period January to September 2024 reports an average live weight lamb price of \$324.38 per hundredweight (cwt) in Ontario and \$256.41 per cwt in Alberta. A price spread of nearly \$68 per cwt is higher than what was experienced in 2023 for the same period when the difference was only \$22.72 per cwt. The narrower price spread last year is primarily attributed to an anomalous period in the summer of 2023 where there was an inverted price relationship. Lamb prices in Alberta were actually above prices in Ontario. This year’s price spread from January to September 2024 is once again more in line with the five-year average of \$61.17 per cwt. In early 2023, Alberta’s regional lamb processing capacity was maintained when Westfine Meats’ purchased North American Lamb Company (NALCO). A development that suggests potential for greater market stability long-term.



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

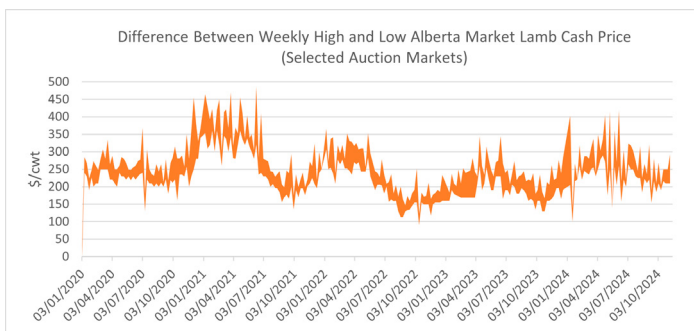
In the first half of 2024, the Alberta estimated weekly live lamb price equivalent was strong but is now tracking closer to the price levels of 2023. The average year-to-date price to November 15, 2024 of \$265.63 per cwt remains 5.4 per cent higher than the same period in 2023. Market volatility was more evident in 2024 as prices reached a record high at \$347.71 per cwt for the week of April 19, 2024, having risen from \$236.23 per cwt at the start of the year. Lamb prices this Fall followed a seasonal trend lower to \$229.05 per cwt for the week of November 15, 2024.



Source: Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

The graph below shows the high and low cash price range for market lamb at select auction markets in Alberta. Lamb prices at auction markets exhibited greater volatility in 2024 compared to previous years as well. Year-to-date (to November 15, 2024) prices ranged from an average low of \$220 per cwt to an average high of \$280.40 per cwt.

The 2024 price range spread of \$60.36 per cwt was 8.5 per cent wider than the same period in 2023.



Source: Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

Slaughter

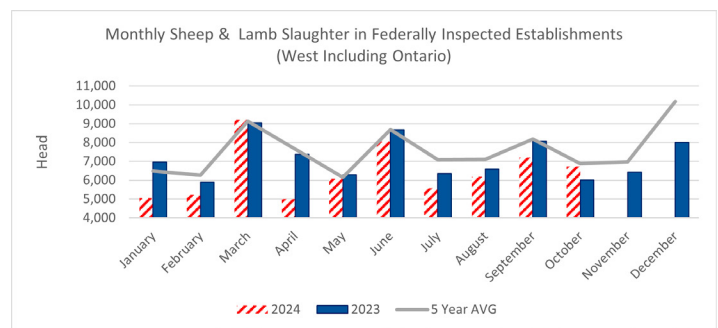
For the first ten months of 2024, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency reported 64,323 head of lamb and sheep slaughtered in federally inspected packing plants in the West (including Ontario), a 9.8 per cent decline from 2023 for the same period.

The Western Canada slaughter volume represented 50.9 per cent of the total Canadian federally inspected slaughter for this period. Economies of scale are important in the processing sector and data suggests that there is some excess capacity available.

Russell **Chloe**

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Source: Canadian Food Inspection Agency

As of September 2024, Canada imported 22,500 tonnes of fresh or chilled and frozen sheep and lamb meat (excluding offal) valued at \$211.6 million. Frozen bone in cuts made up the greatest share (over 40 per cent), followed by frozen boneless product (18.8 per cent), fresh or chilled bone in meat (18.2 per cent) and fresh or chilled boneless meat (10.5 per cent). The 2024 import volume was 27.4 per cent higher than the same period in 2023.

Global Situation

The November 2024 Food Outlook report by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations forecasts global meat production to reach 373 million tonnes in 2024, up 1.4 per cent from 2023. Ovine meat comprises 17 million tonnes, up 0.2 per cent from 2023. World trade in Ovine meat for 2024 is estimated at 1.3 million tonnes, up 5.4 per cent over 2023. Meat prices have trended upward through 2024 due to strong global import demand and improving economic conditions. Animal disease outbreaks and geopolitical tensions are suggested to have exerted upward pressure on prices as well.

Australia and New Zealand are the two largest exporters of sheep meat. FAO forecasts the Oceania region as exporting 1.07 million tonnes of ovine meat in 2024: with over 63 per cent coming from Australia and nearly 37 per cent from New Zealand. The Australian Bureau of Statistics reports sheep slaughtered in the third quarter of 2024 down 3.4 per cent to 3.0 million head. Mutton production in the same quarter also decreased by 6.2 per cent to 75,121 tonnes, while lambs slaughtered decreased 8.4 per cent to 6.3 million head and lamb meat production de-



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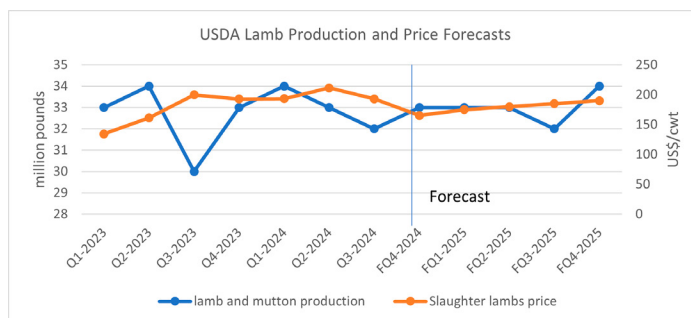
creased 10.6 per cent to 148,060 tonnes. Despite a slowdown in lamb production in the third quarter, Australian lamb production may still reach record levels for 2024 due to the strong second quarter performance, which broke records.

FAO forecasts European ovine meat exports at 114,000 tonnes in 2024, with the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland comprising over 70 per cent of the export market. Europe is also a large importer of ovine meat (forecast at 210,000 tonnes), second only to the Asian region (forecast at 815,000 tonnes with China importing 420,000 tonnes) but following closely in third is North America (187,000 tonnes with the U.S. importing 156,000 tonnes).

According to Euromeat news, EU sheep and goat production declined by 7.4 per cent in the first half of 2024 compared to previous year. Production in 2024 is expected to fall by five per cent, despite record high prices. This decline is attributed to unfavourable weather conditions and grass availability. Production is forecast to decline by one per cent in 2025.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) reports an average slaughter lamb price for the third quarter of 2024 of US\$192.98 per cwt, a decrease of 8.8 per cent from the second quarter. USDA is forecasting a further decline in lamb prices in the fourth quarter, projected to be US\$165 per cwt, however, forecasts for 2025 suggest a gradual recovery to US\$190 per cwt by the end of next year.

There are over 5 million head of sheep in the United States, with Texas, California, Colorado, Wyoming and Utah as the largest producing states. Approximately 50 per cent of the U.S. sheep inventory is within areas that have recently experienced drought. The ewe flock and replacement lambs were down 1 to 2 per cent in 2024. Lamb production estimates by USDA indicate a gradual decline from 34 million pounds for the first quarter of 2024 to 32 million pounds in the third quarter. Production is forecast to seasonally increase in the fourth quarter to 33 million pounds and hold for the first half of 2025. U.S. lamb production for 2025 is forecast to be similar to 2024 levels.



As 2024 draws to a close, the Alberta lamb market outlook appears solid. Inflation pressures are easing, interest rates are lower and there is some opportunity for higher prices with the upcoming holiday season.

Producer Spotlight: Insights from Our Producers

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

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

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

- **Your Farming Operation:** Describe your operation, including the number of animals, your experience in the industry, the breeds you raise, and whether you use an intensive or extensive system. Highlight what you do best, regardless of the size of your flock.
- **Personal Perspective:** What are you passionate about in the sheep industry? Why did you join the industry, and what keeps you interested? Discuss any topic that excites you—innovation,

wool, breeding, feed, medication versus holistic approaches, machinery, tips and tricks, or any other area of interest.

• **Future Plans:** What are your aspirations for the future of your sheep operation? Is there something you hope to see in the industry? Share your personal goals and ambitions for your farm.

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

Submission Deadlines:

- **Spring Edition:** Article submission deadline: March 13, 2025
- **Summer Edition:** Article submission deadline: June 12, 2025

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

Thank you!

Sheep & Goat Vegetation Management Course

A new course, “Targeted Grazing: Sheep and Goat Vegetation Management with Unique Grazing Scenarios”, developed by Alberta Lamb Producers (ALP) with Lakeland College (LLC), is nearing completion.

A few years ago, LLC and ALP began collaborations to create a curriculum to address the need for unique grazing scenarios and businesses utilizing sheep and goats for weed control and vegetation management.



Photo Credit: Emily Wood

The objective of the first four modules is to provide a foundation of knowledge related to grazing principles, stockmanship, animal welfare, predation and development of a business plan. This information benefits new producers as it will provide resources and tools to help build a successful operation. For experienced producers, the first four modules will serve as a great refresher and fill in gaps to further their previous knowledge. The course will be beneficial for all sheep and goat producers, regardless of location and operation differences.

The fifth module is the most captivating and attractive part of this course. Its purpose is introducing producers to cutting-edge ways to graze sheep & goats under unique grazing opportunities. These opportunities are being offered by various businesses’ and companies’ desire to reduce reliance on mechanical and chemical vegetation management costs, while improving public perception in an environmental context. This curriculum aims to enable producers with knowledge and confidence to tap into various new business ventures. Such knowledge positions potential students well to expand flock numbers without having to buy more land.

The course takes approximately 10-15 hours to complete and will be accredited, online, self-paced, and housed on the college’s D2L platform (Desire to Learn). Course materials will provide learners with information in both visual (video, photos) as well as narrative (testimonials, case studies, FAQs) formats.

The 5 modules in this course are:

- Module 1 Grazing Principles
- Module 2 Grazing Tame & Native Forage
- Module 3 Stockmanship & Animal Welfare
- Module 4 Building a Business Plan
- Module 5 Unique Grazing

The focus of the first module contains essential grazing principles such as determining carrying capacity, working with water systems, managing guardian animals, dealing with parasites, and monitoring rangeland & pasture health.



The second module is a more in-depth look at how to manage forage plants. Specific topics include increasers and decreaseers, range condition, stocking rate factors, time of grazing based on plant stage, and how to avoid overgrazing. The third module focuses on animal behavior and handling practices. Main topics include grazing behavior, flight zone, properly moving sheep, and animal transportation.

The fourth module covers the basics of building a business plan. It is the perfect starting place for a new business, or an existing business that wants to take financial and business planning more seriously.

The fifth module includes case studies and information on 5 types of unique grazing opportunities. These unique grazing types are solar farms (range voltaics), cut block, urban, forest, and weed management. Included in this module are case study interviews with producers (flock managers) and stakeholders (landowners) that have been involved in the five types of unique grazing.

The case studies provide practical insight into setting up a unique grazing operation for success by ensuring all aspects and any necessary contracts are considered.

This new course will be starting on January 15, 2025 (second intake on January 29, 2025).

Limited spots are available so please reach out by email to admin@ablamb.ca to register and avoid disappointment!



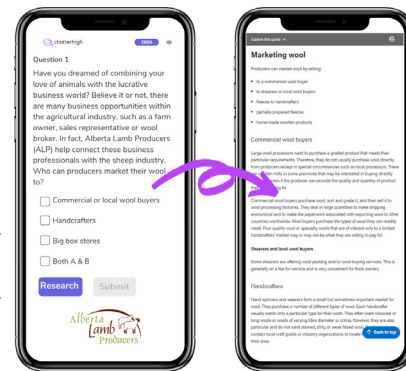
Let's Learn About Lamb

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reers in Alberta's sheep industry through two engaging activities.

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- **Let's Learn About Lamb Module:** Part of the Agriculture Industry Pathways in Alberta course, this module lets students take a deeper look into the sheep industry, uncovering specialized knowledge and career pathways.

Why ChatterHigh?

ChatterHigh is an innovative, gamified platform that helps students explore careers and post-secondary opportunities in a fun and interactive way. With engaging quizzes and personalized learning, students can discover careers they may never have considered, while post-question surveys refine their interests.

About the Agriculture Industry Pathways in Alberta Course

This collaborative course introduces students to the diverse and exciting opportunities within Alberta's agriculture industry. By exploring industry websites and modules like:

- Curious About Canola (by Alberta Canola)
- Possibilities in Pork Production (by Alberta Pork)
- Let's Learn About Lamb (by Alberta Lamb Producers)

Students can imagine their future in agriculture while accessing valuable career, economic, and post-secondary resources.

Explore the Let's Learn About Lamb Module

In this module, students will:

- Learn how to maintain, shear, and trace sheep.
- Understand the sheep industry's contribution to Alberta's economy.
- Discover exciting career paths in the sheep and lamb industry.

Start Exploring Today!

Getting started on ChatterHigh is simple:

1. Visit www.chatterhigh.com and [create an account](#).

2. Access the Let's Learn About Lamb module through the [Agriculture Industry Pathways in Alberta](#) course in the Mindful Modules section.

Embark on a journey of discovery and inspire students to consider dynamic careers in agriculture!

Young Agrarians: Growing the Next Generation of Farmers



Looking for some extra support while you start and run your farm business? Young Agrarians (YA) is the largest educational resource network for new and young ecological farmers in Canada.

Offering farmer-to-farmer programming to grow the next generation of food growers, YA works to create access to education, training, land, business mentorship and resources. The long-term goal of YA is to increase the number of viable and ecological farmers in Canada.

Why? According to Statistics Canada, the average age of farmers in Canada is increasing by one year every year, with the average age in 2021 at 56 years old. YA aims to help bring new farmers into the industry by providing training, education, and networking opportunities to those new to agriculture in order to help keep our Canadian agriculture industry alive and thriving.

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ing. Since YA began in 2012, the network of participating farmers and collaborating organizations has grown at the grassroots level from coast-to-coast. Over 20,000 participants have participated in YA's 500+ educational events, building community and becoming empowered by supporting each other. Each year, we work with approximately 2,000 farmers at all different stages of their journey in farming and starting farms.

YA operates both online and offline programming to build the food and farm community. Currently, YA programs are focused on Western Canada: BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, however YA's networks are national from coast to coast.



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Business Mentorship Network (Online and In-Person When Possible)

This mentorship program pairs new and seasoned farm business owners together in a one-year long mentorship relationship to cultivate the skills required for running ecologically sustainable and financially viable businesses.

Through one-on-one mentorship, peer networks and online workshops, new farmers develop confidence in running their farm businesses and build a network of supportive farmers to call on if needed. Mentorships are supported by an 8-week online webinar series focused on business and financial management, marketing, farm taxes, and risk management.

The Business Mentorship Network is currently accepting mentee applications for 2025, and is always looking for new mentors. Mentors are compensated for their time and are supported with online training.

Webinars (Online)

YA hosts various webinars throughout the year about topics related to farming and farm business. Watch our social media and newsletter to hear about these free, online events.

Past topics have included Indigenous food sovereignty, business planning, co-operatives, land access, and farm start-up. Sign up for our newsletter online: youngagrarians.org/newsletter

Head over to our website to learn more:

www.youngagrarians.org

What We Offer:

Apprenticeship Program (In-Person)

Our apprenticeships involve matching and placing apprentices on host farms for a summer-long working, teaching and learning experience. Apprentices work on host farms while learning the skills needed to get on land and contribute to the growing movement of regenerative agriculture.

Our Apprenticeship Program is looking for host farmers and ranchers in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba who are ready to invest in the next generation of regenerative land stewards.

Want to know if you and your farm or ranch is the right fit? Head to our website to learn more and apply: <https://youngagrarians.org/tools/apprenticeships/apprenticeship-become-a-mentor/>

Business Bootcamp (Online)

The Business Bootcamp is an eleven-week online course, packed full of content and activities that guides participants through writing a farm business plan.

The Business Bootcamp covers everything from writing a mission statement to creating a financial plan to defining a marketing strategy. The Business Bootcamp is structured to facilitate farmer-to-farmer learning and over 420 people have taken this course since 2021.





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Blogs (Online)

YA maintains a vibrant blog on helpful topics such as wage subsidies, applying for farm grants in Canada, and software tools for small farms.

U-Map (Online)

The U-Map is an interactive map on the YA website that includes land listings, farm job opportunities, farm businesses, farm business resources, and much more! Check out the U-Map at: maps.youngagrarians.org



Environmental Farm Plan Webinar

Alberta Lamb Producers is pleased to offer the opportunity to learn more about Environmental Farm Plans, and to get started on yours.

Walk through the first two chapters of your EFP workbook with the help of an EFP Technician. Join us for this interactive virtual workshop! Registration required.

<https://www.albertaefp.com/event-calendar/alberta-lamb-producers-virtual-efp-workshop-216/>

Sheep 101 Webinar

The Alberta Lamb Producers, in collaboration with Leduc County, Farming Forward, the Government of Saskatchewan, and RDAR (Results Driven Agriculture Research), is excited to announce the upcoming Sheep 101 Webinar. This event is scheduled to take place on February 5th, 2025, from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM and promises to be an invaluable resource for anyone interested in sheep farming and management.

The webinar will cover a wide range of topics essential for both novice and experienced sheep farmers. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn the basics of raising sheep, including best practices in sheep care, nutrition, breeding, and disease management. The event aims to provide practical knowledge and hands-on experience to help improve the productivity and health of sheep herds.

Please note that registration closes the day before the webinar. For more details and to register for the event, please visit the official Eventbrite page: Sheep 101 Webinar. <https://Goats-sheep-AlpacasFFA.eventbrite.ca>

Don't miss this chance to enhance your sheep farming skills and network with fellow producers and experts in the field. We look forward to seeing you there!

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Funding may be available from GoA for producers to test their sheep and goats for Movi in high-risk areas of the province

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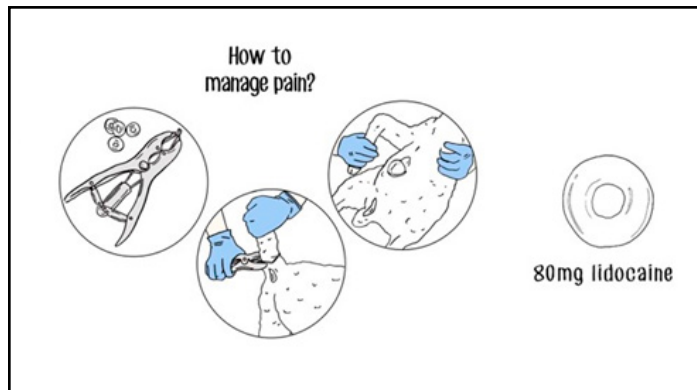
Through collaborations with Alberta Lamb Producers, Chinook Contract Research Inc. (CCR) has received producer requests to incorporate an insect repellent to provide fly strike control into our novel anesthetic delivering elastration ligation band (the Care-Ring™).

The sheep blowfly, *Lucilia cuprina*, is the primary cause of fly strike in sheep. Fly strike is a serious financial and animal welfare issue for the sheep industry, costing up to \$175 million per annum due to production losses (i.e., reduced wool growth and bodyweight gain, and animal death) and costs associated with treatment and prevention. Fly strike control relies largely on the use of insecticides. These chemicals are generally applied as prophylactic treatments given in advance of fly waves, although some are also used as dressing treatments on existing strikes. A product that provides long-term fly strike prevention in combination with local anesthesia at the targeted site of required action would offer tremendous advantages to the industry.

This project supports the feasibility and investigation into the potential for the application of a new innovation to an existing made in Alberta technology. If successful, the fly-strike preven-

tion version of the Care-Ring™ would represent a tremendous advantage to producers by offering a product that provides pain mitigation and fly-strike prevention in a single step, while reducing systemic insecticide use in the environment.

Please contact info@ccr01.com for more information.



This product is currently available as the LidoBand™ through our partner Alberta Veterinary Laboratories Ltd as a prescription product.

1. Lane J, Jubb T, Shephard R, Webb-Ware J and Fordyce G, Priority list of endemic diseases for the red meat industries. Project Report BAHE0010 Meat & Livestock Australia Limited, Sydney, 282 pp.(2015).
2. Kotze AC and James PJ, Control of sheep flystrike: what's been tried in the past and where to from here. Aust Vet J 100:1-19 (2022).

The Effectiveness of 2 Sheep Respiratory Vaccines in Reducing Pneumonia Losses & Improving Performance and Carcass Traits in Pre-weaned & Weaned Lambs

Joyce Van Donkersgoed, Megan Gardner

Pneumonia is the largest cause of mortality in commercial sheep operations globally. Based on previous mortality research conducted in Alberta in a large commercial operation, *Mannheimia haemolytica* was the most common bacteria cultured from pneumonic lungs, followed by *Mycoplasma* species. With increasing pressure on the livestock industry to reduce antimicrobial use, alternatives, such as vaccines, are needed to reduce the occurrence and cost of key production limiting diseases. Currently, there are no licensed commercial vaccines available in Canada to reduce pneumonia in sheep.

Two large independent commercial vaccine trials were conducted in a large breeding to finishing sheep operation in Alberta, to test the effectiveness of an imported European sheep respiratory vaccine and to test the effectiveness of an experimental sheep subunit respiratory vaccine developed by the Vaccine Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO). The imported vaccine was called Ovipast-Plus and it was a killed bacterin that

contained various strains of 2 bacteria, *M. haemolytica* and *Bibersteinia trehalosi*. The experimental vaccine from VIDO was a subunit vaccine containing 2 proteins (antigens) from *M. haemolytica*, leukotoxin A (LtxA) and transferrin binding protein B (TbpB), which previous research had shown to be effective in reducing experimentally induced pneumonia in sheep.

In the 1st randomized controlled field trial with the Ovipast Plus bacterin, 3619 breeding ewes were randomly allocated to either receive 2 doses of the vaccine at 6- and 2-weeks pre-lambing, or to remain as unvaccinated controls. The purpose of vaccinating the ewes pre-lambing was to increase colostral immunity to the bacteria to reduce pre-weaning lamb pneumonia. Lambs from vaccinated ewes ($n = 2511$) were vaccinated twice, at weaning at 8 weeks of age when they entered growing pens, and then again, 3-5 weeks later, when they entered finishing pens. Lambs from unvaccinated ewes remained unvaccinated ($n = 2543$). Lambs were housed separately in feeding pens by vaccination status and followed from birth to slaughter at SunGold Specialty Meats in Innisfail. All ewes and lambs that died during the trial were necropsied and samples of lung from lambs that died from pneumonia were sent to the Ontario Veterinary College for bacterial culture. Any sick lambs were treated according to the flock veterinarian's health protocol, which was the same protocol for vaccinated and unvaccinated lambs. Health data were recorded in a computerized health management software system called FeedIT (ITS Global, Okotoks). Barn and feedlot staff were unaware of the vaccination status of lambs to ensure they did not bias the trial.

The results of the Ovipast Plus vaccine trial are shown in Table 1. Vaccination of ewes pre-lambing and their lambs at weaning did not reduce pre or post weaning pneumonia specific treatment rates and overall and pneumonia specific mortality rates, or improve growth performance, compared to unvaccinated lambs born to unvaccinated ewes. Vaccinated lambs had more yield grade 1 carcasses and lower back fat than unvaccinated lambs; however, these differences were not enough to offset the costs of vaccinating the ewes and lambs.

In the 2nd field trial evaluating the effectiveness of VIDO's experimental subunit LtxA and TbpB vaccine, 3500 ewes were randomly allocated into 2 vaccines groups, with half the ewes receiving 2 doses of the vaccine at 6- and 2-weeks pre-lambing, and the other half remaining unvaccinated. Similarly, as described above in the Ovipast Plus bacterin trial, lambs from vaccinated ewes ($n = 2421$) were vaccinated at weaning and boosted a few weeks later with the experimental vaccine and lambs from unvaccinated ewes remained unvaccinated ($n = 2453$). All other trial procedures were the same as described in the Ovipast Plus bacterin trial above. The results of the VIDO trial are presented in Table 2. VIDO's vaccine did not reduce postweaning pneumonia treatment rates, pre or post weaning overall or pneumonia specific mortality rates, growth performance, or carcass traits. Vaccinated lambs pre-weaning had slightly higher pneumonia treatment rates than unvaccinated lambs.

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Based on the results of these 2 large commercial field trials, neither vaccine was cost-effective in reducing pneumonia treatment or mortality rates, or in improving growth performance or carcass traits. Failure to see significant vaccine effects may be because 1) the strains of bacteria in the vaccines were not those that caused pneumonia at this commercial operation, 2) the vaccines did not induce a protective immune response, 3) the ewes and lambs had pre-existing protective proteins (antibodies) to the bacteria; thus, a difference could not be seen between vaccinated and unvaccinated lambs. *Mannheimia haemolytica* was the most common bacteria isolated from lungs of lambs that died from pneumonia, but there were other pathogenic bacteria often present in the lungs. The other bacteria commonly isolated were *Mycoplasma arginina* and *M. ovipneumoniae*. It is plausible that a respiratory vaccine will only be cost-effective in the field if it also contains protective antigens against these 2 *Mycoplasma* bacteria. Currently there are no effective *M. ovipneumoniae* or *M. arginina* vaccines on the market for sheep. We did not collect blood from lambs before and after colostrum consumption and vaccination or from ewes before and after vaccination to evaluate levels of protective proteins (antibodies) to *M. haemolytica* to see if vaccination and colostrum consumption increased these antibody levels above pre-existing levels of antibodies in the ewes and lambs from natural infection. An experimental challenge study was conducted at VIDO with the same experimental vaccine and Ovipast Plus bacteria just before the VIDO field trial and blood samples were



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collected. VIDO's vaccine, but not the Ovipast Plus bacterin, induced high levels of protective antibodies against LtxA and TbpB. It has been shown in both cattle and sheep that high levels of antibodies against leukotoxin are needed to reduce the risk of pneumonia caused by *M. haemolytica*. In a previous pneumonia experimental challenge study conducted at VIDO, an additional antigen, TbpA was also included in the subunit vaccine that reduced lamb mortality by 80%. This protective antigen, TbpA, could not be included in the vaccine used in the field trial here because of difficulties producing it in sufficient quantities. Further research is needed to see if this antigen can be produced in volume and if adding it to the subunit LtxA and TbpB vaccine will improve the effectiveness of the vaccine in the field.

So, at the end of the day, were these trials a waste of taxpayer and industry research dollars? The answer is no. What these 2 large, controlled vaccine field trials did answer was whether these 2 vaccines were cost effective to use in Canadian commercial sheep operations to reduce pneumonia losses, and information gleaned here provides direction for future vaccine research. The trials here provided some good production information on disease rates, growth performance, and carcass traits in commercial lambs, data which isn't currently available publicly. Additionally, these 2 trials consistently found some common factors which increased the risk of pneumonia. Knowledge of these risk factors may help producers reduce pneumonia losses through management changes.

In both trials, lambs with lower birth weight were at significantly higher risk of treatment and death from pneumonia. Those treated for pneumonia also had significantly lower growth rates, and weaning, growing, and finishing body weights, which resulted in longer days on feed to reach the same target slaughter weight, which results in increased costs of production.

As can be expected, ewes with more lambs born per litter, had lower birth weights per lamb. There has been a trend by some in the sheep industry to select for larger ewe litter sizes, but the results of these 2 large commercial field trials, and the authors experience, indicate that "more is not better" when it comes to litter size. At the end of the day, our management goal should be to have the ewe, lamb and raise her own 2 lambs to weaning, without human intervention. Lambing issues and removing extra lambs from their mothers to put in nurseries with automatic milk feeders or to hand bottle feed in pens, is very labor intensive. These practices also increase the risk of other health problems besides pneumonia, such as the spread of "orf" from contaminated worker hands or bottles, a disease which also negatively affects lamb health, welfare, and growth. The ewe only has so much colostrum to go around, so if she has a larger litter, there will be less colostrum per lamb available. Lambs with poorer maternal colostrum immunity are at higher risk of starvation, diarrhea, and pneumonia. While we can give supplemental colostrum to these extra lambs born per ewe, this practice increases costs of production due to increased labor needs and the cost of colostrum and milk supplements. Thus, genetic selection and breeding practices should proactively manage litter size, selecting ewes with litter sizes which she can raise herself, as this is best, from an animal health, welfare, and performance perspective, and from a labor and financial perspective.

In both vaccine trials, ram lambs were at higher risk of pneumonia treatment and death during various stages of growth than ewe lambs. As well, ram lambs had more pneumonia lesions in their lungs at slaughter, which is a common finding that CFIA veterinarians observe at slaughter, based on our conversations with them during these trials. This finding of a higher risk of pneumonia in males than females is common in many livestock species and humans. It is believed to be due to sex steroid hormones that directly affect immune responses to infection and vaccination. Even though ram lambs had higher losses from pneumonia, they still grew faster and had larger carcasses than ewe lambs. It is unknown if castrated ram lambs (wether) have higher pneumonia rates than ewe lambs. In this commercial sheep operation, the males were left intact because ram lambs grow faster than wethers due to the extra sex hormones, and the testicles have sale value at slaughter. Unlike the beef industry, there are no approved growth implants in sheep to offset performance and carcass losses from castration.

In both trials, pneumonia was the most common cause of treatment. Overall treatment rates were moderate during the pre-weaning phase but post-weaning, the treatment rates for pneumonia were much lower than what we would see in a beef feedlot with weaned calves, yet the death rates from pneumo-

nia in the lambs were high (Table 3). Pneumonia is not a disease that we can “treat” ourselves out of. Most fatal cases of pneumonia in sheep are “acute”, meaning they occur suddenly, often before the caretakers can see the lambs are sick and treat them. In feedlots, sick sheep are sometimes hard to see early in the course of disease, when treatment is most effective, and they can also be hard to remove from the pen and treat individually since they “mob”. Outbreaks of pneumonia also occur. While veterinarians can prescribe the use of metaphylactic antimicrobials on feedlot entry to reduce disease rates, these drugs are expensive and there is ongoing pressure from the public to reduce antimicrobial use in livestock operations, particularly metaphylactic use of drugs of importance in human medicine. The use of these drugs increases the development of antimicrobial resistance, which is a serious issue in humans and livestock, reducing the effectiveness of existing antimicrobials. It is unlikely that the livestock industry will get many “new” antimicrobials developed and licensed for use due to these global One Health concerns; therefore, as an industry, we need to use antimicrobials only when necessary, and ensure those we use are effective for the disease we are treating, and that we only use them in the right animal, at the right time, duration and frequency to preserve the effectiveness of existing antimicrobials and to ensure our continued access to them, because antimicrobial access is a privilege, not a right.

From a management perspective, the sheep industry needs to continue to find alternative ways to prevent pneumonia, rather than treat it. While use of vaccines makes the most sense, in these trials, most cases of pneumonia occurred in the feeder lambs shortly after weaning and feedlot entry. It is hard for any vaccine to create protective immunity immediately after administration at feedlot entry, as it takes 10-14 days usually for a protective immune response to develop, and if a booster dose of the vaccine is needed to generate protective immunity, as is required with most killed vaccines like the Ovipast Plus bacterin, that 2nd dose would be administered after most cases of disease occurred; thus, too late. Therefore, to significantly reduce pneumonia losses in feeder lambs, we need to focus more on management practices on-farm in the pre-weaning phase of life, by improving lamb birth weights and colostrum immunity, which will reduce pre-weaning diseases and improve weaning weights, until such time we find an effective vaccine that can be administered to ewes to boost specific colostrum immunity in neonatal lambs to pathogenic bacteria/viruses, and which can also be administered to pre-weaned lambs to boost their specific immunity to these infectious agents prior to feedlot entry. Vaccination then at feedlot entry would simply boost an existing immune response to preweaning vaccination and would most likely be more effective in reducing feedlot pneumonia losses. Continued research is needed to develop effective respiratory vaccines and to identify practical and cost-effective management practices and alternatives to antimicrobials that will reduce pneumonia losses in sheep.

For further information on the 2 vaccine trials, please refer to the 3 published scientific manuscripts below.

1. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.smallrumres.2024.107268>
2. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.smallrumres.2024.107269>
3. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/39219611/>

Acknowledgments: We would like to thank the North American Lamb Corporation for their help in conducting these trials, Drs. Bauman and Spinato from the Ontario Veterinary College, Dr. Jose Perez-Casal and Tracy Prysliak at VIDO, and the following agencies for financial support: Alberta Lamb Producers, Ontario Sheep Farmers, RDAR, Mitacs, and VIDO.



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Got a Great Idea? Here's What Happens Next By: Tara Klager

For producers looking to diversify income streams in a challenging economy, it's always tempting to look at the things you're already doing, identify potential and go from there. Sometimes new products come as a natural extension of a well-established business and other times they come like a bolt of lightning out of a clear blue sky.

For Jeff Jacobs, rancher and owner at Happy Valley Ranch near Magrath, what started as a simple saddle pad has evolved into



something much more. Originally envisioned as a homegrown workhorse for working cowboys, an innovative partnership has led to [the Unity F-10 Ultra saddle pad](#), the product of a three-year odyssey stretching from southern Alberta all the way to Ontario's manufacturing heartland in Mississauga to the front-lines of primetime Vegas big-stakes rodeo.

"We go way back with a guy that used to make saddle pads in the U.S.," Jacobs tells me. "He moved up into the Peace River Country and he met some of the guys at Wilson Colony that had [Rambouillet sheep](#). He said, 'Why don't we see if we can sell Rambouillet wool into a saddle pad so they did some tests and made some pads.'"

Well-known for fine wool, Rambouillet sheep are what happened when the Spanish Merino crossed the border into France. Once a common sheep breed for southern Alberta, in recent years numbers have dwindled to the point that Jacobs figures there's probably only 4000 or so of them left in the province. To him, finding a way to build a product based on the prized wool of the breed just made sense. Considered one of the wool breeds suitable for next-to-skin wear, Jacobs and his colleagues figured if it was good for people, it would be awesome for horses.

"Wool wicks the moisture better, keeps the pad softer, keeps the horse's back dry," he says. But while the wool itself was perfect for the job, the construction of the pads available on the market seemed to be less up to the task. Traditional two-piece wool pads can trap hair and dirt, may come apart with hard use and are prone to leaving a ridge where they join potentially soiling up the horse. [Enter Brand Felt](#).

"We collaborate with a lot of the farmers around here," says James Loftus, General Manager of Brand Felt in Mississauga. "It's kind of our specialty, in some respects." With a long history of making equestrian felt, Brand Felt had noticed the issue with the two-piece pads.

Although not a rider himself, Loftus could see the problem from a rider's perspective but even more so, from a manufacturing one. "We have sewing here but we try to avoid it as much

as possible," he says. "Sewing two-piece pads, it's an absolute nightmare."

For riders and horses, Loftus explains the problem. "What happens is, it shifts," he says. When you think of anybody that's an athlete, when they have equipment on, you want it to stay in place," he says using a hockey player's shin pad as an example. "When you're walking left-right-left-right on a horse, that saddle pad is walking too. They just... saw themselves apart."

With the Unity F-10 Pad – a thick piece of pure wool felt specially contoured with what the company calls the "Unity Technology" to accommodate the horse's withers – Brand Felt knew they had a good product. Jeff Jacobs had a good story and a unique wool. Together, they now have a sought-after product, perfect for working cowboys spending long hours in the saddle or casual riders out for a ramble. It's the combination of Jacob's wool and story and Brand Felt's decades of expertise that make it compelling. Compelling enough to get the attention of Campaign for Wool Canada.

A recent glossy video, part of the [Fabric of Canada](#) series, highlights the nature of Brand Felt's collaboration with Jacob's group of Rambouillet producers. Filled with sweeping prairie vistas, working cowboys on ranch horses and, of course, the sheep themselves, the video really tells the story of how the Unity Pad came together.

"As soon as they were talking to us about this, I'm like, 'Wait a minute. You're using it with cowboys and hearing about the product in the rodeo market, people who are on their horses all the time, using them quite intensely. It was just like, check, check, check. It's a Canadian story, a story of excellence,'" says Matthew Rowe, [CEO of Campaign for Wool Canada](#).

For some, looking at the timeline – three years for Brand Felt, two years for Jacobs – might feel a little intimidating but Rowe points out that's really quite normal.

"Part of having a successful innovation ecosystem is that you need willing partners on both sides," he says. "You know, willing to invest the time and money that it's going to take to bring something to the market."

"It's always going to be longer than you think because even with [something that seems] relatively straightforward, the process of actually building your supply chain and doing your test products, things always come up that you weren't expecting.

"I think people should be prepared to devote, you know, a couple of years. If it's less, that's great and if it's more, then you know, you're ready for it."

For Loftus at Brand Felt, any potential innovator needs to have the perseverance to see those timelines and obstacles and work through them. "Determination and patience," he says. "You never hit it out of the park on the first go. An initial idea is one thing but having to refine it and tweak it after the fact? That's the challenge."



He points out they're still adjusting the Unity Pad. "People are always looking for that 'little bit different.' You have to have that open mind. Instead of being, 'No, it's done, it's what it needs to be.' You have to be, 'You know, maybe they have something. Maybe we have to look at it a little bit differently.'

"You have to listen, sometimes R & D is a long process and not extremely profitable."

"I think desperation is the best innovator," he says. "To a certain extent, you have to get desperate. If you're not desperate, you're not operating out of your comfort zone so you're not going to innovate."

"You never know what you're going to get on the other side. Sometimes you get shot down but one of my business partners here says, 'No risk, no fun.' You have to take risk sometimes. If you don't, you won't find the relationships you need."

While Campaign For Wool Canada isn't providing any structured resources at this time, Rowe knows the whole process can be daunting and says they're more than happy to read emails from producers with questions and try to help find local resources.

"I think [people] will have an idea but then they don't know how to realize it or how to do it to scale – it's one thing to make a prototype and another to be able to commercialize it so it can be mass produced and be generating sufficient revenue to make it a business. These are absolutely areas that we can advise. If you have a new product and you are looking to find a way to have it made, or to at least be pointed in the right direction to someone who can help you, that's something we've done from the very beginning and will continue to do."

Jeff Jacobs is thinking about the next move for the Unity F-10. With a trip down to Las Vegas and the National Finals Rodeo.

"I think we were two-or-three hundred last year, if we did 500 this year, a thousand next year. . ." his voice trails away. "In the beginning, we took it to guys who were on two and three and four horses a day every day. We said, 'Hey wear this thing out and tell us what you think.' They've all bought their second and

third pads now, 'cause they like it so much. Those guys are a year and a half in and their pads still look beautiful.

So far, I haven't sent one out where they don't come back and say that's the best pad we've ever used."

SIDEBAR INFORMATION

Matthew Rowe, CEO of Campaign for Wool Canada has some good advice for would-be innovators and entrepreneurs –

1. Check out some of the courses and programs offered by universities and other post-secondary institutions for entrepreneurs. Futurepreneurs, a program for those under-40 might also have some good resources. Making use of the networks and connections that are part of these communities can help to bring a new idea from theoretical to practical.
2. Collaboration is KEY. In the wool world, gaps in infrastructure make relationships even more critical. Finding partners who can do something you can't, who are willing to work with you and provide expertise that's not available to you is a good way to fill in some of the missing pieces.
3. Recognize that not all partnerships are created equal. Sometimes, priorities, dynamics and reality-on-the-ground scenarios can change. Finding that good fit is important. Devote your time and attention to those partnerships where the alignment is there and try not to hold on too tightly to the ones where it isn't.
4. Expect resistance. "That's sort of the way the world is," he says. "When you approach someone with a completely new idea, nine times out of ten, unless they're a radically-innovative thinker, the initial response is 'No.'"
5. Recognize when you need expert help. "At a certain point, when there's money on the line, you need to pony up," he says. "Bring someone in who's an expert in that field to advise you on all the right steps." Whether that's a lawyer to advise on things like trademarks, patents, copyright – all different – or an accountant to help you keep track, you must protect your investment.
6. Find yourself a mentor. "Futurepreneur always told that their mentorship program was like their secret sauce in terms of success rates."
7. Build a comprehensive business plan – and then stick to it. "You save yourself a world of headache if you follow that process from beginning to finish," he says. "You will be much better positioned to move your business to the next step." And even if you don't have all the answers – yet – a good business plan will help you identify the questions. "Regardless of whether you're doing a formal program, whether you're going to a university, whether you're signing up with an entrepreneur resource, doing a planning process as your first step is critical to accessing other kinds of support."

New Parasitology Diagnostic Service at UCVM

The Diagnostic Services Unit (DSU) at the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM) is a fee-for-service veterinary diagnostic laboratory providing high-quality diagnostic testing and services to the veterinary community and researchers.

We are excited to announce that the new DSU Parasitology Service is now officially open for bovine sample submissions. We are also in the process of developing parasite testing for small ruminants (sheep and goats), with services expected to launch in early 2025.

To support this expansion, the DSU Parasitology Lab is currently seeking fecal samples from small ruminants (domestic sheep and goats) for test validation. We will accept samples to run free of charge from January 2-31, 2025 with a limit of three (3) samples per owner.

A DSU submission form filled out by your flock veterinarian must accompany the samples and results will be sent back to the submitting veterinarian. Please mark "Attn: Dr. Ammar, small ruminant parasitology validation" in the history box of the submission form.

Submission forms are available on the DSU website: <https://vet.ucalgary.ca/departments-units/dsu/submissions>

For more information, please reach out to us at parasitologyDSU@ucalgary.ca.

A Journey Down Under: My Experience at LambEx and Exploring Australia's Sheep Industry By: Hannah Logan

This summer, I had the privilege of traveling to Australia with the Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF) to attend the renowned LambEx conference and explore some of the most innovative farms in the Australian sheep industry. It was an inspiring journey that not only deepened my appreciation for the global sheep industry but also left me with a wealth of knowledge to bring back to my own farm.

Day One, Kangaroo Island: A Scenic Introduction

Our adventure began with a ferry ride to Kangaroo Island, where we visited Emu Ridge, a historic eucalyptus farm established in 1938. Witnessing their refining process, reminiscent of mint extraction in Canada, was a fascinating start.

Next, we hopped back on the bus and headed to Ella Matta Pastoral. Here, we enjoyed a delicious lunch while Jamie Heinrich gave us an insightful overview of the genomics and history of his White Suffolk, Maternal, and Poll Merino Stud. Ella Matta is a trailblazer in the development of the White Suffolk breed, be-



ing the first registered stud of its kind in the world. Their commitment to innovation and genetic improvement is evident. They boast an extensive repro program, AI'ing up to 1000 ewes annually via frozen and transferring dozens of embryos from top ewes each year. Ella Matta is highly producer-oriented, dedicating significant focus and effort to developing genetics that excel both commercially and in seedstock settings. Beyond that, sustainability is top of mind. The focus on sustainability and best management practices in Australian pasture-based production was truly impressive.

Touring their paddocks highlighted the differences in production methods contrast to Canada. Ewes are lambed on pasture and graze all year round. With quality fleeces selling for mid double digits, a wether can merit reaching the age of 3 or 4 as a profitable pasture management tool. This tour was one of the highlights of my trip thus far. To see the focus-on and extent of technologies utilized on-farm in sheep was very inspiring.

Our next stop was a commercial Merino property owned by the Kelly family. It was my first time seeing a shearing shed of such scale and precision. The sloped grate floors, among other fine-tuned details, greatly enhance the efficiency of the shearing process.

Lastly, we visited a wildlife park. Though not directly related to agriculture, I was thrilled to hold a koala and feed the kangaroos. Such a memorable experience, I had to include a few photos.

Day Two, Exploring Large-Scale Operations and Genetic Excellence

Day two took us to Thornby, a large-scale operation finishing over 100,000 lambs annually. On this day, the Next Generation group embarked on a bus trip to Thornby, a large-scale farming operation that finishes over 100,000 lambs annually. Thornby is responsible for finishing the lambs for the LambEx Carcass Competition, an event we eagerly anticipated in the coming days. At Thornby, lambs are fed for approximately 70 days, primarily on rations of lupins, barley, and oats, delivered through feeders. The feed mixer on site is equipped with a custom-mounted auger, designed to fill the feeders efficiently without the need to drive into each pen.



The lambs typically arrive at around 35 kg and are finished at 55 kg. Each pen measures about 30 by 50 meters, providing around 5 square meters per animal. Notably, each pen includes a tree row to offer shade for the livestock. After touring the feedlot, we visited Thornby's handling facility, where we observed the staff processing lambs before enjoying a delicious lunch in their state-of-the-art shearing shed. Given the high demand for shearers in Australia, Thornby places great emphasis on providing a comfortable working environment to retain top talent in this essential role.

Following lunch, we visited Inverbrackie Border Leicester Stud, an operation dedicated to breeding high-quality performance Border Leicesters. The stud uses performance recording to minimize guesswork, with many of their sires ranking in the top 1% of Australia's sheep genetics program.

During our visit, we toured their flock and handling facilities, delving into the intricacies of visual assessment and data collection. Mr. Arney, one of the leaders at Inverbrackie, introduced us to his latest innovation—a specially designed skid that enhances efficiency in lamb data collection. The skid includes a carousel for processing lambs, which then move to a weigh scale to complete the procedure. The tour was insightful, led by passionate individuals focused on improving breed traits with an emphasis on longevity.

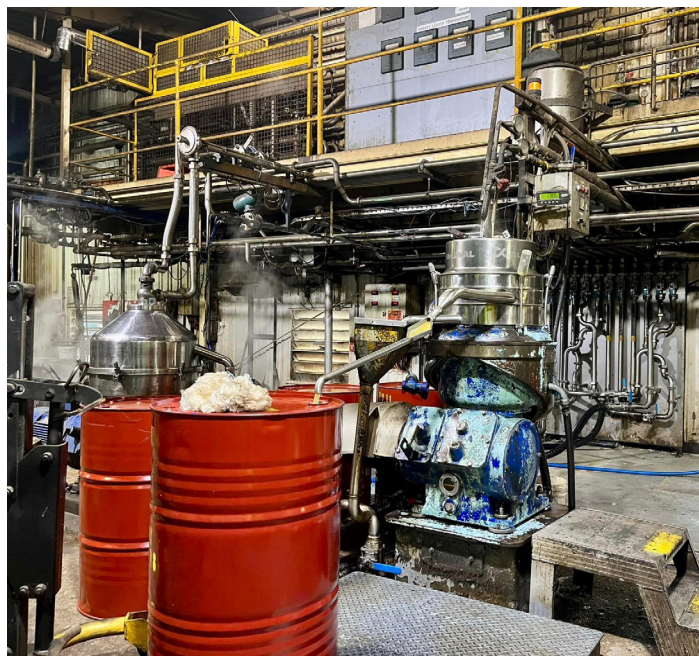
We concluded the evening with a delightful wine tasting and engaging conversations within the group. By this time, everyone was becoming more familiar with each other, and most of us North Americans were finally overcoming the jet lag. The sense of camaraderie grew as we realized just how much we could learn from one another. It was a privilege to exchange ideas with some of the brightest minds in the industry.

Day 3, Historic Roots and Modern Innovation

Day three marked the end of our farm tours before the much-anticipated LambEx conference kicked off. We began our day with a visit to Collinsville Stud Merinos, a renowned Merino breeding operation specializing in large-framed animals with impressive micron counts. Upon our arrival, we were welcomed near their expansive wool shed, where we were introduced to the operation's history and practices before heading to their main site. Here, we delved into their stock selection process, which emphasizes visual assessments of conformation and wool quality. The correctness of conformation has been consistently validated through their remarkable successes in the show ring over the past four years.

After our time at Collinsville, we traveled to Anlaby Station for a delightful lunch in the historic stable building. Anlaby, one of South Australia's oldest stud farms, traces its roots back to 1839 when Fredrick Dutton established a foundation flock of 8,000 sheep over 80 acres. The initial animals were walked nearly six months overland from New South Wales. By the early 1900s, Anlaby had reached its peak, boasting an impressive 70,000 sheep spread over 160,000 acres.

The estate, with its extensive homestead and gardens, once required the upkeep of 14 gardeners! However, as the 20th century progressed, the flock gradually dwindled, and the property fell into disrepair. In 2004, the property was purchased, including the last remaining 120 sheep from the historic operation.



Since then, many of the historic buildings have been restored, and a successful luxury wool brand has emerged from the growing flock of 2,000 sheep. The property now also hosts year-round events such as weddings. During our lovely lamb meal, we listened to a panel discussion that highlighted the industry's challenges, successes, and operational strategies. Following lunch, we browsed the shop and treated ourselves to some of the beautiful wool products available.

Our final stop for the day was Michell, Australia's oldest and largest wool processor and exporter. We toured their facilities and learned about the intricate processes of washing, cleaning, categorizing, and transforming wool into exportable products. It was awe-inspiring to witness the sheer volume of wool in their queue and the quantities of lanolin extracted, filling red barrels by the dozens.

The LambEx Experience

LambEx, the world's premier sheep, lamb, and wool forum, brought together over 1,500 delegates for three days of learning and networking. The conference featured a diverse lineup of keynote speakers, covering topics that resonated with everyone in the industry, offering valuable insights and takeaways.

Day One:

The Next Gen group was warmly welcomed via invites to a special function, giving us the chance to connect and socialize with some of Australia's most influential figures in the sheep industry. The afternoon was filled with informative Tec Talks and a bustling trade show, where we discovered innovative products and practices. One standout was learning about Saltbush, a plant used to reclaim saline-rich soils while providing forage for sheep. True to its name, it has a distinctly salty taste and is even used as a garnish in culinary dishes. We also got to experience a live export ship through VR, thanks to The Livestock Collective, such an eye-opening experience!

Day Two:

We dived into a series of plenary sessions that tackled crucial topics such as health, industry trends, consumer preferences, and emerging technologies. Brett Stuart's presentation on the economic health of the industry was particularly insightful, emphasizing the need for adaptation in the global marketplace. The Global Sheep Producers Forum Next Gen Group hosted a dynamic roundtable discussion on encouraging new and young producers in the industry.

We also enjoyed thought-provoking presentations from experts like Erin Smith from the University of New England on lamb survivability, Prof. Jennie Pryce on genomic studies for reducing methane emissions, and Dr. William Ven Wettere from the University of Adelaide on the cost-benefit analysis of heat's impact on lamb production.

Phil Hynd's talk on bio-harvesting wool—a promising emerging technology—left us excited about the future of our indus-

try. The day concluded with a spectacular gala supper, featuring some of the best lamb I've ever tasted, fantastic entertainment, and late-night networking that extended into the early hours.

Day Three:

We began with an enlightening breakfast seminar by Dr. Jim Walsh of MSD Animal Health, who delved into the psychology of sheep and how to optimize production on individual operations. The day was spent exploring the trade fair one last time and listening to more incredible speakers before the conference's closing remarks.

The Canadian Sheep Federation delegates ended the day by toasting the experience with a beautiful sunset on the patio and a fine bottle of Australian wine. That evening, the Next Gen group gathered for a final dinner hosted by the Australian Sheep Producers. The room buzzed with excitement of new-found lifelong friendships forged during this incredible week.

Gratitude and Reflection

As my journey came to an end, I was filled with gratitude for the opportunity to learn from some of the brightest minds in the industry. A heartfelt thank you to the Sheep Producers Australia, CSF, and everyone involved in making this experience unforgettable.

I look forward to applying these lessons to my own operation and reconnecting with everyone in the future.



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Sheep Ranching Empires in the Old American West

Size of Industry Challenged Cattle Culture Mythology

By Will Verboven

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Whilst travelling the wide-open San Luis Valley in southwest Colorado, one notes roadside signs acknowledging the historic role of the once enormous Hispanic-dominated sheep grazing industry in the area. The vast numbers were eye-opening, with one sign mentioning a long-ago loss of a 3,500 flock in a sandstorm. One also notices the presence of old wool collection warehouses along a railway line. Yet today, in this vast area, sheep flocks of any size are rarely seen – albeit not many cattle either. This historic Colorado curiosity was revealed in a book “The Woolly West” by Andrew Gulliford. It’s a remarkably insightful and detailed book describing the sheep industry’s historic role in Colorado and the adjacent American States. Large-scale sheep grazing was pioneered by Hispanic families in the 1700s; they were the first non-indigenous settlers in the area. Hispanic families and subsequent Basque, Spanish and Greek immigrant settlers became the West’s principal sheep owners and herders to this day. Due to the favourable geography, sheep-preferred vegetation, climate and grazing logistics, much of the western slopes of the Colorado Rockies were soon inundated with hundreds of thousands of sheep in the general area. The expansion was mind-boggling and happened over a relatively short period – about 50 years. One ponders how this happened.

It was all about money – sheep in the American West between 1860 and 1930 consistently made fortunes for their owners. Unlike cattle, where open-range steers took 4 years to be ready for market, sheep had an immediate return on their investment from the annual wool and fat lamb crops. Wool was the real money-maker – prices averaged 50 to 80 cents a pound – ironically, that was much more money than wool is worth today. Add in lamb sales, and sheep were profitable indeed. Real money was made in low production costs – sheepherders cost \$30 a month, and grazing land was free until the late 1890s. The latter is where sheepmen came into conflict with cattlemen – both competed for free grazing on the same public lands. In most of the American West, public land was open to unregulated free grazing by anyone with a herd of cattle or a flock of sheep. The inevitable was bound to happen – massive overgrazing occurred that destroyed millions of acres of native grasses and forbs that have not recovered to this day.

Wars broke out between cowboys and sheepherders, with the latter getting the worst of the carnage. An estimated 500 to 600 mainly anonymous sheepherders were killed by murderous cattlemen. Herders were at a disadvantage. They were usually alone on the range and were mostly illiterate young Hispanics or Basque and Greek immigrants, most of whom spoke little

English. It got so bad that wealthy sheep owners once marched a flock of 21,000 sheep and 100 armed riders straight through prime cattle grazing areas as a show of strength. By the late 1890s, owners also armed herders with the latest Winchester rifles and pistols to shoot back at marauding cowboys. Yes, there was a wild west in the mountains of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. The range wars ended in the early 1900s when the US Forest Service took over range management, and cattle and sheep owners were allotted specific grazing permits. It was also the first time sheep and cattle owners became united in their outrage against the US federal government - for the first time, both groups had to pay grazing fees for public land use.

However, the end came quickly for big sheep flocks grazing in the Colorado mountains. Synthetics killed the price of wool forever, and the changing mandate of managing public lands favoured conservation and recreational use over sheep and cattle grazing. It was death by a hundred cuts – regulatory cuts – government land managers kept instituting ever more onerous environmental regulations that made grazing sheep and cattle on public land uneconomical. It worked - at one time, there were 40 million sheep in the US, mainly in the West. Today, a hundred years later, less than 9 million remain.

Ironically, removing grazing animals and suppressing fires have caused mountain meadows to become infested with invasive aspen trees, weeds and brush. Now, there is a train of thought that the solution may be returning sheep grazing to those infested meadows to preserve the ecology. But it’s too late; changing markets and government conservation policies have driven almost all of the old sheep ranching families out of the business.

The irony of it all. Will Verboven is an ag opinion writer and policy advisor.



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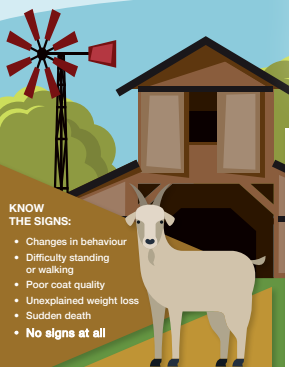
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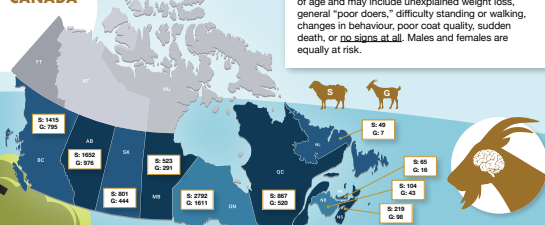


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- Difficulty standing or walking
- Poor coat quality
- Unexplained weight loss
- Sudden death
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NUMBER OF SHEEP & GOAT FARMS IN CANADA*



WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF SCRAPIE?

Clinical signs appear in animals over 12 months of age and may include unexplained weight loss, general "poor doers," difficulty standing or walking, changes in behaviour, poor coat quality, sudden death, or **no signs at all**. Males and females are equally at risk.

WHAT WOULD A SCRAPIE-FREE FUTURE LOOK LIKE?

Producers could:

- travel with sheep and goats to exhibitions;
- have more export opportunities for sheep, goats and their products;
- have better access to international genetics.

HOW CAN SCRAPIE BE ERADICATED FROM CANADA?

The goal of Canada's National Scrapie Eradication Program (NSEP) is to eliminate classical scrapie from the national sheep flock and goat herd. The NSEP involves collaboration among producers, industry, veterinarians, laboratories, and governments, and includes:

1. Scrapie surveillance system - Free testing for sheep and goats over 12 months old and no enrollment required
2. Mandatory on-farm disease response (in positive herds and flocks)
3. Scrapie Flock Certification Program (SFCP) - A voluntary program where enrolled producers pay fees and follow specific standards to achieve scrapie negligible risk status for their own herd or flock's wellbeing, to trade within Canada and/or export

WHAT IS SCRAPIE?

Scrapie is a rare disease, affecting the central nervous system of goats and sheep. Similar to bovine spongiform encephalopathy in cattle and chronic wasting disease in elk and deer, scrapie has no cure, and is always fatal in infected animals. There is no known connection between scrapie and human health.

HOW DOES SCRAPIE SPREAD?

Scrapie spreads through direct contact with an infected animal's saliva, urine, feces, blood, or birthing fluids. Indirect infection can occur if animals live or spend time in, or ingest anything from, a contaminated environment, such as a barn or pasture. Infected animals may not show signs for years, unknowingly spreading the disease to others.

CAN WE TEST FOR SCRAPIE?

Scrapie is detected in the brain and lymph nodes of deceased animals. No individual live animal test is currently available.

DO PRODUCERS HAVE TO PAY FOR TESTING?

No. If one of your adult goats or sheep has died, there is no cost to you for testing.

HOW CAN PRODUCERS LEAD THE CHARGE AGAINST SCRAPIE?

You can participate in routine scrapie surveillance. You can also practice good biosecurity (e.g. closed herd, safe lambing/kidding practices) and consider scrapie-resistant genetics when breeding.

HOW DO I SUBMIT A SAMPLE?

Call your CFIA district office or 1.800.442.2342 to submit a sample if an animal over 12 months old or is euthanized on your farm.

If you are enrolled in the SFCP and wish to also access the national surveillance system, you must inform your accredited veterinarian when an animal dies. They are responsible for ensuring sample collection and submission, and must coordinate testing with the CFIA.

DO I HAVE TO REPORT IF I SUSPECT SCRAPIE?

Yes, Scrapie is a reportable disease in Canada, so you must contact the CFIA if you suspect an animal is infected.

IS THERE COMPENSATION PROVIDED IF ONE OF MY ANIMALS IS ORDERED TO BE EUTHANIZED BY THE CFIA TO TEST FOR SCRAPIE?

Yes, if your animal is ordered to be euthanized, compensation is available, based on an evaluation.

In the rare event your animal tests positive, you can learn more about CFIA's disease response on our website: canada.ca/scrapie



REGISTRATION FORM

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

Lakeland
COLLEGE



Start Date: Wednesday, January 15. **End Date:** April 15, 2025 (access to course material on D2L will expire by September 1, 2025. **Please download all materials prior to expiry date).** **Accredited Course created by:** Lakeland College and ALP. **Online Course Hosted On:** Desire to Learn (D2L) Platform with Lakeland College. **Course Cost \$250.00:** Registration fee must be paid by January 14, 2025. **Register:** by emailing admin@ablamb.ca. Note: course registration on a first come first served basis with 15 spots available for this cohort

First Name

Last Name

Farm Name (If Applicable)

Full Mailing Address

Phone Number

Email Address (address where Lakeland College will send your course log in information)

Would you like to attend the initial student meeting on Wednesday, January 15th at 11:00 AM

- Yes, I will be attending
 No, I will not be attending

Please check off any online monthly check-ins you will be attending where we answer specific questions:

- Wednesday, February 19, 11:00 AM (Tentative) - Module 1 and 2
 Wednesday, March 12, 11:00 AM (Tentative) - Module 3 and 4
 Wednesday, April 2, 11:00 AM (Tentative) - Module 5

Due Dates For Modules: Module 1 and 2 - Feb. 26 | Module 3 and 4 - March 19 | Module 5 - April 15

Participant Signature

Date Signed

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

TARGETED GRAZING COURSE: 2025

CLASSIFIEDS

Selling or buying Purebred Registered Sheep?

The Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association (CSBA) is dedicated to representing the Purebred Sheep Breeders across Canada. Purebred Registered Sheep signifies they have been registered with the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation (CLRC) and a certificate of registration will be provided with the sale of the animal.

These records can be found online at www.clrc.ca and is the responsibility of the seller to pay for and initiate the transfer of the registration to the buyer. These records will indicate the pedigree information and ownership status. We encourage you to confirm the animals you are interested in, are in fact purebred registered animals.

Under the Animal Pedigree Act, it is an offense to offer to sell, contract to sell or sell, as a purebred, any animal that is not registered or eligible to be registered as a purebred by the association authorized to register animals of that breed or by the Corporation.

If you are interested in purchasing any animals or are new to the industry, don't hesitate to reach out to any of the CSBA Board of Directors. CSBA is an organization of over 1100 breeders of purebred sheep across Canada, representing over 40 breeds of sheep.

www.sheepbreeders.ca

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

4H LAMBS

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

SHEEP & LAMBS - For Sale

Registered Gotland sheep for sale (proven 2yr ram, 1-2yr ewes, spring lambs); also have Icelandic X lambs. Hardy, beautiful fleeces and personalities. Located near Okotoks. Contact Carissa 403-629-9394

Grass fed butcher lambs available October 2024. Contact Terra Weaver at rweaver@mcsnet.ca or 780-808-1397

Dry Lake Ranch AB Ltd., Rod & Bernadette Nikkel, Registered Canadian Arcott breeding stock available. Please contact @ robenikkel@gmail.com, 780-674-6805 or 780-284-9805 cell

Polled & Horned Dorset breeding stock available. www.coyoteacresranch.com. Contact coyoteacres@gmail.com or call 780-614-0569

Shropshire breeding stock available. www.coyoteacresranch.com. Contact coyoteacres@gmail.com or call 780-614-0569

Sheep Trax Canadian Arcotts available. www.coyoteacresranch.com. Contact sheepncats66@hotmail.com or call 403-741-8597

Suffolk & Dorset yearling rams & ram lambs. Grande Prairie, AB. Email heartvalleysheep@gmail.com. Call or text 780-978-4705

Rideau Arcott ewe lambs and yearling ewes for sale. Commercial breeding stock, non-registered, available from a closed flock. Frisco Farms, Siemen & Terah Vandermeer. Located in Rocky Mountain House, AB. Contact Terahvdmeer@gmail.com or www.shoplocalfarms.ca/friscofarms.html or 403-418-6441

Excellent Selection of Canadian Arcott Breeding Stock. Yearling Ewe lambs and Rams (Semen tested). Please contact Oxbow Ranch: Rudy & Darlene Stein at oxbowranch2013@hotmail.com or 780-674-3732 or 780-284-9507

Sheep and Lambs for sale, Sky Blue Farm - Contact Donald Johnston. Registered Canadian Arcott Yearling and lamb rams; Yearling and ewe lambs also available. Donnelly, AB 780-837-1770

Canadian Rideau Arcott Ile de France cross ewe lambs for sale. Age is 8-12 months. Please contact Paul at 403-332-2267

Purebred Suffolk Breeding Rams – not registered. Born mid Feb/24. British influence strong & thick rams. Have a few with American influence. Great sires for weight gain & fast growth. From twins or triplets; fully vaccinated & dewormed. Available for sale beginning of July/24. Also available breeding stock rams & ewe lambs. Email wrwierenga@hotmail.com or call or text 780-674-4760

Purebred Charollais Yearling rams for sale. Well-muscled, long bodied rams with excellent ADG for superior butcher quality lambs and great easy lambing replacement ewes. [fieldstone@telus.net](http://fieldstone.telus.net). 780-499-0066

Isle of Skye Cheviots: Registered North Country Cheviot Ram Lambs and Ewe Lambs available. Our NCC's make an excellent choice for breeding your ewe lambs. Easy lambing, hardy and thrifty. Contact Susan at www.isleofskyecheviots.ca or www.facebook.com/isleofskyecheviots 403-588-3808

Purebred Suffolk yearling & lamb rams for sale. Yearlings have been semen & vet checked. Long, deep bodied, well-muscled rams. Charles Iwan, Taber 403-331-7984

Purebred Canadian Arcott registered Rams for sale. If you want to improve your genetics – here is your chance! Ready to

breed in the fall. Purebred ewe lambs are also available. Email sheepandewe@gmail.com or 403-575-7794

Sheep Lake Suffolks - Registered Suffolk ram lambs & ewe lambs for sale. Contact Mike 780-307-3385 and follow Sheep Lake Suffolks on Facebook

Moonshine Dorsets - Registered and purebred Dorset ram and ewe lambs. Traditional confirmation. Call Raelyn at 403 746-2140

Alberta Sheep Breeders' Association (ASBA) members are your source for registered breeding stock in Alberta. Join today! Email www.albertasheepbreeders.ca or 1-866-967-4337

Parker Stock Farm. Glen and Kathy Parker. GenOvis performance tested Suffolk breeding stock. www.parkerstockfarm.com, parkerstockfarm@explornet.com, 403-443-7220

SHEEP & LAMBS - Wanted

Wanted: Feeder or fat lambs, cull sheep and all classes of goats in Acme or Stony Plain, AB. Call Roger Albers at 780-777-7416 or email alberslamb@hotmail.com.

DOGS

For Sale: "Jill" registered purebred Border Collie. Six years old & has experience working 100+ sheep on pasture and corrals. Her 10 pups currently work on ranches and farms across North America as cattle dogs, sheep dogs and faithful companions. Contact Josiah for more information 780 898 7720

Purebred Maremma puppies and young dogs for sale. We have imported a male and female from Finland to provide new Maremma bloodlines. We have puppies available from Finland sire and our locally raised Maremma females. These dogs love their stock and keep a close eye out for predators. We live in prime coyote country and have never lost a sheep to predators. Call or text Tyler Untinen 780-621-7120

Maremma guard dogs. Various ages. Raised on-farm and on-pasture with sheep. Outstanding, good-natured parents. Very reliable. The coyotes are the ones with the problems! Located near Carstairs, AB. Contact Richmond at 403-586-5638

Inukshuk Professional Dog Food: a high energy dog food for your hard-working livestock guardian dog. For details and pricing, please contact Karl: at lonevalleyfarmltd@gmail.com or 403-971-3426

Australian Shepherd cross pups for sale. Pups are 3/4 Australian Shepherd & 1/4 Hanging Tree; Parents are working dogs used on sheep and cattle. DOB April 27nd, come with first shots. Red merles and solids available. Two Hills, AB. Email schiecklivestock@gmail.com or contact 780-965-0097

MISC

Integrity Ranch is proud to offer the following services to the lamb industry: Forage and cover crop seed for lamb finishing and ewe wintering; 24' freestanding feed bunks, reduce waste, keep lambs in; full line of nutrition products and consulting specifically designed for sheep and goats; buyer of lambs and ewes. Please contact John 403-857-9236 or kelsey@integrityranching.com for more details. www.integrityranching.com

Looking for a way to improve efficiency in your sheep operation? Advantage Feeders allows you to control feed grain to your livestock without waste, efficiently feeds the rumen with the little bit and often feeding, while saving time and energy. Check out the energy efficient Jug

Waterers, gates, economy panels, Ritchie Combi Clamp sheep handling system and more, on our website. Visit Huber Ag Equipment at www.huberequipment.com or call 1-844-482-3724 (1-844-HuberAG)

Looking for a new mineral/mixed vitamin infused molasses that you can use for a feed supplement or to help make poor feed better for the sheep? Contact Rod English 780-307-2531 for more information or to place your order!

Looking for an experienced 4-H Sheep judge? Or someone to do clinics on showmanship, fitting and judging? Niki Schieck is based out of Two Hills AB, but willing to travel throughout the province to give clinics and judge shows. Years of experience with a very hands-on approach with members. Can work with groups of any size, age and experience level. Also willing to host clinics at her farm. Niki is also willing and able to either speak or hold sheep 101 clinics for new producers with numerous topics to be covered. Reach out if this is something that interests you. Contact 780-993-2037 or nMrs.business@gmail.com

Custom Woolen Mills would like to buy your coloured wool (black, greys or multi-coloured sheep). We cannot accept hair, kemp, extreme chaff or paint in the fleeces. For further details, contact Custom Woolen Mills Ltd. Carstairs, www.customwoolenmills.com or 403-337-2221

John Beasley Professional Shearing Services. Available anywhere in western Canada. All flock sizes. Specializing in low stress, kind and efficient handling of ewes. Early booking and volume discounts. Contact John Beasley at 403-857-9236 or kelsey@integrityranching.com

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Calendar & Board of Directors

What	Where	When
Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board Symposium	Saskatoon, AB	January 10-11 https://sksheep.com/events/ssdb-symposium-agm-2025/
Ladies Livestock Lessons	Acme, AB	January 15 2025 https://www.redbowag.com/ladieslivestocklessons
Business Planning for Successful Management	Camrose, AB	January 15 2025 https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/business-planning-for-successful-farm-management-camrose-registration-1035003582577
Targeted Grazing: Vegetation Management Unique Grazing Scenarios	Online	January 15 and January 29 course start dates - email admin@ablamb.ca to register
Environmental Farm Plan Workshop	Online	January 22 2025 https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0sceGqqzspGt1WK_VI-GjaWbUzcO_VbM32a
FCC Young Farmer Summit	Strathmore, AB	January 22 2025 https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/fcc-young-farmer-summit-strathmore-registration-998764109337
Ranching Opportunities 2025	Olds, AB	February 5 2025 https://www.redbowag.com/ranching-opportunities
Nutrient Management Webinars	Online	Jan27/Feb3/Feb10 https://sarda.ca/event/nutrient-management-webinar-series/
Peace Ag Update	Fairview, AB	January 31 https://npara.ca/events/peace-agronomy-update-501/
Farming Smarter Conference	Lethbridge, AB	Feb 12 and 13 https://www.farmingsmarter.com/2025-farming-smarter-conference-trade-show
Northern Women in Ag Conference	Fairview, AB	Feb 20-21 https://www.peacecountrybeef.ca/upcoming-events
South Country Ag-Expo	Lethbridge, AB	Feb 26-28 https://www.agrifoodhub.ca/events/ag-expo
Calgary Aggie Days	Calgary, AB	April 12-13 https://ag.calgarystampede.com/events/year-round-events/aggie-days
ASBA Online Purebred Sheep Sale	Online	June 10-11 https://albertasheepbreeders.ca/online-sale
2025 All Canada Classic Sheep Show	Brandon, MB	July 9-12 https://sheepbreeders.ca/2025-all-canada-classic

Please e-mail info@ablamb.ca or call 403-948-8533 to provide details of your event for the Newsletter and website sheep calendar.

ALP BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024 - 2025

Director	Phone	Email	Location
Jordan Allen, Board Chair	403-923-4858	jordan@ablamb.ca	Rocky View County
Martin Winchell, Vice Chair	403-845-2577	martin@ablamb.ca	Clearwater County
Adam French, Finance Chair	780-872-9908	adam@ablamb.ca	Vermillion River County
Darlene Hawco, Vice Finance Chair	780-292-4607	darleneh@ablamb.ca	St. Paul County
Richard Boscher, Director	780-870-1876	richard@ablamb.ca	Vermillion River County
Alison Neale, Director	306-914-1362	alison@ablamb.ca	Mountain View County
Olivia Blum, Director	403-586-3800	olivia@ablamb.ca	Mountain View County
Vacant - Director in Training Position			

ALP Office - Executive Director, Jolene Airth 403-948-8533 info@ablamb.ca

Address: Agriculture Centre, 97 East Lake Ramp NE, Airdrie, AB T4A 0C3

www.ablamb.ca for producer information, www.albertalamb.ca for consumer information

ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS N'EWESLETTER & WEB ADVERTISING

Advertising Rates

Full Colour	1 x Insertion	4 x Insertion (-10%)
Back Cover – Full page	\$458	\$1649
Inside Covers – Full page	\$429	\$1544
Inside Covers – Half page	\$217	\$781

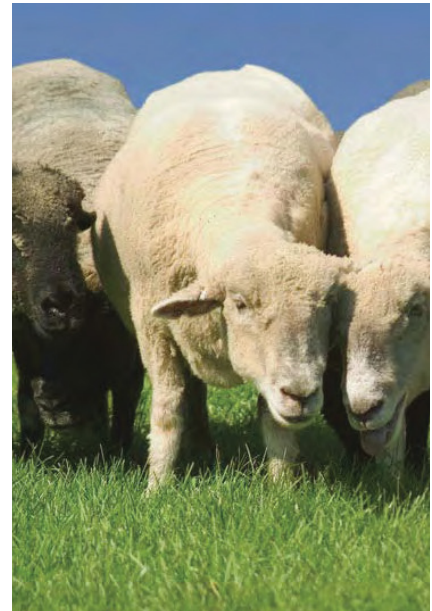
Black & White	1 x Insertion	4 x Insertion (-10%)
Full Page	\$315	\$1134
1/2 Page	\$200	\$720
1/3 Page	\$166	\$598
1/4 Page	\$109	\$392
Business Card	\$64	\$230
Classified Ad - Alberta Producers (4 lines x 1 column)	Free	Free
Classified Ad - Others	\$29	\$104

Rates are quoted in Canadian dollars and are subject to GST. Effective January 1, 2025.

Insert Rates: N'ewesletters are mailed out via Canada Post. Insert details on request by emailing info@ablamb.ca.

Colour: The entire online N'ewesletter is in full colour (RGB). The print publication only has colour on the outside and inside covers (CMYK). The interior pages of the printed publication are grayscale.

Design: Design services are billed at \$75 per hour. Please note: Incorrect sizing or specifications may result in design charges. We are happy to create, or modify ads for you. There will be a minimum charge of \$37.50 and further charges will be billed in 15 minute increments. Please submit your request at least one week before the advertisement deadline.



Publication Schedule: 2025

Advertisements or articles are due no later than the submission deadline. Late submissions will not be included.

2025

Issue	Submission Deadline
January	December 05, 2024
April	March 13, 2025
July	June 12, 2025
October	September 11, 2025

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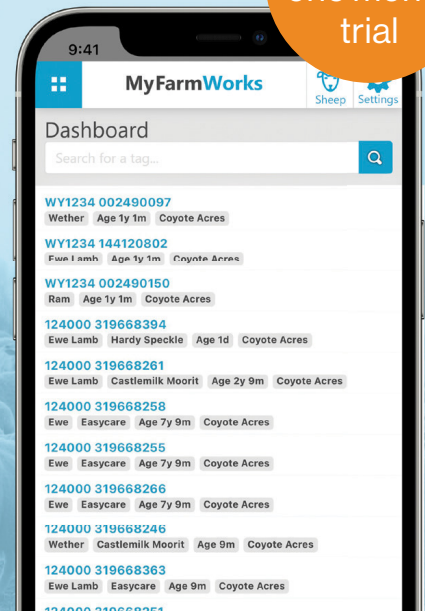
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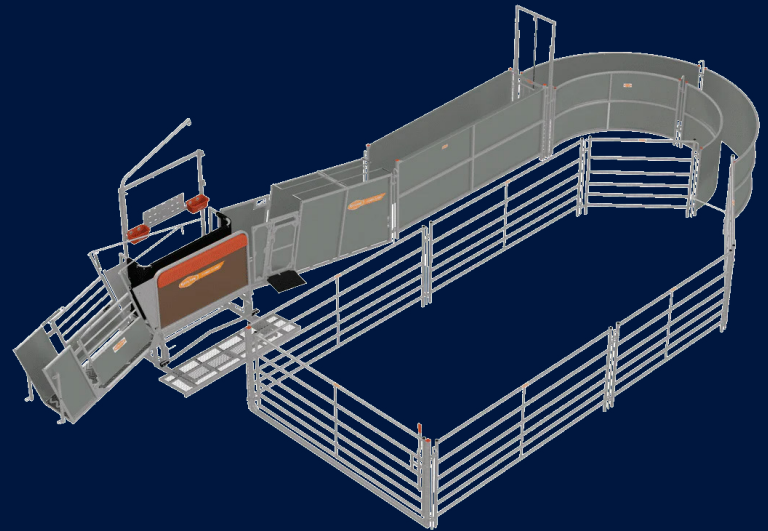


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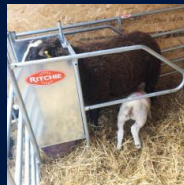
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