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N'ewesletter

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Cover photo: Darlene Hawco

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Message From the Vice Chair

As many of you know we have had a great deal of activity at the ALP board level recently. In addition to being a relatively new board member myself, we have had some recent additions to the board, AND Lost our Executive Director to a new and exciting job opportunity. The board has been treading water while we search for a new ED and it has been exciting to see people step up and keep things from falling through the cracks. We have done some strategic planning, started work on our AGM, developed committees and goals for 2024, and looked at working with multiple industry partners for different events.



The fact that you have a copy of the N'ewesletter in your hands goes to show the board is working to make sure the industry is moving forward. It is possible that when you get this publication, we will have a new staff helping us develop and grow the industry. It is also possible we will be riffling

through resumes to make sure we make an informed and educated decision. Your board currently consists of a very diverse group of people that have differing talents that are working together. At our last face to face meeting we had some very open and honest discussions about where we would like to move this industry and where we can aid producers in their operations. Nothing was off the table, and topics that have been danced around before, we looked seriously at, and talked a great deal about building relationships and removing walls in the industry. In my discussions with producers, EVERYONE wants a strong, healthy, and profitable industry. Our paths to that goal often differ but it appears our objective is the same.

Your ALP board was voted in by Alberta Lamb Producers, and as I sit at the table, I strongly believe that your board, past and present, have your best interests at the front of there minds at each and every meeting. As we finish lambing, and move into spring/summer, industry growth or retraction could very well be driven by snow fall and spring rains this year more so than goals on a spread-sheet or financial forecasts. These types of meteorological events are beyond your boards control and although we have no bearing on the actual climate, we are working towards an environment that promotes growth and prosperity.

This brief period of employee vacancy has been a time of re-evaluating direction and purpose. Just like a coach change on a sports team, we look at the team we have, the holes in it, the direction we want to go, and get to make a decision as to whom we want to help us draw up plays for the future.

It is an exciting time and I am very pleased with the current boards willingness to put themselves in uncomfortable positions for the sake of the industry.

Good luck with your lambing, your spring farm work, your planning for the future, and thank you for your willingness to participate in this industry.

Marty Winchell

Message From Your Director

Adam French

Greetings fellow Albertan Lamb Producers. I am proud to be one of nearly 2000 Alberta sheep farmers, and I have the privilege of recently becoming a member of the Alberta Lamb Producers Board. I am passionate about agriculture,



particularly sheep production and hope I can make a positive contribution to the growth of our industry.

Sitting here looking out at our farmyard, I was wondering aloud just what to write about when my wife suggested I tell the story of how I came to be involved with the sheep industry, so I'll share a little about my journey to becoming a sheep farmer in Alberta.

I grew up in Australia which is where my love for the sheep industry originated. Both sets of grandparents were farmers but by the time I was old enough to have an interest in farming they were retired to town. My introduction to farming and in particular sheep came from a local farmer, Reg Barker. Any chance I had I would spend the day helping Mr Barker. On the last day of school each term I'd dial his number (a phone number I can still recall to this day) to ask if he needed any help and his response was always the same, "be on the fencepost at 7 in the morning." And so at 7am I'd be sitting on the fencepost at the end of our drive waiting for him to drive past and we'd head off for a day checking sheep.

Mr Barker had a farm in a prime cropping area yet never planted a crop, his operation was 100% sheep, a mix of merinos for wool and cross bred lambs for the meat market. Beyond his primary flock, he was a sheep trader. Those without a flock of their own would call Mr Barker and he would find some sheep and rent the land on short term rental arrangements. He had thousands of sheep spread all over the countryside but he had an amazing memory; he knew how many sheep he had, where they were all located and who he had purchased them from.

The town where I grew up held a monthly sheep market the third Friday of each month, it was always a highlight when those Fridays fell during the school holidays. I'd be up early and look down the hill to the saleyards and as soon as I saw activity I'd ride my bike down to 'help.' Not sure how much help I actually was but me and some friends were always put to work helping push sheep through the handling system as they were sorted and placed for the sale. The sale started at 1pm and shortly before that the local wool buyer would arrive with his flatbed truck and buy bags of wool or fox and rabbit skins. It was at this market that I bought my first sheep and sold my first wool clip. My first purchase was four black ewes for \$5 each. They were wild, so after a short time eating the grass around home they moved across the road to join Mr Barker's flock. They lambed and I received a cheque totalling \$95 for their 5 lambs and after shearing Mr Barker dropped off a bag of black wool which I sold for \$3.50 per kg.

The big weekly market was on Tuesdays at Gepps Cross, every chance I got I would catch a ride with Mr Barker and spend the day at the market. This was an outdoor market with the auctioneers on the catwalk behind the sheep and the crowd moving from pen to pen as the market progressed. My job was to record the pens Mr Barker purchased, and how many and then we'd meet the local livestock hauler to convey the details and direct where the sheep were to be delivered.

There were few regulations around on the movement of livestock in the 1980s and I spent many hours driving sheep from one farm to the next simply moving them along the road. Most times it went well, occasionally they'd find an open gate into a crop which caused a little panic as we sent the dogs around them to get things back in order or one fateful long weekend when we tried to cross a narrow bridge on the main highway. The flock split, some crossed the bridge nicely but some went down the bank to the river and took considerable time to get sorted. We were none too popular holding up traffic on a hot summer's day in the middle of a long weekend.

The other memorable time was shearing. I'd have the job of rouseabout, picking up the fleeces, keeping the boards clean and the catching pens full. Always slept well at the end of those days and took home a few dollars to go with the memories.

It was these experiences during my formative years that drove me to want to be in agriculture and have sheep of my own. While I've worked in agriculture my whole career, I didn't anticipate it would be over 30 years before I would have sheep again but that was the path. In 2020 my wife and I along with our two kids moved onto our farm and purchased our flock. We started out with 19 blackbelly ewes, supposedly bred but turned out only 10 were pregnant but a great start for our first winter on the farm. We have since shifted our flock to be Katahdin/Dorper crosses and will be lambing out 50+ this year with plans to continue growing in the coming years.

While reflecting on the time I spent helping Mr Barker it wasn't just the adventures that I most appreciate, it was his willingness to give his time and mentor me. I learned to drive in his paddocks. I learned to throw a fleece in his shearing sheds. I learned what to look for when purchasing stock. I learned how to work with the natural flow of the flock. These and countless other lessons.

Throughout our lives we'll be mentored by others, and that is one of the characteristics I love about agriculture, the willingness of others to share ideas and help one another.

I love the sheep industry and the people in it. We are a small industry but one filled with opportunity and fantastic people. Just like Mr Barker was willing to spend time and teach me

about sheep all those years ago, that same willingness to support one another exists in our Alberta sheep industry. Whether our flocks are large or small, let's work together to strengthen and grow this fantastic industry.

With Spring upon us I wish all of you the very best for a successful lambing period.

Adam French

Message From Your Director

Alison Neale

Hi everyone,

I am excited to be an interim director representing the Alberta Lamb Producers. As someone new to the sheep industry I am thrilled to be advocating for seasoned producers and newcomers looking to get involved in the industry.



Starting a journey into the agriculture world can be daunting, especially those new to the program - but asking questions and being open to new experiences has been a key advantage to learning about the sheep industry.

Through a lot of research and hard work, I have myself a small flock of sheep that I am very proud of. Research and education are key. Taking time to learn about the different breeds of sheep, and their characteristics ensure that your farming goals are met. At the beginning I often got the question "So, why sheep?" My response is simple: "Why not sheep?" The sheep industry offers an accessible gateway into livestock farming, characterized by the manageable scale and ease of handling associated with these animals. Whether you have limited space or resources, establishing a small flock is feasible, making sheep farming an attractive proposition for people aspiring to get into farming.

When starting my own flock, the ALP has been a great source of information to get my feet on the ground, providing a wealth of information in flock establishment. Their support has been instrumental in laying the foundation for my success. I look forward to connecting with producers and learning from like minded people in the process.

Good luck to everyone this upcoming season!

Alison Neale



ALP Welcomes New Interim Directors

ALP is pleased to announce that the Board of Directors has fulfilled the two vacant Interim Director positions. With their formal appointment from Marketing Council, we are pleased to welcome Adam French and Alison Neale to the Board of Directors. As these are interim positions, an election will be required for the positions at the ALP AGM on November 23, 2024.

Adam French

I am pleased to be joining the Board of Alberta Lamb Producers. Growing up in Australia I was surrounded by sheep farms and spent most school holidays working in shearing sheds or moving sheep around the countryside. I first came to Canada 30 years ago as a high school exchange student, met a girl and the rest is history. I attained a Bachelor of Agriculture and added an MBA in Finance a few years later and then spent over 20 years working in agricultural finance and business development, a career which gave me the opportunity to work across much of Alberta and BC, gaining exposure to a huge variety of farms and industries. In 2020 my wife and I finally purchased our farm, fulfilling a life-long dream of mine to have some land and raise sheep.

Located near Islay, we started out buying 19 "bred" Blackbelly ewes, turned out only 10 were actually bred but it was a good start as we navigated the first winter on the farm. I completed the Master Shepherd Course through Ontario Sheep Farmers, an experience which expanded my knowledge of sheep production in the Canadian context. We've been slowly growing and today have 54 Katahdin/Dorper crosses having sold off the Blackbellys as we seek to produce larger lambs. We practice annual lambing indoors and graze Spring through Fall. As we rehabilitate some tired pastures and continue to learn what our

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Janna Greir Janna@wcranch.ca 403-324-6287

WCRanch.ca

2024 holds two important milestones that we would like to share with producers.

We have replacement ewe lambs for sale! We

haven't sold ewe lambs since 2013, as we have been holding back for our own flock growth.

Many of you know us as Rideau Arcott Breeders, but we are excited to announce the acquisition of a **purebred Canadian Arcott** flock dispersal from Oxbow Ranch (Stein); genetics primarily from Dry Lake Ranch (Nikkel).

Contact us today for your 2024 breeding stock!

property can produce we are beginning to incorporate rotational grazing with an eye to expanding the flock and improving the productivity of our farm.

I'm passionate about agriculture and believe there is huge opportunity for our industry and I look forward to serving on the board.

Alison Neale

Growing up, my lifelong aspiration has been to work with livestock. In 2019, I achieved a BSc in Animal Biosciences from the University of Saskatchewan. I have worked as a research Technician at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, before joining Feedlot Health Management Services as a Project Manager focusing on large-scale feedlot trials. At present, I am a Research Associate at Olds College, actively involved in beef and sheep research trials. Recently, I ventured into owning my own flock of Suffolk and Black Welsh Mountain sheep. The focus of this endeavour has been refining genetics, optimizing carcass quality and enhancing wool production. I look forward to being a contributing member of the sheep industry.

Please help us in welcoming Adam and Alison to the ALP Board of Directors!

ALP Needs You! Join the ALP Board of Directors

Nominations are due by July 31, 2024

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

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

To stand for election, you **MUST** submit a completed nomination form to the ALP office **by July 31, 2024**. Nominations forms are provided on pages # of this N'ewesletter or from the ALP website (<u>https://ablamb.ca/index.php/about-alp/joiningthe-alp-board</u>). There are four Director-at-Large positions open on the 2023/24 Board. Candidates can be nominated from any region in the province - there no restrictions due to zone or geographical location.

The official ballots for the 2024 ALP Director's election will be mailed with the fall issue of N'ewesletter. Producers have the option of advance voting by mailing the ballot to the ALP office or of voting in-person at the AGM on November 18th at the Red Deer Resort and Casino.

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

No previous board experience is required.

Must be an eligible sheep producer residing in Alberta (*Eligible* producers must have paid service charge (check-off) to ALP within the last two years i.e. after Sep 1, 2022).

Enthusiasm, ideas and a vision for building a strong lamb industry.

A commitment to collaboration and the ability to work with other board members for the benefit of the industry.

Ability to make the minimum commitment of 3-4 in-person board meetings, bi-weekly conference calls, and the ability to monitor and respond to emails at least every 48 hours. Per diems and expense reimbursements are provided.

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

ALP Board Member Position Description

ALP directors are valued volunteers who are willing to invest their time and experience to advance the sheep industry. Directors assume the responsibility of representing the interests of hundreds of hard- working people and have an opportunity to make a significant difference in their industry.

Benefits

Being a director affords producers the opportunity to work with like-minded people to advance the Alberta sheep industry. Directors have an opportunity to apply their talents, while developing new skills that will enhance board performance and can be applied to other personal and professional endeavors. Benefits include:

- Enhancing communication, leadership, and decision-making skills.
- Gaining knowledge of analysis, direction setting, research, solution design, strategic and business plans, advocacy, public speaking, board governance and communications training.
- Expanding knowledge of the sheep industry and seeing individual operations in a national and international context.
- Opportunities to meet other leaders and to represent the industry provincially and nationally, in multi-species groups, throughout the value change and with government.

Authority / Accountability

Under provincial regulations, the ALP board is granted the authority to manage and oversee all aspects of the organization's

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Alberta Lamb Producers Alberta

operations. Under board oversight, much of the day-to-day operations are delegated to hired staff. The board of directors is legally accountable for ensuring proper stewardship of ALP's financial resources and providing services to the Alberta sheep industry.

Key Responsibilities and Duties:

- Develop ALP's strategic plan to set objectives and priorities based on the ALP's mandate to generate, assemble and implement ideas to enhance the sheep and wool industry.
- Assume legal responsibilities inherent to boards in overseeing all aspects of operations, actions and financial management.
- Provide a unified voice for the Alberta sheep industry, and support board decisions once they have been made.
- Be knowledge of and abide by applicable provincial regulations and board-set policies (including expectations regarding confidentiality, general conduct and conflict of interests), understanding that non-compliance may result in removal from the board.
- Help establish, review and monitor board established polices.
- Provide a communication link between producers and the board.
- Properly prepare for and participate in all board matters, including meeting expectations for communication and meeting preparation (see 'Time Commitments' below).
- Listen to others views, advocate personal ideas, and be open to compromise.
- Potentially contribute to the work of board as a board executive or member of a committee
- Be an ambassador for ALP in the wider community.
- Be informed about issues affecting the sheep industry provincially and nationally.

Qualifications

The following are considered key position qualifications:

- Must meet eligibility requirements according to ALP Plan Regulation (i.e. own sheep, and have paid an ALP service charge in the past two years).
- Ability to devote sufficient time to board duties (see below).
- Openness to learning and working with others to achieve ALP's mission and strategic directions.

Remuneration

The ALP director position is essentially a volunteer position. However, the following compensations are made:

- Per diem paid for time spent at in-person meetings
- Annual compensation for time spent on conference calls (two per diems) and for office supplies
- Reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses to attend inperson meetings Time Commitments

Commitment	Time Expectation ¹		
Position term	Two-year term (may be renewed three times, for a total of six consecutive years)		
In-person meetings ² (most often	Typically, 3 times/year		
held in Airdrie, Alberta)	1.5 to 2 days (3 days on rare occasions)		
Tele/video conference calls ²	Approximately bi-monthly, between in-person meetings		
	1 to 2 hours		
Fall Annual General Meeting ²	1-2 days, once/year		
Meeting preparation	As required, typically from 1-4 hrs/meeting		
Emails regarding board matters, a response is expected within 48hr	As required, typically from 1-4 hrs/week		
Communicating with producers	As required, typically from 0-2 hr per week		
All new directors participate in a	Orientation session: 4-6 hours		
board orientation session. Other training sessions may be required	Other training: approximately once/year		
during a director's term (e.g.			
board governance)			

Time Commitments

¹ Estimated times are for directors. Executive positions, such as the board chair or finance chair, and committee members assume greater responsibilities.

²Meeting dates are pre-set once per year to allow directors to plan ahead.

For more information about joining the ALP board, please contact the ALP office (403-948-8533, <u>info@ablamb.ca</u>) or visit <u>www.ablamb.ca</u> for director contact information.

We look forward to working with new directors who are committed to achieving ALP's mission:

We empower the sheep industry through education, innovative research, and advocacy.

Our focus is on working in the best interests of our producers by building connected relationships through accountability and transparency.'

ALP Director Nomination Form

See page 8 and 9 for the Director Nomination Form.

ALP DIRECTOR NOMINATION FORM

(in accordance with the Alberta Lamb Producers Plan Regulation)

<u>A. NOMINATOR</u>	
I hereby nominate	as a candidate for ALP Director-at-Large.
I declare that I am an eligible sheep p	producer as per current ALP Regulations.
SIGNATURE	DATE:
NAME (please print)	
MAILING ADDRESS	
B. DIRECTOR NOMINEE	
I declare that I am an eligible sheep p I consent to the nomination.	roducer as per current ALP Regulations.
SIGNATURE	DATE:
NAME (please print)	
MAILING ADDRESS	
NOMINEE PROFILE:	
	sheet, please provide details about yourself and why you are d. This information will appear in the Fall issue of the ALP before voting.
	rectly before voting. Please initial below to give consent for your your Nominee Profile in N'ewesletter. Please note that agreeing ished is not required for nomination.

Initial:Phone number:	Email:
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According to ALP Regulations, nomination forms **must** be returned to Alberta Lamb Producers by **July 31st**, **2024** to be considered eligible. Electronic (scanned or photographed) forms are permitted.

Please submit forms to:

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

Please answer the following questions to provide details about yourself and why you are interested in serving on the ALP Board. This information will appear as submitted in the Fall issue of the ALP N'ewesletter. Please feel free to submit your answers on a separate sheet or electronically to info@ablamb.ca.

1. Please provide details about your operation (e.g. number of animals, production type, years of operation)
2. Why are you interested in serving on the ALP Board?
3. What would make you a good board member, and do you have any specific experience and/or skills that may benefit the organization (e.g. financial, business, technical/scientific, past board experience)?
4. What is your view of Alberta Lamb Producers and the role it fills in the sheep industry?
5. Are there any aspects of sheep production or the sheep industry that are of particular interest to you (e.g. product marketing, environmental issues, land management, animal health and welfare)?
6. Is there any other information you would like to add?



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Zubot Welding will be attending the Poundmaker Ram sale May 23rd, 2024. If anyone would like to order any equipment, please let us know as soon as possible, so we can bring it along.

For ordering info please call Richard @ 306-682-3252 Check out our website www.ZubotWelding.ca

Lamb and Sheep Market Update

Ann Boyda, Provincial Livestock Market Analyst Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation March 8, 2024

Alberta sheep and lamb sector is facing smaller inventories. Fewer breeding and replacement stock is anticipated with a lower lamb crop for 2024. However, optimism exists for continued easing of production costs and stronger lamb prices. The industry still faces challenges due to the declining flock numbers and consumer concerns of high food prices, but demand remains stable.

Sheep and Lamb Inventory

According to Statistics Canada's total sheep inventories released on February 23, 2024, the January 1, 2024 Canadian inventories of sheep and lambs were down 2.2% over January 1, 2023 to 828,300 head. The sheep breeding herd declined 2.3% to 599,300 head, with ewes down 2.4%, rams down 0.84% and replacement lambs down 3.0%. Market lambs and lambs under one year declined 2.0% since January 1, 2023.

Statistics Canada reported Alberta total sheep and lamb onfarm of 170,100 head, 1.96% lower than last year January 1. The greatest decline of 2.71% was reported for replacement lambs. The lamb crop (lamb under one year) was down 2.22%. Ewe and ram inventory were down 1.8% and 1.9%, respectively, for the same period. Alberta has risen to the second largest sheep and lamb producing province, just surpassing Quebec by 1700 head on-farm as of January 1, 2024. Ontario still holds the top position with 261,400 head on-farm. Except for Nova Scotia and



New Brunswick, all provinces reported a decline in inventory over the last year. Statistic Canada attributes the decrease to lower prices and increased feed costs.

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0129-01 Number of sheep and lambs on farms

Slaughter

Slaughter volume in 2023 at federally inspected facilities for West Canada, including Ontario, is reported by Statistics Canada at 86,692 head, a 0.2% increase over 2022 following three years of consecutive decreases in slaughter numbers. The West Canada slaughter volume represents 51% of the total slaughter in federally inspected establishments. Slaughter volume



through 2023 followed typical seasonal trend associated with holidays and special religious events.

Source: Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Prices

Prices for market lamb at select Alberta auctions were estimated to range between \$213.13 to \$277.00 per hundredweight year-to-date (March 1, 2024). These prices were on average 23% to 24% higher than the same period in 2023.

Producer Resources Alberta



The average prices in 2023 were 8.2% to 12.5% lower than the five-year average of \$260.92 per hundredweight high and \$209.01 per hundredweight low.

Source: Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

Cash price of feeder lamb at select Alberta auctions exhibited comparable seasonal patterns however the average low and high range of \$277.38 and \$362.83 per hundredweight year-to-date (March 1, 2024) were 3.5% per lower and 3.4% higher than the low and high prices for the same period in 2023. The average low price for 2023 of \$199.29 per hundredweight and high range of \$263.33 per hundredweight were 39% and 23% higher than the five-year averages, respectively.



Year-to-date (February 23, 2024) live weight equivalent lamb prices were estimated at \$247.72 per hundredweight, an increase of 9.4% over same period last year. The average price for 2023 was estimated at \$249.60 per hundredweight, which also represented a 9.0% increase over the 5-year average price.

Source: Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

Trade

Sheep supply and disposition data from Statistics Canada estimates Alberta interprovincial export of sheep and lamb for 2023 of 15,400 head, up 7.7% over 2022. Interprovincial imports for 2023 were estimated to be 12,200 head, up 17.3% from 2022. International imports of 6,900 head were reported for the first

LETHAL BACTERIA FOUND IN WILD SHEEP



Mycoplasma Ovipneumoniae, or Movi for short, can be found in seemingly healthy domestic sheep and goats. This bacteria is transmissible typically from nose-to-nose contact to wild Bighorn Sheep. With deadly consequences, most Bighorn Sheep are dying within a week. This can have devastating impacts on Bighorn populations for many years to follow, due to low lamb survival rates.

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



Report any sightings of Bighorn Sheep near domestic sheep and goats, or domestic sheep and goats in crown land/forestry areas. Report any sick bighorns to WSFAB or Fish & Wildlife

wsfab.org

Producer Resources

half of 2023, with no international imports in the second half of 2023.

According to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Canada imported nearly 22,221 tonnes of lamb and 4,277 tonnes of mutton in 2023. Data from the Agri-Food Trade On-line indicates that Alberta imported 6,949 sheep in 2023, down by 11,241 head from 2022 (2022 being the highest number of imports in the last ten years). Alberta also imported three tonnes of sheep lamb and mutton cuts in 2023.

United States

The January 1, 2024 sheep and lambs inventory for the United States (U.S.) was 5,030,000 head, down 1.9% from January 1, 2023 estimates. Ewes one year and older were estimated at 3,670,000 head, down 2.0% year-over-year. Replacement lambs estimated at 635,000 head were down 1.3%. Market lambs totaled 1.279 million head, down 24,000 head (loss of 1.8%) from last year.

The three-market average price (Colorado, South Dakota and Texas), as reported by the Livestock Market Information Center, estimates the year-to-date (March 2, 2024) slaughter price (60 to 90 pounds) at US\$220.03 per hundredweight, up 12.8% over same period 2023.

The three-market slaughter lamb average price for 2023 (US\$191.96 per hundredweight) was 13.7% lower than the average slaughter lambs price for 2022.

In 2023, the U.S. exported 2037.2 metric tons of lamb and mutton, down 8.7% from 2022 levels. U.S. also exported 30,015 head of sheep valued at 2.321 million in 2023. U.S. imported 113,544.9 metric tons of lamb and mutton in 2023. USDA, Economic Research Services, forecasts the U.S. commercial lamb and mutton production at 129 million pounds for 2024, down 0.8% from 2023 production level.

The per capita disappearance of retail pounds is forecast to remain constant in 2024. Prices for Choice and Prime slaughter lambs are forecast to increase from US\$172.01 per hundredweight in 2023 to US\$173.75 per hundredweight.

Summary

As producers watch the drought monitor, feed costs and market prices, there may still be room for optimism in the first half of this year.

The U.S. market could hold some promise but competition from Australia and New Zealand is stiff, especially considering the slower Asian economies.

The expectation is that lower U.S. production in the first half of 2024 would see lamb prices recover. In addition, the upcoming lamb holiday market presents opportunities to the lamb sector.

Sheep Bytes.Ca Ration Balancer

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Producer Resources Alberta

March should see an inventory buildup for the Easter holiday. In addition, Ramadan celebrations should influence demand. Eid al-Fitr (Festival of Fast-breaking) and Passover in April usually feature lamb products.

Producer Spotlight: From Our Producer's Perspective!

Have you ever thought of yourself as a farm journalist?

ALP has introduced a new producer spotlight section in our quarterly *N'ewesletters*, to let our producers get to know one another and learn about the vast amount of sheep operations we have here in Alberta.

So, we want to hear from "ewe." Would you like to write a small (or big) article for us explaining about your business and what you do? Some ideas could include:

Your farming operation: for example, number of animals, time in the industry, breeds, system (intensive vs extensive). Boast about what you do best. It doesn't matter if you have 10 sheep or 10,000.

Choose your own personal angle. What are you passionate about within the sheep industry? Why did you join the industry and what interests you about it? Talk about it; it can be anything—innovation, wool, breeding, feed, medication vs holistic, machinery, tips and tricks, whatever tweaks your interest.

What are your plans for the future in the sheep industry? Is there something you want to see happen in the industry? Have you got personal goals you want to achieve on your farm?

These articles are all about you and your operations. We want to use them as a way to encourage producer networking, asking questions, and learning from each other about what we all



do best—sheep farming. The more we can share as an industry, the stronger we can become!

The deadline to submit intent to write for each *N'ewesletter* edition will be the following*:

Summer Edition: June 20th 2024

Fall Edition: August 23rd 2024

Winter Edition: December 1st 2024

Please express your interest to us at <u>info@ablamb.ca</u> or call 403-948-8533.

*If there are multiple submissions for each edition, we will put names into a random, computer-generated draw. We will reach out to let producers know who the winner is. You can apply for as many editions as you like. Please note, from the submission date above, you will have one month to write and submit your article back to ALP for proofreading and formatting.

Producer Spotlight:



Brown Creek Ranch

Hello Everyone I am Chancey Lane of Brown Creek Ranch located in the foothills of southern Alberta. My wife Kash and I are second generation recently welcoming the third generation with the arrival of our daughter Rio. We work with my parents Brian and Shaunere.

For over 20 years our operations focus was on cattle we operated a commercial and purebred angus operation. In 2016 we had been doing a lot of research on the benefits of doing rotational grazing and weed control with sheep. After a trial run for the summer months of grazing sheep we decided that it was something the ranch needed.

We jumped right in and started with 500 ewes. At this time we had decided to sell the purebred cows and maintain our commercial herd as we are still mainly a cow/calf operation.

Producer Resources

In 2018 we decided to grow again by adding a goat herd into the mix. We continue to retain our own females in our cow. sheep and goat herds. We start lambing on the first of February that typically wraps up around mid march and then we will start calving the cows April 1st. We start our goats May 1st. Our numbers are still growing as we see how we are able to rotationally graze, target problem areas with fencing and allow all the different species to compliment each other.



With all the animals around here it has been essential that we find efficiencies that bring reduced labor, cost effectiveness and produce a profit. By far our best advancement for cost management and effective feed utilization was the purchase of a mixer wagon and starting to feed silage. We don't grow any feed so everything is purchased this makes managing the feed supply very important.

We use a series of very elaborate spreadsheets that we built using google sheets, a program I really like because we don't have cell phone service. I can work offline in my notebook and when I get to an internet connection it updates it on all of my devices. I use an iPad mounted in the tractor to do the daily feeding. Every day we are able to make small changes to all of our rations. The amount of feed used is added into the sheet and is billed out to the appropriate pen or group of animals. At the beginning of the year I develop a feed plan using cow bytes and sheep bytes. Once I am happy with the plan I review it with a nutritionist and they green light everything. Once all the rations are good to go they are added in to be fed to the different animal groups at the appropriate time. The ewes for example have three different rations that we use as a base, a breeding ration which is fed in combination with some grazing, a pregnancy ration that will fluctuate depending on their trimester and a lactating ration. These rations all fluctuate with the weather and how the ewes are intaking the feed.

By tracking our feed usage this way we have been able to track our daily costs and ensure that everyday we are feeding exactly what the ewes need and we are minimizing waste.

By intensely tracking our costs and targeting nutrition we have been able to recognize trends that usually give us a 'Heads up" to when lambing is going to get busy we have found that 4-5 days before we are about to get a big rush of lambs the ewes in that pen start cutting their own feed intake back once this starts to happen we adjust the ration to add more grain as the ewes aren't taking in as much feed and we need to keep their energy up. We combine this with watching the daily temperatures during our breeding season. If I am looking back at September/October and I see that there was a big temperature drop combined with the ewes starting to back off their feed, we know the rush is coming and can usually pinpoint it to within 3 days. This year we had several days of over 40 ewes lambing and we were able to prepare in advance.

Next we look at how to reduce the labour. Our shearers have said before that we could put on a school for how to cull a herd properly. Basically if you are going to make it in our sheep herd you have to be efficient, productive and not a pain to work with.

We manage the herd very simply this way, we don't use a fancy wand or even tag lambs at birth. When we started in sheep we did have a wand and a program but I found the training process for everyone to learn to use the wand and the cost of the tags seemed unnecessary. I realized that if we are going to lamb out 600 ewes and we expect a death loss between 6-8% from birth to weaning it didn't make sense to tag the lambs that weren't going to make it and it didn't make sense to tag a ewe lamb that may live here for 7-8 years and be given many opportunities to snag that tag on a fence or a tree.

Once again I made a spreadsheet on my iPad and we applied the selection process. We retain our own females and we eliminate labour by holding ewe lambs over so that they have their first lamb around the time they are turning two. These ewes have had a chance to mature and develop, should be able to raise their lambs on their own and require very little intervention.

We apply the same process with the goats. When a ewe lambs she is brought to a jug her udder is felt for lumps or injuries and then judged for aesthetics, her overall condition, age and temperament are assessed. If a ewe has no good reason to act all crazy and requires us to catch her to jug her she will be marked as a cull. Her feet are checked. We don't trim feet here, we select breeds known for good feet. If she needs a trim but is capable of raising lambs she will get trimmed and will be shipped after raising these lambs.

Our ewes are not kept in the jugs for long occasionally lambs that have a slow start from malpresentation or bad weather are given a little longer but typically their stay is less than 12 hours, minimum of 5 hours for a ewe with twins and if things are busy singles skip the jug and will be processed and put into a mixing pen.





Processing consists of assessing the ewe to make sure she fits what we are looking for, she is wormed and if she needs a tag replaced that happens at this time. The lambs' tails are ringed and a matching number to the mom is painted on the side. If the ewe has met all our criteria to continue raising lambs here her female lambs are given a small ear notch this makes them eligible to be replacements. Their information is added to the spreadsheet and they are moved into a mixing pen. This female selection process has served us really well in developing a low maintenance flock; it only ensures that the most eligible ewe is raising our replacements.

Quite often there is an event that happens after they have left the jug that may cause them to not be selected as replacements; the lambs do poor, or one is taken off and bottle fed these ewes receive a big red mark for cull and depending on the circumstances a poor doing ewe lamb won't be selected as a replacement or they are given a second ear notch which designates them as a feeder lamb.

Once we wean our lambs the feeder lambs are sorted into one pen and the replacements into another the females we want to keep are selected and often the remaining ones are sold as breeders.

Once there is pasture available the ewe lambs are added back into the flock and they go to pasture. At breeding time the ewe lambs will be sorted off and culled if necessary then moved to a different pen for the winter. The ewes all have their udder felt for lumps or injuries, any poor doers are culled and the rest are sorted into breeding groups and we start the whole process over.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share about our operation and some things we feel we do really well. Hopefully I was able to provide some strategies for managing a flock.

ancey



Tamb 🖓 Industry Information



New Financing Option Available to Sheep Farmers in Alberta

February 13, 2023, ALP announced that Sheep farmers in Alberta will now have access to a new short-term financing option to add animals to their operations as part of a new partnership between Alberta Lamb Producers (ALP) and Scotiabank.

The Scotiabank Yield More Financing[™] program allows ALP members to access funds to purchase ewes and/or feeder lambs as a revolving line of credit with a simple application and approval process.



Finance your ewes at Alberta Lamb Producers with Scotiabank Yield More Financing[™]

Contact Adam French at ALP info@ablamb.ca or Scotiabank Yield More Finance yieldmorefinancing@scotiabank.com

Visit **ablamb.ca** for more details.





"We're ex- cited to partner with ALP to offer a financing solution for their members," says Eleni Ladacakos, Senior Client Relationship Manager, Scotiabank.

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

Farmers looking to access the new funding should contact the ALP office to work with staff to complete the application form, or the application can be completed directly with Scotiabank.

Application information is available at www.ablamb.ca under the resources section, under the "Farm Finance and Business Programs" tab, or by calling ALP directly at 403.948.8533.

Interested sheep farmers can also contact Scotiabank directly by email at <u>yieldmorefinancing@scotiabank.com</u> or calling 1.866.603.4188.

Since 1972, Alberta sheep producers have strongly supported their provincial organization, started as the Alberta Sheep and Wool Commission and renamed Alberta Lamb Producers (ALP) in 2009.

We believe passionately that sheep farming is an agricultural business sector that is profitable, contributes to the well-being of our communities and our province and offers unique opportunities to develop new markets, provide needed environmental benefits and grow both our domestic and international markets.

For more information, contact: **Adam French** ALP Director

Research Update: Effectiveness of a VIDO experimental subunit ovine respiratory vaccines to reduce pneumonia in lambs.

By Dr. Joyce Van Donkersgoed, Megan Gardner, Tracy Prysliak, Jose Perez-Casal

A large, controlled randomized vaccine trial was conducted in a large commercial sheep operation in Alberta from 2021 to 2023, utilizing 3500 pregnant ewes. The vaccine was an experimental subunit ovine vaccine against the pathogenic bacteria called Mannheimia haemolytica, which is a major cause of bacterial pneumonia in sheep. Ewes were vaccinated twice during gestation to boost colostral immunity to reduce pre-weaning lamb pneumonia. Lambs from vaccinated ewes were vaccinated twice at weaning to reduce post-weaning pneumonia. Vaccinated lambs were compared to unvaccinated lambs from unvaccinated ewes. An experimental challenge study was first conducted at VIDO to get approval from CFIA to conduct the commercial vaccine trial using an experimental vaccine. In the experimental challenge study, the vaccine induced high leukotoxin and transferrin-binding protein B antibodies in vaccinated

20 April 2024

Industry Information Alberta



https://ablamb.ca/index.php/resources/ producer-education-events

lambs. These antibodies have been shown previously at VIDO to be very important in preventing pneumonia in lambs. In the experimental challenge study and in the large, controlled vaccine field trial, the experimental subunit *M. haemolytica* vaccine did not reduce clinical disease or improve growth performance or carcass traits in vaccinated lambs from vaccinated ewes compared to unvaccinated lambs from unvaccinated ewes.

Some interesting observations about pneumonia in commercial lambs were found in this vaccine trial, which bear mentioning. Pneumonia was the number one reason pre-weaned and weaned lambs were treated with an antimicrobial. Pneumonia was the 3rd largest cause of death in pre-weaned lambs, causing a 2.1% mortality rate. Enteritis (diarrhea) and starvation were the most common causes of pre-weaning death. Most pneumonia deaths in pre-weaned lambs occurred by 4 weeks of age. In post-weaned lambs, pneumonia was the number one cause of death, causing a 1.8% mortality rate in the growing phase and a 1.1% mortality rate in the finishing phase. Over 75% of



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Did You Know About the Albertalamb.ca Producer Listing?

ALP maintains a listing of producers marketing off-farm lamb sales on <u>https://www.albertalamb.ca/home</u>, our website specially designed for consumers. The ALP office averages three to four calls per week from consumers looking for lamb, who are directed to the listing. Contact the office to have your farm contact information included (*info@ablamb.ca* or 403-948-8533).

In addition to the producer listing, the website has recipes, information about the nutritional value of lamb, and tips for cooking lamb.

the pneumonia deaths occurred within 3 weeks after weaning, indicating that any effective pneumonia vaccine must be either given pre-weaning to boost immunity prior to disease challenge, or be effective with a single vaccine dose at weaning. The most common bacteria identified in lungs of lambs that died from pneumonia were *M. haemolytica*, followed by *Mycoplasma argininia* and *M. ovipneumoniae*. Mixed infections with more than 1 respiratory bacteria were common in fatal cases of pneumonia, suggesting that a respiratory vaccine needs to be effective against more than 1 pathogenic bacteria to reduce clinical disease in sheep flocks.

Lambs of lower birth weight were at increased risk of being treated for pneumonia and dying from any cause and from pneumonia during the pre-weaning period. Birth weight was positively correlated with weaning weight and pre-weaning av-



Lindustry Information



erage daily gain (ADG), meaning those lambs with higher birth weights grew faster and had heavier weaning weights than lighter birth weight lambs. Lambs from litters of > 3 lambs/ewe or those lambs which did not consume sufficient colostrum from their mother based on gut fill, were given supplemental colostrum by barn staff. Lambs supplemented with colostrum were at higher risk of dying than lambs not supplemented with colostrum, which may be due to their lighter birth weights or because they were unthrifty. Lambs that were treated for pre-weaning pneumonia had lower birth weights, weaning weights, and ADG than those not treated. During the growing phase after weaning, which lasted 35 days, lambs treated for pneumonia also had lower ADG and final growing phase body weights compared to untreated lambs.

During the feedlot finishing phase of the trial, which was 111 days, there were very few treatments for pneumonia (0.9%). Lambs treated for pneumonia had lower ADG and finished live body weights than untreated lambs, but there was no difference in days on feed, hot carcass weights, yield grade, or carcass fat cover between treated and untreated lambs.

Ram lambs were at higher risk of being treated for pneumonia and dying from pneumonia than ewe lambs, which supports research in humans and other animals, where males tend to have a higher risk of developing pneumonia than females. This is believed to be due to hormonal differences and immunity response differences to vaccines. Despite having a higher risk of pneumonia than ewe lambs, ram lambs were heavier at birth, weaning, and finishing, they had higher pre-weaning and postweaning ADG, hot carcass weights, and yield grades, with lower carcass backfat than ewe lambs.

Conclusion

Vaccination of ewes during gestation and vaccination of their lambs at weaning with the VIDO experi-



mental ovine *M. haemolytica* subunit vaccine did not reduce antimicrobial treatments or death from pre-weaning or postweaning pneumonia or improve ADG or carcass traits. Pneumonia was not only caused by *M. haemolytica* bacteria, but also by *Mycoplasma* bacteria. Thus, an effective respiratory vaccine for sheep may require protection from *Mycoplasma* bacteria as well. Pneumonia not only cost producers from higher treatment costs and mortality losses, but also from reduced ADG and final body weights. This research suggests that pneumonia treatment and mortality rates could be reduced by improving birth weights in lambs. Further research is required to build an effective ovine respiratory vaccine and to better understand why ram lambs are at higher risk of pneumonia than ewe lambs.

Acknowledgments

The VIDO vaccine research trials were funded by RDAR, Alberta Lamb Producers, and VIDO. We thank the commercial sheep operation for their participation and support of this large commercial research trial.

Wool Growers Coop in Turmoil... Future in Doubt

By Will Verboven

It's been a year since Eric Bjergso, longtime manager of the Canadian Cooperative Wool Growers (CCWG) Ltd, was suspended from his managerial duties. That original action by the CCWG board of directors was a sign that all was not well with company affairs.

However, the CCWG Board has been tight-lipped since then, stating only that they have sought legal advice and engaged an accounting firm to investigate areas of concern with financial operations and corporate structure. One presumes the accounting firm is involved in a forensic-type investigation of the CCWG – that's never a good sign. Last October, at the CCWG annual general meeting (AGM), it was revealed that the former manager had filed a \$2.4 million lawsuit for wrongful dismissal just two weeks after being placed on leave. Such drastic legal action would deem any reconciliation between the two parties as unlikely.

The 2023 CCWG AGM also revealed that several employees had left the company, the minutes of the 2022 AGM had disappeared with a departing employee, and up-to-date financials

Industry Information



were unavailable. None of that would encourage shareholder confidence in CCWG operations. No official reports have been released as yet. However, regardless of the needs of the legal/ investigative process - shareholders and wool shippers deserve a more forthcoming perspective on the fate of the Coop.

That fate is crucial as the CCWG is Canada's largest buyer and marketer of domestic raw wool, with depots across the country, including a large retail/collection facility in Lethbridge and wool collection sites in other parts of Alberta. It's been estimated that the CCWG buys up to 90% of the wool grown in Canada and has been the dominant buyer of wool in the country since 1918. That date would make it probably the oldest continuing agricultural Coop of its kind in Canada. I have some understanding of the CCWG as in a much earlier life - I bought wool for them in the Edmonton area.

Besides its administrative uncertainty, the CCWG, like other wool-buying agencies and companies in North America, is suffering from perhaps the most depressed global wool market in known history. An early casualty of that five-year downturn was the Mid-States Wool Growers Cooperative in Ohio, USA, which closed last May. Mid-States was the same age as the CCWG and handled about the same volume and grades of wool.

One expects their remaining wool inventory will be sold at giveaway prices to wind up the American wool Coop. It's a fate

that awaits the CCWG if it isn't able to address the financial and operational calamities it presently faces.

The CCWG does thankfully have one bright light in its operation – it operates a robust farm and livestock supply retail business through its major retail outlets across the country. For years, that business has subsidized the Coop's wool collection, grading, and marketing side. I recall the Coop charged from 3 to 8 cents a pound to run the wool division, but that was not enough to cover all fixed and variable costs. Without its livestock supply division, I expect the CCWG would have gone bankrupt some time ago. In order to diversify its wool marketing, I understand the CCWG is in the process of getting into the wool pelleting business to market its lower-grade coarse and belly wools. Wool pellets are used for composting purposes and may be more appealing to trendy urban home gardeners who regard any compost connected to manure akin to toxic waste.

Considering the state of the global wool market with little hope of improvement for years to come, that new business venture may be a stroke of genius. I think it's a good idea if they can make a profit, but for any volume, they would have to make deals with garden centres and home improvement retail chains. Composting is a rather shabby end for a wonderful natural fibre like wool. But it will be worth the effort if it saves the CCWG as a wool market for growers.

For wool producers, the reality is that regardless of the fate of the CCWG, returns from selling wool will remain dismally low – but that's nothing new. However, without the CCWG as a market, millions of pounds of beautiful wool would have to be burned or sent to landfills annually across the country.

One wishes the CCWG board good luck in saving this venerable organization – hopefully, they have patient bankers and understanding mortgage holders. Will Verboven is an ag opinion writer and a long-ago former employee of the CCWG.

Sheep Producers of North Central AB



Industry Information

Education Foundation

The Sheep Producers of North Central Alberta Education Foundation and Explore Edmonton have been awarding an annual scholarship of \$1000 since 1995 (under a series of names including Northlands). This award is given out to a student attend-

ing a post-secondary school or a special needs student attending any level of school. The applicant must be from a sheep-producing family and reside in the North-Central region of Alberta.

Award Winner: Taylor Williams A Woman of Determination



Taylor Williams is the 2023 winner of the Sheep Producers of North Central Alberta Educational Foundation and Explore Edmonton's \$1000 award. The 19-year old hails from Stony Plain Alberta and is currently attending Vermillion Lakeland College, enrolled in the Animal Science Technology program, majoring in livestock management.

Taylor lived on her grandfather's farm, Rolling Acres, till she was nine then moved to an acreage outside of Stony Plain. Her sister Andie was first to get into the sheep business, acquiring two



bottle ram lambs in 2017. They both purchased their first ewe lambs in 2018 and from there the flocks grew; Taylor now has 20 Suffolk X ewes and a purebred Hampshire ram.

Like many past recipients, Taylor joined her local 4-H (Duffield Club) at a young age (12), gaining knowledge and an appreciation of the sheep industry. Additional experience was gathered by helping neighbours with lambing since 2017; all experience culminated with the opportunity to apply to Lakeland's program.She plans on joining the Breeding Ewe and Market Lamb projects again at her local 4-H because she enjoys working with sheep and showing off her hard work. Taylor recently joined Lakeland's Sheep & Stuff Club in 2023, travelling with them to Regina's Agribition. At that show, the club took four

purebred ewe lambs (two Canadian Arcott's and two Hamp-shire's), receiving a third place showing with both pairs.

Future plans include going to an Indiana show over the 2024 Easter weekend to learn how to properly groom and show



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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

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

Email *info@ablamb.ca* or fax 403-912-1455 or call 403-948-8533 to place, amend or delete your classified ad. Alberta Lambs 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

3 Dorset cross ram lambs for sale- born May 2023. One white, one black with white spot on head, and one black with white on head and chest. Located Olds area. Contact Bob at <u>ewesrus7@gmail.com</u>

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

6 Registered Clun Forrest fine wool ewe lambs-born Feb/Mar 2023; bred for maternal and fleece qualities (22-26), out of season breeding as well as prolificacy. Finn x BFL, Finn x Texel & Finn x Clun; \$300 obo; Also 10 registered Clun Forrest ewes available. Call Sarah at 780-850-8742

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

Shropshire breeding stock available. <u>www.</u> <u>coyoteacresranch.com</u> . Contact <u>coyoteacres@gmail.</u> <u>com</u> or call **780-614-0569**

Sheep Trax Canadian Arcotts available.coyoteacresranch.comhotmail.comor call403-741-8597

Suffolk & Dorset yearling rams & ram lambs. Grande Prairie, AB. Email <u>heartvalleysheep@gmail.com.</u> 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 <u>Terahvdmeer@gmail.com</u> or <u>www.</u> <u>shoplocalfarms.ca/friscofarms.html</u> 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

Registered Katahdin Rams and Ewes for sale. Central Alberta. Contact <u>http://cravenfarmskatahdins.</u> <u>ca/</u> or <u>cfksheep@gmail.com</u>

Rambouillet and Suffolk X Rambouillet ewes for sale, exposed to rams to lamb October/ November. 250 available. \$325. Lethbridge area. Contact: 403-382-0885

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

Lamb Classifieds

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

Purebred Dorset rams & Ildefrance rams for sale. Good mid style sheep with shorter legs and deep bodies. From registered stock but unregistered. Located in Rocky Mountain House, AB. Please email <u>Birchwoodart@gmail.com</u> or call **403-418-5425**

Purebred Suffolk Breeding Rams – not registered. Born mid Feb/22. British influence strong and 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/22. Call or text. **780-674-4760**

Icelandic ewes, wethers and rams, both registered and unregistered, mixed colors and patterns, horned. Clean, closed flock. Contact Sarah at Rogue Ranch at sarahtonowski@gmail.com_780-901-5337

Corriedale sheep. Dual-purpose breed producing, good quality carcasses and high pelt value. Corriedales are known for their docile dispositions and are excellent mothers. Contact Ian Zoerb located Brooks AB. jozoerb@msn.com **403-793-0618**

Purebred Charollais Yearling rams for sale. Wellmuscled, long bodied rams with excellent ADG for superior butcher quality lambs and great easy lambing replacement ewes. <u>fieldstone@telus.net</u>. **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 <u>sheepandewe@gmail.</u> <u>com</u> 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 <u>www.</u> <u>albertasheepbreeders.ca or</u> **1-866-967-4337**

Parker Stock Farm. Glen and Kathy Parker. GenOvis performance tested Suffolk breeding stock. <u>www.</u> <u>parkerstockfarm.com</u>, <u>parkerstockfarm@xplornet.com</u>, 403-443-7220

Need more meat? Charollais rams and ewes. Performance based selection OPP-Neg <u>dshalfdiamond@gmail.com</u> or **403-224-2463**

SHEEP & LAMBS - Wanted

Wanted: Dorper or similar hair breed for flock expansion. Healthy, high twinning rates, fast-growing lambs, and well-suited for pasture. Open to all options including ewe lambs, bred/open ewes, pairs, and flock dispersals. Also interested in high-quality Dorper rams. Mayerthorpe/Barrhead area, willing to travel. Contact Dini: <u>dalwindfarms@gmail.com</u> or 780-781-3319

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 <u>alberslamb@hotmail.</u> <u>com</u>.

Wanted: Feeder lambs and culls in High Prairie area. All sizes and types. Animals weighed, no shrink. Clients emailed price/lb weekly and can decide if they want to deliver. Hauling possible. No commission fees. Call Eric Verstappen **780-536-6740**, pref. 8 - 9 PM.

DOGS

Great Pyrenees pups ready to go. DOB Nov 22,

2023. Come with first shots. Out of working parents, strong bloodlines with minimal wandering genetics. Raised with sheep and goats, never been in the house. Socialized but not turned into pets. Good with cats and kids. This is a strong litter that will make great working guardians; 3rd generation our bloodlines. \$400 each. Located at Two Hills AB; Contact schiecklivestock@gmail.com or **780-993-2037**

Puppies to give away! We have 3 male puppies. Mom is Pyrenees and Bernese Mountain Dog and Dad is Maremma. Email <u>pgist586@gmail.com</u> or call **780-352-1080** or **780-361-8758** (cell)

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



Classifieds Alberta

prime coyote country and have never lost a sheep to predators. Call or text Tyler Untinen **780-621-7120**

Purebred registered Border Collie puppies for sale in Beaverlodge, AB. Parents are our working dogs. For full details and pictures, check out our website – u2kennels.com **403-357-8610**

Maremma guard dogs. Various ages. Raised onfarm and on-pasture with sheep. Outstanding, goodnatured 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 <u>lonevalleyfarmltd@gmail.com</u> or **403-971-3426**

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)

New Let-Tack Lamb Milking machine for sale. New aluminum hopper included. For more information, email <u>sheepandewe@gmail.com</u> or **403-575-7794**

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 Custom Livestock Hauling? Contact Cody Coupland from Rainy Creek Farms at 1-403-877-0799 or at <u>codycoupland@gmail.com</u>. Based in Bentley, AB. Hauls Canada and US wide. 20' x 7' is \$100/hour, 42' x 8' is \$135/hour 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. 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 <u>kelsey@</u> <u>integrityranching.com</u>



ADVERTISEMENTS OR ARTICLES ARE DUE NO LATER THAN THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE WILL NOT BE INCLUDED

ISSUE	DEADLINE
JANUARY April July September	DECEMBER 1, 2023 MARCH 15, 2024 JUNE 20, 2024 AUGUST 23, 2024 Alberta Lamb Producers
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Calendar and Contact

Sheep Calendar			
What	Where	When	
Dealing With Stress? AFSC	Online	Visit: <i>Dealing with stress? Help is available - Agriculture Financial Ser-</i> vices Corporation (afsc.ca)	
Green Certificate Program	Various	Visit: <u>Green Certificate Program Alberta.ca</u>	
Calgary Aggie Days	Calgary, AB	Apr 10-14 <u>Calgary Stampede Aggie Days</u>	
Open Farm Days - Kids Corner	Alberta	May 6 www.albertaopenfarmdays.ca	
18th Annual Pound Maker Ram Sale	Fort McLeod, AB	May 23 POUND MAKER RAM SALE	
Badlands Spring Select Sheep Sale	Online	May 31-June 1 Coyote Acres Ranch - (northernhorse.com)	
2024 4-H Alberta on Parade	Calgary, AB	May 30-June 4 <u>4-H On Parade presented by Brandt Calgary Stam- pede</u>	
Parker Stock Production Sale	Online	June 7-8 Parker Stock Farm	
Mornville Colony Sheep Sale	Sturgeon County, AB	June 14-15 DLMS Farm Gate Timed Auctions	
Deadline for July 2024 N'ewsletter	Online	June 20 Home - Alberta Lamb Producers (ablamb.ca)	
Warren & Norine Moore Sheep Production Sale	Online	June 21-22 DLMS Farm Gate Timed Auctions	
2024 All Canada Classic Sheep Show	Richmond, QC	July 11-13 2024 All Canada Classic (sheepbreeders.ca)	

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

ALP BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024

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	Rocky Mountain House
Jolene Airth, Vice Finance Chair	403-968-6436	jolene@ablamb.ca	Rocky View County
Richard Boscher, Vice Finance Chair	780-870-1876	richard@ablamb.ca	Kitscoty, Vermillion County
Darlene Hawco, Director	780-292-4607	darleneh@ablamb.ca	St. Paul County, Saint Paul
Adam French, Interim Director	780-872-9908	adam@ablamb.ca	Vermillion River
Alison Neale, Interim Director	306-914-1362	alison@ablamb.ca	Mountain View County
Jessica Chitwood, Director in Training	403-916-4333	jessica@ablamb.ca	Bashaw County, Camrose

Address: Agriculture Centre, 97 East Lake Ramp NE, Airdrie, AB T4A 0C3 | Fax: 403-912-1455 | www.ablamb.ca for producer information, www.albertalamb.ca for consumer information



780-674-9564 www.eronafarms.ca sales@eronafarms.ca

Livestock Systems



11:00 am @ Fort Macleod Auction Market Fort Macleod, Alberta

Selling 153 Yearling Rams

75 Suffolk * 10 Dorset * 5 Charollais * 10 Rambouillet * 20 lle de France * 3 Hampshire 10 North Country Cheviot * 15 Canadian Arcott * 4 Rideau Arcott * 1 Coloured

Auction barn will be open to view the rams from 11am to 7pm on Wednesday, May 22, 2024.

2 Ewe lambs donated by Ewelme Farming Co. Ltd. will be auctioned off. All proceeds will be donated to



Consignors:

Warren and Norine Moore Bert and Andrelei Grisnich Ty and Drew Mandel Mark, Louis and Jody Greidanus

Trade Booths:

Zubot Welding Shearwell Canada Chinook Equipment Bullseye Feeds

Look for the catalogue on the website after May 1st!

Unable to attend? We offer the following options:



Contact one of our order buyers:

Warren Moore Louis Greidanus Andy Pittman 403-625-6519 403-894-2593 403-308-7439

Check out the sale website: www.poundmakerrams.com, follow us on Facebook, or contact Warren Moore at 403-625-6519 or Louis Greidanus at 403-894-2593

OR