



BROWSE

News from the Ontario Goat Breeders' Association
<http://www.ogba.ca>

OGBA Directors - District 1 (2 vacancies)

Donna Medcalf
2211 Miles Rd, Mount Hope ON L0R 1W0
Phone 905-679-4417 Fax 905-547-6737
Email donnamedcalf@ogba.ca

OGBA Directors - District 2 (2 vacancies)

Garry Claassen
RR 2, Teeswater, ON N0G 2S0
Phone 519-357-4422 Fax 519-357-4544
Cell 519-357-5744
Email garryclaassen@ogba.ca

OGBA Directors - District 3 (2 vacancies)

Patrick McDonald
RR 4, Kenilworth, ON N0G 2E0
Phone/Fax 519-848-3858
Email patrickmacdonal@ogba.ca

OGBA Directors - District 4

Lucy Berger
RR 2, Hastings, ON K0L 1Y0
Phone 705-653-4819
Email lucyberger@ogba.ca

Cindy Hubble
RR 2, Stirling, ON K0K 3E0
Phone/Fax 613-395-2602
Email cindyhubble@ogba.ca

Sandy Pearce
142 Walkers Rd, RR 2
Fenelon Falls, ON K0M 1N0
Phone 705-887-3073
Email sandypearce@ogba.ca

OGBA Directors - District 5

Ed Cavanagh
RR 1, Toledo, ON K0E 1Y0
Phone 613-275-2113
Email edcavanagh@ogba.ca

Laura Cotie
208 Denridge Road, RR 1
Selby ON K0K 2Z0
Phone 613-388-2494
Email lauracotie@ogba.ca

Allison Taylor
RR 2, Williamstown, ON K0C 2J0
Phone 613-347-2949 or 347-1077
Fax 613-347-1105
Email allisontaylor@ogba.ca

OGBA Directors - District 6 (2 vacancies)

Dawn Stead
RR 3, Huntsville, ON P1H 2J4
Phone 705-788-1942
Email dawnstead@ogba.ca

OGBA President's Message

After a long search for a new editor and careful consideration of available options the Ontario Goat Breeders' Association Board of Directors is pleased to announce that approval has been passed to contract Jackie Dunham of Rise and Shine Press to publish and include the Ontario Goat Breeders' provincial publication *Browse* within *GoatKeeper*. The *Goatkeeper* is a very professional goat industry publication distributed within the provinces of BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan Manitoba and the OGBA Board of Directors is pleased to now have Ontario included. The BOD feels that this change will increase networking and promotional opportunities for Ontario producers and help promote unity and cohesion within our industry.

Ontario producers know that to-date, many of my president's messages have conveyed thoughts on unity and coopera-

tion and how important these issues are to not only our industry's future, but also the future of agriculture as a whole. Recently an article, written by Don Copenhaver and published in the Dec/Jan 2004 of *Today's Farmer*, caught my attention and I have included a few excerpts from it below. Even though this is an American publication, he offers interesting perspectives to serious agricultural issues that also apply in Canada.

Join a producer group today and have a hand in agriculture's future

by Don Copenhaver, president

The farm community isn't going to get bigger. So we must get more effective at presenting agriculture's case to the public and to the government. If the recent national elections showed anything, it was the importance of small groups cooperating for a common goal. It's called cohesion. In agriculture we need to be far more

ONTARIO GOAT BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION

PO Box 596, Lancaster ON K0C 1N0

Tel 866-311-OGBA (toll-free in ON) Email secretary@ogba.ca

Executive

President	Cindy Hubble
Vice President	Garry Classen
Treasurer	Laura Cotie
Secretary	Allison Taylor
Browse Co-ordinator	Ed Cavanagh

Committee Chairs

Chevon	Lucy Berger
Dairy	Garry Claassen
Fibre	Allison Taylor
Promotions	Dawn Stead

Interested in being a Director?

Article VI of the current Constitution (October 2001) states that persons interested in becoming Directors must submit application to the Secretary by December 31 of each year.

If more than three (3) members indicate their desire to represent any given District, voting ballots will be mailed to each members in that District by January 31 of the following year and these members will be given a period of one (1) month to vote for up to three (3) Directors to represent their District.

Directors will assume office at the first Annual General Meeting following the election and after the conclusion of business of the retiring Board of Directors at that meeting.

effective at sticking together.

Today's producer groups are doing an excellent and effective job of representing farmers and ranchers. Checkoffs are under fire from many sides. Memberships aren't. Get involved. I strongly urge everyone in agriculture today to join not just one but multiple producer groups like the Cattlemen's Association, the Corn Growers, the Dairy Association, the Pork Producers, the Poultry Federation, the Soybean Association, etc. Of course, I've missed a group or two, but my intention is not to list every-one. My intention is to stress the importance today of joining these associations to positively affect agriculture.

Why? We cannot afford to watch from the sidelines. Again, agriculture's influence continues to erode. Look at key issues today. Look at the activist groups that have agriculture in their sights. And realize that all of us in agriculture have far more in common than ever. In agriculture all of today's issues and producers share common ground. Whether your particular focus is beef cows, corn, dairy, soybeans, poultry, wheat or pork, in the majority of cases your interests closely coincide with all others in agriculture. Let's be effective.

Let's make the membership rolls swell with new members. There is no good reason not to be involved with several groups that represent your interests.

Mr. Copenhagen says "all of us in agriculture have far more in common than ever". I know that he is not referring to Canada but this article could easily apply to agriculture in Canada and clearly demonstrates that producers in agriculture, wherever they reside, face many of the same issues.

More than ever producers need to realize the "importance of small groups cooperating for a common goal" and that "we need to be far more effective at sticking together." I hope that you as a member of the Canadian goat industry do not choose to "watch from the sidelines". Find something positive and supportive that you can do and do it. We can move our national and provincial goat industries forward if we are resolute in our cooperation and respectful of our diversity.

We look forward to being part of the *GoatKeeper* family.

PROMOTE THE GOAT!

Cindy Hubble
President, Ontario Goat Breeders' Association

RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS

An OGBA Director:

Is a Board member for a two year term;
Will maintain full membership with the OGBA;
Will strive to attend Annual & Semi-Annual meetings;
Will maintain residence within the District represented;
Will liaise with OGBA members in that District;
Will assist with decision-making and committee work that is the responsibility of the Board of Directors;
Will maintain a high moral and ethical standard and work in the best interests of the OGBA and its membership.

Red Meat Slaughter in Provincially Inspected Plants
Ontario, 1999-2004 (# of head)
Author: Bill McGee - Manager, Statistical Services/OMAF
Last Reviewed: 19 Jan. 2005

Livestock	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Goats	19,512	21,725	22,629	25,668	29,889	35,409

From the Archives

submitted by Ed Cavanagh

Judging Judges by Mary Bolter (1980)

How can he call himself a judge?
How he passed the test goodness knows!
Did you see how he placed that class of goats?
The winner had twiddley toes.

My word, he's really good that judge,
He knows a thing or two.
He could see mine was a superior doe,
May even place her Best in Show.

She's hopeless, that judge out there.
She should be judging hogs!
She placed that kid top of its class,
When it should be fed to the dogs.

She really is my favourite judge.
At judging kids she's great.
She always places mine well up.
She knows they develop late.

To all good judges near or far,
You cannot please us all.
Just do your best and hang in there,
Be deaf to the old cat's call.
For the one that is abusing
A hundred find it all amusing.

OGBA **Farm Signs** AVAILABLE

We have an inventory of OGBA Ontario Goat Producer Farm signs available for sale at a special price. These are the older design, with dairy and Angora goats. Sorry, no meat goat. Meat goat producers may wish to wait until the new design is released, which will include a meat goat.

For the rest of you, we offer this double-sided metal sign 41 x 12.5 cm (5" x 16"), pre-drilled with mounting bracket, for the low, low price of \$10 including postage! It doesn't get any better than that! When these signs were first produced, they were sold for \$25 each. We want to move them out so we can get the new ones in.

To order, send your cheque to the OGBA Secretary.

Ontario Goat Breeders' Association

History

Founded in 1951, the original name was "The Ontario Dairy Goat Society." In 1986, the name was changed to the "Ontario Goat Breeders' Association" to better reflect the ever-changing Ontario goat and the varied products that this versatile animal provides. In 1989, the Ontario Goat Breeders' Association was incorporated under the Agricultural and Horticultural Organisations Act by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

The objectives of the Ontario Goat Breeders' Association are to:

- Provide and circulate sound information about goats
- Improve and develop goat breeds
- Encourage and promote the expansion of all areas of the Ontario goat industry
- Assist in the development of meat, mohair and dairy product markets in Ontario

Milestones

The Ontario Goat Breeders' Association has been the driving force behind many projects, including:

- Research for a viable test to identify caseous lymphadenitis, and to develop a vaccine at the University of Guelph;
- Survey to determine markets for Chevon products carried out by the firm of Ginty Jocius & Associates;
- Establishment of the trademark Canadian Grown Chevon which was first used July 1, 1995 and is available at 31 plants across Ontario;

- Production of a promotional package for goat milk which includes Goat Milk Facts and The Goat Milk Industry in Ontario, and an 11" X 17" full colour poster;
- Development of a 1-day course Marketing Strategies for goat producers;
- Two goat production manuals: *Let's Make a Decision!* the first, for producers new to the industry, and *How the Industry Grows!*, at a more advanced level;
- Available for teachers, a resource entitled "The Goodness of Ontario Goats" which meets Ontario's Educational Curriculum;
- Prepared 8.5" X 11" poster, A Lean Alternative, which provides nutritional facts about Chevon and a visual display of the meat cuts;
- Active promotion of milk, meat and fibre at the fairs and at schools, giving hands-on exposure to the Ontario's goat industry.

Partnerships

The Ontario Goat Breeders' Association is proud of its accomplishments on behalf of the goat industry, that have been possible through partnerships with:

- OAFE (Ontario Agri-Food Education Inc.)
- OATI (Ontario Agricultural Training Institute)
- OFA (Ontario Federation of Agriculture)
- FOODLAND ONTARIO
- OMAFRA (Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs)

Improve and enhance your goat management **PRODUCTION MANUALS**

Manual #1 - Let's make a Decision

Aimed at the new or novice goatkeeper, or anyone thinking about raising goats, this manual has everything you need to know, starting with selecting stock to record-keeping charts. It is written by goatkeepers, for goatkeepers, in terms that everyone can understand.

Manual #2 - How the Industry Grows

This manual has been produced for the more experienced goatkeeper. It is a more in-depth look at products and marketing. Topics include: grading meat goats, assessing a love goat's body condition, Grade A requirements for shipping milk, and faults in raw mohair. The writers of this manual have over 50 years combined experience in raising goats.

Prices:	OGBA Members	Non-Members
Manual #1	\$25.00	\$35.00
Manual #2	\$25.00	\$35.00

Prices are in Canadian funds.

Shipping is \$5 extra per manual, or arrangements can be made for pick-up in your district.

Order your manuals through the OGBA Secretary.

Goat Society

by Ed Cavanagh

Did you ever watch a herd of goats grazing or browsing? It may look like a haphazard operation, but actually it's a highly organized social event. Goat society is very undemocratic. Like most animals that run in herds, they seem to set up a rigid social hierarchy in which every goat has her place. She's a queen to all the goats below her, and the loyal subject of all the stronger goats in the herd.

There's always one goat that bows to none - the boss of the herd. She has free and uncontested access to the best feeding spots, the best shade, the choicest spot in the barn or any other privilege she may choose to establish as her own.

Likewise there's always the goat at the bottom of the ladder. She owns no privileges, defends nothing, and simply takes what the other leave behind, or are willing to share with her. Sometimes she'll wait for half an hour for a turn at the feeder rather than squabble with a social "better". A goat establishes her rank soon after she joins the herd, and once it's set it isn't likely to be challenged until another newcomer tries to find a place in the social order or the bottom dweller is tired of her position. Always make sure you have enough feed and feeding areas for everyone, especially water. If space is limited "cut back" oh that nasty word!!!!!!! Remember you like to eat, drink and sleep; don't you think your goats do as well?