



BROWSE

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

OGBA Directors - District 1 (3 vacancies)

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 claassen@ogba.ca

OGBA Directors - District 3 (3 vacancies)

OGBA Directors - District 4

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

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

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

OGBA Directors - District 5 (1 vacancy)

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

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

OGBA Directors - District 6 (3 vacancies)

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.

Constitutional Revision Passes

In early August, the OGBA circulated a proposed revised version of the organization's constitution to the membership for voting. The original constitution has been an ongoing source of frustration, as it did not offer practical guidance as to meeting and other procedures, required cumbersome election procedures, and was onerous to amend. The proposed constitution is much simplified, relying instead on the organization's by-laws to direct its day-to-day activities.

The result of the voting was positive, with overwhelming support for the new constitution. The OGBA Board looks forward to moving forward under this new direction. The new constitution will be posted on the OGBA web site.

4-H Ontario Update

The OGBA has provided 4-H Ontario with a resource package to be sent to each 4-H goat club leader in the province. The package consists of our 2-volume production manual, teachers' kit, some goat cheese recipes, other brochures, and two Ontario Goat Producer farm signs, which are intended as prizes for their achievement days.

Due to new privacy rules, 4-H Ontario was not able to supply us with a list of the province's goat club leaders; instead they will be distributing the packages from their office in Guelph. Ontario 4-H goat club leaders who do not receive the package are encouraged to contact either 4-H Ontario or OGBA.

OGBA is proud to support 4-H Ontario in fostering knowledge and leadership in the province's rural youth.

Reports Submitted to the Ontario Goat Breeder's Association August 2005 AGM

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 Claassen
Treasurer Sandy Pearce
Secretary Allison Taylor
Browse Co-ordinator Ed Cavanagh

Committee Chairs

Chevon Lucy Berger
Dairy Garry Claassen
Fibre Allison Taylor
Promotions TBA

not be the best solution to ensure consistency and timely completion of the requirements of the position. The treasurer's position along with the website, secretary and *Browse* were all identified as essential services. With this change the Board also hoped to protect OGBA from Board member turnover and any associated political issues. This still left us with the issue of filling the treasurer's position as required. After consideration director Sandy Pearce agreed to take on this position. I would like to thank Sandy very much for her time and commitment during this changeover.

This still left OGBA with the 2003 and 2004 audits to complete. After receiving the OGBA financial documentation Jane and Sandy set to work getting all of the necessary information to the auditor. Unfortunately, this process did not run as smoothly as hoped due in part to software incompatibility and the completion of the audit has been delayed until mid-September 2005. At that time OGBA will mail each member a copy of the audits for your review.

On a more positive note I hope that you have all been able to review our new website. First I would like to extend a very big thanks to former director Dawn Stead. Dawn spent a great deal of time and effort researching websites, website companies and gathering quotes. Without Dawn's efforts we would not have been able to respond so quickly to the untimely termination of our old site. We are all very pleased and excited with the new site and would like Mr. Dino Iannuzzi of Netwerx, one of our guest speakers this morning, for all of his expertise, hard work and knowledgeable guidance. I am sure that after this morning's presentation you are very impressed with the power of the new website and anxious to take advantages of all of the opportunities it will offer OGBA members. You may have notice the somewhat skeletal appearance of this site and that there are is a great deal of space not developed. Of course when our site was terminated our information was lost and this may actually be a blessing in disguise. The producers of Ontario now have a high-powered website with almost limitless possibilities to develop into their own. The breeds, chevon, dairy, fibre, kid zone, breeders listing, and market place pages are all in need of development and each and every one can have a hand in contributing to their area of interest. There is also room for 4-H to create a wonderful area dedicated to their programs and local goat clubs to will have the opportunity to promote and communicate with the limitless internet. Are you a producer that cannot afford to cost of a website? The new OGBA website can help you with that. The Board realizes that marketing and promotion are one of the keys to success, but on the other hand there is the reality of the financial burden this can create for producers. This website is an ever changing, ever growing project and its future is in your hands.

Promotion and marketing are critical to the success of any business and with that in mind the Board asked former director Dawn Stead to develop a promotional/marketing opportunity for the membership. The result of her work was the program "Show Me". This program was released at the October 2003 semi-annual meeting, promoted over the internet and in *Browse*. You may remember that with this program OGBA offered to supply promotional material and pay registration fees for promotional opportunities if the membership would provide the human resources to manage the display. It could be small local fairs or larger projects like the Canada's Outdoor Farm Show. Despite this offer we only had two people step forward to take advantage of this opportunity for the Canada's Outdoor Farm Show. While we appreciate the enthusiasm of the two volunteers we were still short about four people to make that event work. Therefore, because of lack of members' support we had to cancel our entry at this year's Outdoor Farm Show. It is very unfortunate that more members did not take advantage of this opportunity for promotion and marketing. All we asked was that they also promoted all sectors of the industry and OGBA. We will not give up on this project yet as I feel that it is a very good one. I hope

that people will think of opportunities over the winter and are prepared for promotion next spring, summer and fall.

As was explained last fall OGBA had been searching for a new editor for *Browse* for over a year and would make a decision by the end of 2004. In January the Board of Directors contracted Jackie Dunham, editor of *GoatKeeper*, to include *Browse* in her national goat magazine. I hope that all of you have received your February, April, June and August issues of *GoatKeeper*. The Board is very pleased with the results of this decision and hope you are enjoying this new format. We would like to thank director Ed Cavanagh for his efforts as liaison between *GoatKeeper* and OGBA. It has been a steep learning curve. Thank you also to Jackie for all of her patience in guiding us into the *GoatKeeper* family.

Promotion of the Ontario goat industry is a very high priority for OGBA. There was certainly a great deal of work to do to re-establish OGBA into the Ontario agriculture community. I cannot say enough about the effort that director Garry Claassen has contributed to this cause. The meetings he has attended, the committees he is serving on is astounding. Many may not fully understand the significance of this kind of work. To re-establish OGBA in the Ontario agriculture community creates credibility and opportunity for OGBA, opportunities to work co-operatively with other livestock groups to accomplish work that will benefit us all. These co-operative efforts also allow us to increase the value of our Stock Yard dollars. A perfect example of this is the present project to develop a dairy brochure. Several participants are working co-operatively with Vanessa Taylor to develop a new dairy brochure for the Ontario dairy goat industry. This group has also managed to secure financial support for part of the brochure development via a grant from AAC. A few years ago the former OGBA Board was planning develop several brochures for each one of our sectors. The cost was approximately \$5000/sector. This same job has been accomplished with this co-operative effort at a cost of only \$1000 to each participating group. This is a savings of \$4000 for OGBA. These efforts increase the value of our dollar by sharing costs and securing grants of offset some of the costs. Garry's dedication and commitment is second to none and I would like to offer my thanks as a producer and member of this Board.

4-H has also been a great source of frustration for our Board as we have a lot to offer and would like to be able to help our goat 4-H groups. Unfortunately, we have been unable to establish contact lists, as 4-H Ontario will not release contact information. If there is anyone that has contact with goat 4-H groups please have these individuals give us a call. We are very interested in their programs and need their input if we are to help in some way.

Recently, the proposed constitution was mailed to every member. This has been a very long process and we are pleased that it is finally ready for your consideration. Please remember that this kind of document will continue to be a work in progress even after approval as amendments will likely be made every year as our industry and organization grows. Each year the membership has the opportunity to submit amendments to be voted on. I hope that you will take a moment to review the document and cast your vote.

In closing I cannot stress enough, even though we have accomplished a great deal in a short amount of time there is much more we could be doing, but this Board cannot do it without your input and support. There are many opportunities available, but too few hands to make them all a reality. The challenge is to each and every producer. This industry will only be as good as you make it.

It is up to you!

CNGF Rep for OGBA Garry Claassen
Phone 519-357-4422 Fax 519-357-4544
Cell 519-357-5744 Email claassen@ogba.ca

Chevon Committee Report

The Ontario Animal Research and Services Committee (OARSC) Five-year Strategic Plan, Goat Subcommittee indicated in its annual reports a need for genetic evaluation programs to help identify superior seed stock. This would help producers improve production and increase financial gains. With this in mind I began investigating options available. In speaking with Ontario lamb producers they advised me of a program they used and were very happy with, called LAMBPLAN. Because of the growth of the Chevon industry around the world the developers of LAMBPLAN created KIDPLAN for goats. KIDPLAN is a genetic information and improvement system that compares animals on the basis of their value as parent, that is, their breeding value. Meat & Livestock Australia Limited runs the service with the LAMBPLAN office based at The University of New England. The analysis of all KIDPLAN information is carried out using OVIS and is managed by the Animal Breeding and Genetics Unit (AGBU). There is a KIDPLAN Advisory committee comprising of Seed Stock breeders from various areas to ensure that the project continues in the right direction. KIDPLAN is all about increasing accuracy of selection decisions, and when properly understood and used, can be a significant aid to a producer's decision making when selecting stock and can be used to estimate the relative performance of an animal or its progeny compared to the breed benchmark. KIDPLAN is an industry-based service backed by some of the best expertise in the world. KIDPLAN is similar technology to that used by the pig, poultry, beef and dairy industries to make such dramatic production changes over the last few decades. It has worked wonderfully well for those industries, and works just as well for the genetic evaluation of goats.

The Benefits that producers can expect using KIDPLAN: KIDPLAN allows Boer and Meat Goat producers to maximize returns.

Better Bucks produce:

Kids that grow quicker, which reduces the time to slaughter

Kids that meet carcass specifications

Daughters with higher milking potential and greater fertility

Better Does produce:

More kids

Kids with higher growth rates

Kids with higher carcass weight and value

To find more information or contact Meat & Livestock Australia Limited regarding KIDPLAN at the following website <http://www.mla.com.au/kidplan/>.

I hope that you have had the opportunity to visit our new website. It is a great opportunity for all producers to network, promote and help develop the new areas of the website. The OGBA Chevon Committee needs help to develop an extensive section on the Ontario Chevon industry. It is a wonderful opportunity and I cannot urge you strongly enough to get involved in this process by contacting the Chevon Chair and offering your services. Along with the website the Ontario Chevon industry is in need of new promotional material, including updating the old Chevon brochure. Volunteers are needed to help steer this effort and create promotional tools that will benefit producers and educate the public about our industry.

Recently the US border opened to live animals, including goats under 12 months of age, after a delay in March. This is a slight improvement, as during the 2 years that the US border was closed only boneless cuts of meat were permitted to cross the border. The aforementioned option was really not a viable option for the goat industry as this

would require the goats to be processed at a Federal slaughter plant. We are all aware that it is virtually impossible to have a goat process as Federal slaughter plants were working to capacity processing beef. Another problem was the cost of slaughtering in a Federal plant, which also put pressure on the viability of this option. Of course the recent border opening does nothing for the Seed Stock forcing producers to downsize or retire from the industry.

New Federal label regulations require that labels on meat products for human consumption must indicate a nutritional analysis of the product. This would include ground meat products like goat burgers, sausages, etc. The main 'red meat sector' groups (Beef, Pork and Veal) have already had analysis done on their ground meat products. Under the CORD IV (Red Meat sector 'multi species fund') OGBA and the other red meat commodities are working collaboratively to apply for a grant to fund this project. I would like to thank Garry Claassen for the networking he has been doing on behalf of OGBA at meetings. This networking is creating collaborative opportunities, helping OGBA to increase the value of our Stock Yard funding dollars.

Below you will find a chart from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food. This chart indicates the Red Meat slaughter in provincially inspected plants to the end of 2004. It is interesting to note that the slaughter stats between 2003 and 2004 shows the greatest increase of all the years indicated, of just under 6,000 animals.

Red Meat Slaughter in Provincially Inspected Plants Ontario, 1999-2004 (# of head)

Author: Bill McGee - Manager, Statistical Services/OMAF

Last Reviewed: 19 January 2005

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

Much work needs to be done but there are too few hands. This industry can and should be a thriving viable industry but everyone needs work together and do their part. The Chevon committee needs your support, your input and YOU. Let's not waste anymore time, pitch in and let's gid'r done.

Lucy Berger, Chevon Committee Chair

"Red Meat" committee

The 'red meat' committee has approved a number of projects under the CORD IV funding program.

Of interest to OGBA will be:

The projects that apply for funding to the 'goat share' of the CORD IV funds. The goat industry has been allocated \$30,000 and no project proposals for this fund have been received to date

Projects that have applied for funding from the 'Multi Species Fund'.

Research Writer: To compile an orderly and quick reference list of ALL previous livestock CORD funded projects.

Red Meat Branding: (phase 1) To investigate the feasibility of "branding" Ontario red meat. Some-what similar to the "Food-land Ontario" slogan and logo. Done by Veal, Sheep, Pork and Cattle.

Virtual Tours (OFAC): To develop virtual farm tours of livestock farms for the OFAC website (somewhat similar lay-out but in opposition to the 'Meatrix' site of the animal activist groups)

Faces of Farming Calendar (OFAC): OFAC has been allowed to build on the very popular 'Faces of Farming' calendar put out over the last few years by Ontario Pork. They have discontinued this series. The seven Red Meat commodities (Veal, Sheep, Pork, Cattle, Ratites, Deer & Elk and Goats) have agreed to fund seven months.

Agri-Food Security Workshop and Manual Project (OFAC): How to deal with animal activists and bio-terrorism. By invitation only.

Due to the nature of this project more information can not be supplied here and we request confidentiality about this item.

Future projects of interest to OGBA will be:

Phase 2 of the Red Meat Branding. OGBA will receive a request for a letter of support for this project

The OCS (Ontario Cheese Society) is dealing with the numerous terms that are being used in the cheese production world, eg artisan, homestead, farmstead, etc. It has been suggested to OCS to put forth a proposal to OGBA for funding under CORD IV (goats) for a research writer to do a publication study as to how these numerous terms are defined in other jurisdictions.

If further clarification and/or information is desired, do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted, Garry Claassen

Dairy Committee Report

As heard in the (dairy) field:

Very few goat milk producers have been forced to dump milk this year due to quality problems. A higher number are in the 'tiered penalty system' as per their milk buyer's program.

There are reports indicating an overall shortage of goat milk this year, specifically in BC.

Presently there is no contract yet between the major brokers of raw goat milk and the major goat milk processor.

The Ontario Dairy Goat Co-operative Inc. has reverted back to once-weekly pick-up of goat milk from their twice-weekly pick-up.

All of Ontario's projected production of goat milk has been allocated to processors.

Hewitt's Dairy is picking up milk for their fluid milk production on a twice-weekly basis.

Respectfully submitted, Garry Claassen

Fibre Committee Report

2004-2005 has been a rebuilding year for OGBA - a process we are thankfully nearing the end of.

The Fibre Committee is a loose group of goat fibre producers with a common interest in improving awareness or and marketability of goat fibre and its products. In the past year, we have explored a number of ideas to promote the Ontario goat fibre industry - some of which we hope to develop further in 2005-2006:

Liaised with Alberta Mohair Producers Association to learn more about their bi-annual judges' training program. Early conversations indicate we may not have sufficiently large herds in Ontario to be able to offer a course here - apparently we need at least 40 animals to be able to furnish the variety and size of classes for students to evaluate. Some Ontario producers may travel to Alberta in 2006 to participate in their course.

Communicated with newly-formed Canadian Cashmere Producers' Association to indicate support and offer assistance and potential funding in developing educational materials about cashmere production. This dialogue is continuing.

Discussions with OMAFRA staff about the possibility in working jointly on a small ruminant conference to be held in 2006 in Guelph. The fibre goat component might include more advanced seminars on fibre evaluation, improving fibre quality through breeding, introduction to cashmere, etc.

Provided letter of support to Wellington Fibres (Elora, Ontario) in their quest for funding to develop their fibre processing mill. We are

excited that their applications were successful, and look forward to welcoming another processing option to the Ontario industry.

Some discussion of offering provincial fleece competitions - along the lines of what the Cashmere association is doing on a national basis - whether through local fairs or provincially. The latter might be more feasible, given the limited number of qualified fleece judges.

Revision of the old OGBA fibre brochure has been largely completed. We are looking for improved photographs of quality-fleeced animals and goat fibre products.

Input on any or all of these is always welcome.

Allison Taylor, Chair - OGBA Fibre Committee

Toronto Stock Yards Land Development Board

As a result of the study done by Greame Hedley and Lyndon Stewart in 2003-04 a committee was formed to investigate alternative investment strategies and if there is a need for this. This committee report was presented to the Board and the Founding Members and a "Town-hall meeting" was held on June 21. A second meeting to further discuss and clarify the committee report is planned for August 23, 2005.

In essence the report proposes to:

Retain the property, even if its value is at an all-time high due to an over-heated commercial real-estate market.

Pay out a minimum of \$2,000,000 (after debt is retired this year) and increase this by 1% per year (off-set inflation)

Direct excess revenue into a "Legacy Fund", a professionally managed securities portfolio.

Build this fund to diversify the investment pool

Pay further dividends from a portion of the gain earned from this Fund.

Establish bylaws, policies and procedures to strengthen the (perceived) weaknesses of the current governance.

This report has found an innovative way to reduce the identified risks of the present investment. One real-estate property generating income through lease-holdings. The report also identified a number of governance issues. Eg One vote for each founding member regardless of economic stake.

My comments:

Through numerous predecessor ventures the current TSYLDB was established. All were rooted in the co-operative spirit (working together for the common good), therefore it is important to maintain this through "one member - one vote" regardless of size. A legacy to the vision of our fore-fathers.

The report utilizes a number of assumptions and predictions. Eg it assumes that the commercial real-estate market is at an all-time high and will most likely drop. It assumes that interest rate returns are sustainable at good rates.

The report misses the directive of the TSYLDB bylaws that the revenues received from the Stock-yards Fund be utilized for R&D. Presently there are government support programs for Agriculture R&D that will allow for leverage of 'industry money' at high rates. (100% - 100+%).

My recommendations:

That the OGBA as a founding member of the TSYLDB supports the present 'status quo'

That all excess revenue monies be distributed to the founding members as per TSYLDB By-laws. (R&D expenditures can be leveraged [generating returns] at much higher rates than the "legacy Fund" can).

That the voting structure, as currently laid out in the bylaws, be retained. (To maintain the co-operative intent of the original instigators of the pooling of the marketing of animals at one collective site.)

Please do not hesitate to contact me if all or parts of this report are unclear.

Respectfully submitted, Garry Claassen