



# BROWSE

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

## OGBA Directors - District 1 (3 vacancies)

**OGBA Directors - District 2 (2 vacancies)**  
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## OGBA Directors - District 3 (3 vacancies)

**OGBA Directors - District 4**  
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**OGBA Directors - District 5 (1 vacancy)**  
Ed Cavanagh  
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Allison Taylor  
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## 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.

## President's Message *by Cindy Hubble*

As the close of 2005 approaches I would like to update Ontario producers on some of the accomplishments of OGBA. At the AGM I had the pleasure of introducing OGBA's new bookkeeper Jane Mullen. Jane was engaged in May 2005 to handle the finances of OGBA. The decision was made to have an outside, independent body engaged to ensure consistent, uninterrupted maintenance of OGBA's financial affairs. The Board is very pleased with this arrangement and look forward to working with Jane and would like to thank Jane for all of her efforts.

Part of trying to resolve our past financial issues the Board struggled with what to do regarding the recovery of funds lost through past criminal activities. Before an audit could commence OGBA needed to establish the possibility of recovering the above mentioned funds. At the October 2004 directors' meeting it was decided that to receive a professional opinion OGBA would pursue a review from the ombudsman's office. This was not a quick process. There were three levels of review that OGBA had to go through in sequence to determine if there was an opportunity to recover funds through this process. The result of each level of review was the same; CIBC was not at fault and could not be held responsible for any part of the lost funds. After receiving these three separate decisions, the Board agreed that the funds were not recoverable and advised the auditors as such.

One of the top priorities for the Board has been the audit for the years of 2003/2004.

I am pleased to say that the audit has now been completed. Wilkinson & Company LLP Chartered Accountants and Tax Specialists were engaged to review the available OGBA documentation and prepare the OGBA audit. This was a big job and it is wonderful to finally have it complete. With the audit complete OGBA now has closure on past issues and gives us a clear starting point for our financial future. I would like to thank Sandy Pearce (our OGBA treasurer) and Jane Mullen (our OGBA bookkeeper) for all of their help and patience in getting through this.

Of course you OGBA members received the proposed constitution that the Board has been working on. The voting was done through the last part of August and into September. I am pleased to announce that the proposed constitution was accepted by the membership and has been officially accepted by the Board at an October 19, 2005 directors' meeting. Thank you to all members for taking the time to review and respond by casting your votes.

At the AGM the new OGBA website was introduced. It is a very powerful tool with extensive potential for expansion and growth. There are tremendous opportunities for producers to promote, educate and communicate. We can offer promo space for individual producers, clubs, 4-H groups, pre-shows and post-show information, goat events...the list goes on. At the AGM I said that the new website was somewhat skeletal, in that we have a framework and now need producer input to create a site that was truly producer friendly. Sadly, we have had very little response to this opportunity.

Another high priority for the Board was *Browse*. For some time the inconsistent

## ONTARIO GOAT BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION

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### 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

distribution and quality was an issue. *Browse* has traditionally been the main source of communication between Ontario producers and OGBA. It was important that *Browse* be on time and high quality in content. Any of you that have ever worked on a project like *Browse* know that it is a very time consuming job. It quickly became clear that we needed to ensure that *Browse* was free of Board changes, as when a volunteer Board member was responsible *Browse* was susceptible to inconsistencies, delays and could conceivably have a change of editors every year. With this in mind the Board reviewed options and promised to have a solution by the end of 2004. In January of 2005 we were very pleased to engage Jackie Dunham of Rise and Shine Press to include *Browse* in the almost national goat communication *GoatKeeper*. The Board has been very pleased with the product since January. It has provided Ontario producers with the opportunity to network and promote nationally and see what is going on with producers in the rest of the Canada. We hope that you are enjoying the new *Browse*.

In spring of 2005 OGBA launched a project called "Show Me". This program attempted to work co-operatively with Ontario producers to promote the industry. If you recall, OGBA offered funding and resources for exhibits and events and asked producers to provide the human resources. It would be a win/win situation. Sadly, we did not receive enough interest to pursue this program.

OGBA has also been active in the dairy pamphlet project headed by Vanessa Taylor, milk specialist from OMAFRA. Several parties from the Ontario dairy industry (ODGC, Mornington Co-op, OGMPA, Hewitts, C'est Bon, Woolwich Dairy and OGBA) have been working together to create a very professional promotional tool for the Ontario dairy goat industry. It is a wonderful example of how co-operative efforts benefit our industry.

Shortly a very exciting announcement will be made regarding the "Faces of Agriculture" calendar. This classic black and white calendar features the faces of 12 different types of livestock farmers across Ontario. It aims to break farmer stereotypes and represent the true faces of Ontario farmers. The 2006 calendar, available in early December, will be distributed by OFAC to politicians, media and retailers across the province. Through sponsorship OGBA has secured a page for the Ontario goat industry. Several possible candidates were submitted to the "Faces of Agriculture" committee and the committee made the final decision. Also a page has been sponsored by the ODGC so in short the Ontario goat industry will be represented in not one but two months of the 2006 calendar. That's fun and exciting!

Meetings were an issue that the Board has been trying to address. For many years the meetings have not been interesting or informative. To that end OGBA has been moving the meetings

around the province and having speakers for morning sessions. Producers with goat related products have been invited to set up displays of their goat related items. In all it has been a lot of fun and made the meetings much more interesting. I would like to thank all of the producers that have taken the time to attend and/or set up displays.

Of course renewing the Ontario goat industry's profile within the agricultural community and government circles has been a very important priority for OGBA. Improving and raising our profile creates a positive profile for the Ontario goat industry which in-turn creates many co-operative opportunities. OGBA has been working closely and/or has established memberships with:

CNGF Canadian National Goat Federation

OFAC Ontario Farm Animal Council

LPC Livestock Poultry Council

OCS Ontario Cheese Society

AAC Agriculture Adaptation Council

TSYLDDB Toronto Stockyard Land Development Board

OGBA has been representing Ontario producers' interests in:

Supported work on national traceability

Supported work on Ontario Traceability Premise ID

Supported work on functional food

Is actively trying to develop programs with 4-H groups and has distributed the OGBA manuals free to each Ontario 4-H group.

OGBA's Cord 4 participation supported OFAC security workshop where OGBA sponsored three dairy representatives, one from Mornington Co-op, Ontario Dairy Goat Co-op and Hewitt's, to attend.

Provided a letter of support for Wellington Fibre for their grant application.

It has indeed been a busy year. As always I cannot stress enough the need for producer input and support. There is much to do and many opportunities that OGBA may or may not be able to take advantage of. It very much depends on human resources. It is not the time to feel sorry for ourselves and give up...it is time to pitch-in.

On behalf of the OGBA Board of Directors I would like to extend seasons greetings to all producers in Ontario and across Canada. May your holidays be filled with happiness and joy, and best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year.

### **Growing Your Opportunities Workshops**

The focus of these workshops is to advance the agricultural and food sector by exploring industry trends, farm business success stories, new marketing ideas and strategies to adapt to today's changing agriculture and consumer markets.

This one day workshop will provide farmers, farm business

### **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.

### **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.

advisors, local economic development, municipal staff, local food processors and retailers with ideas, examples and resources to help accomplish their business goals.

Workshop details including agendas, dates, and locations are available at [www.omafra.gov.on.ca](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca), select agriculture, select business development, select workshops and seminars or by contacting the Agricultural Information Contact Centre 1-877-424-1300. Workshops are being held across Ontario from December 2005 to winter 2006:

- Lindsay, December 1
- Port Hope, December 2
- Simcoe, January 25
- Renfrew, January 31
- Orangeville, February 25
- Essex/Kent, March 1 or 2
- Huron/Perth, March 21
- Hamilton, March 28
- Elgin/Middlesex Oxford, Winter '06
- Greater Napanee Area, Winter '06

### **Farmer's Roles and Responsibilities Regarding the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board**

Farmers and their advisors may not be aware of the WSIB regulations as they apply to farming. For example, if a contracted service provider such as a custom farmwork operator does not have a WSIB Clearance Certificate or a WSIB Independent Operator Ruling the WSIB deems the custom farmwork operator to be an employee of the farmer. The farmer is then responsible to submit WSIB premiums on the labour component of the custom farmwork operator's bill.

Farmers can clarify their roles and responsibilities regarding the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) by contacting the WSIB's Agricultural Sector at 1-888-259-4228 or (519) 826-4650 or at the website: [www.wsib.on.ca](http://www.wsib.on.ca)

### **40th Annual Grey Bruce Farmers' Week - Goat Day**

Saturday, January 7th, 2006 at the Elmwood Community Centre, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Great roster of speakers. Topics include: Dairy Goat Management; Milk Testing and Recording/\$ in Pocket for Meat and Dairy Producers; How to Get the Most Milk From Your Goat.

For more information contact Grey County Ag Services, 1-519-986-3756, or check out [www.greyagservices.ca](http://www.greyagservices.ca)

### **Dutton Dunwich 4-H Club Achievement Day**

All nine members of the 4-H goat club participated in the achievement program at Wallacetown Fair. They competed in showmanship and conformation classes.

Showmanship is based on the showman's appearance (dressed in whites, clean and neat), the goat (cleanliness, condition, hair/hoooves, clipping), and presentation (leading, pose and show, best advantage, poise, alertness, courteous).

First year showmanship winners were: first - Jackson Stanley, second - Emily Van Wieren, third - Samantha Kindornay.

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Junior showmanship winners were: first - Christine Van't Voort, second - Alli Close, third - Ben Welch, fourth - Katie Welch.

Senior showmanship winners were: first - Vicki Close, second - Tiffany Leeson

Grand Champion was Vicki Close and Reserve Grand Champion was Christine Van't Voort.

### **The Old Farmer's 2006 Almanac**

#### **Region 3 Summary**

The winter season will have below normal precipitation and snowfall. Temperatures will be near normal, on average, with the coldest periods in early, mid, and late December, and mid and late January. The heaviest snowfalls will occur in late November, mid and late December, late January, and late March. April and May will be cooler than normal, on average, with above normal precipitation in the east and below normal precipitation in the west. Watch for snow in the east during the first half of April, and in the west at month's end.

#### **December 2005**

Temp -8 C (2 below aver.); precip .5mm (35mm below avg.). 1-7 Cold; snow showers, then sunny. 8-14 Seasonable; sunny, then snow. 15-33 Cold, snow showers. 23-31 Snow; seasonable east, very cold west.

#### **January 2006**

Temp.-11.5C (2.5 below avg.); precip. 5mm (35 mm below avg.). 1-3 Cold, snow west, 4-11 Sunny, mild. 12-19 Sunny, very cold. 20-27 Snow, then sunny; cold. 28-31 Snow, then milder.

### **Wellington Fibres Mill**

Angora goats have long been known for their lustrous soft mohair. While there are a number of mohair producers in Ontario, the problem these producers face is that they do not have the capability of efficiently processing their own fibre so are left with three choices: send their fibre to the wool co-operatives for a nominal price or out of province to a larger mill where they are not guaranteed of receiving their own product or, in many cases, simply discard the product. There are several processing facilities but these are located out of province in Alberta or Quebec. The difficulty for mohair producers in Ontario has been the cost associated with sending the mohair out of province for processing, the limited number of places to do the processing and the long wait time for the processed yarn to be returned.

Wellington Fibres is a small farm-based business near Elora, Ontario, which raises Angora goats. The company is committed to the value chain process starting at the animal production level and continuing through to the output and sale of its high quality consumer end products. Since its inception in 1989 the business has expanded its Angora goat herd from 6 to 50 animals. Wellington Fibres operates a small on-site retail and educational facility, whereby



consumers may view various production processes prior to purchasing a number of unique mohair/wool products such as yarn for knitters and fibre for handspinners. Products are hand-dyed to meet consumer colour requirements. As well as offering workshops on a number of related topics, private spinning lessons are available on the premises to individuals or groups upon request. The business' proprietors, Donna Hancock and Lorne Thomson, also offer educational outreach throughout the community to producer groups, guilds and schools through invited seminars and open houses. They have been sending their fibre to other provinces for processing into yarn.

Now, with great excitement, Wellington Fibres has decided to build its own mill! A building is in the process of being constructed to house the mill and retail-workshop area. Wellington Fibres Mill will be processing fibre to either rovings, carded batts or finished yarn. Rovings are a carded fibre preparation that is used by hand spinners for spinning yarn. Carded batts are a fibre preparation that is used by hand spinners and felters. The finished yarn will be used by knitters, weavers, and other fibre artists. The mill will process mohair as well as fibres such as wool, alpaca, angora and llama from other producers. This mill will finally give Ontario producers an opportunity to have their fibre processed in a timely manner and in a local facility. Producers will be assured of having their own product returned to them. Wellington Fibres mill will also have a retail area for selling finished yarn and facilities for teaching, spinning, weaving and knitting workshops. Wellington Fibres has received funding from the Agricultural Adaptation Council to provide workshops to fibre producers on potential marketing opportunities which hopefully will encourage these producers

to explore new marketing concepts.

Wellington Fibres is planning to open the new facilities for business in the middle of January 2006.

For further information contact Wellington Fibres at [dhancock@wellingtonfibres.on.ca](mailto:dhancock@wellingtonfibres.on.ca) or call 519-846-0669.

### **Profile - My Udder Home Dairy Goats** *by Jackie Chretien*

We have been raising dairy goats for about 5 years now. We are Jackie Chretien and Mike Weathers of My Udder Home Dairy Goats. We live in Mallorytown, Ontario, Canada and raise purebred dairy goats for showing. We also sell pet quality goats.

It all started with me joining 4-H. I showed dairy cows for 2 years; my 4-H leaders wife had a 4-H goat club. So instead of dragging a heifer around the show ring I was drawn to the beauty and ease of showing dairy goats. I joined the 4-H club run by Lynn Carkner and I bought a purebred Nubian buck named Diesel. He was a sharp looking buck. Then once I was too old for 4-H I bought my first Nubian doe. She was a purebred Nubian doe. This was the time I also joined the Canadian Goat Society. I had to choose a herd name. It took me a few days but I came up with 'My Udder Home Dairy Goats'. Well as you can guess my 2 goats turned into 4. My doe kidded on St. Patrick's Day with 2 doelings. I wanted to see the kidding so bad I slept in the barn for a whole week. Then once I decided to take a quick nap in the house she had them. Once I saw the most cutest little creatures in the world I was hooked. So I just had to get more. We bought some more Nubian does. At first I wanted to focus on one breed, but when you're showing goats it's kind of boring with just one breed. So then I bought a

recorded grade - she was half Nubian and half Toggenburg. She was so cute with her ears straight out. There were only a few shows that I could show her at. So again I wanted more breeds.

My husband and I drove 5 hours to buy some goats. Once we got there I fell in love with a black LaMancha doe named Shania T. We bought her, another LaMancha, and 2 Saanen doelings. Two weeks after we got Shania home she gave birth to twin doelings, Cotton and Candy. We were so happy! That was the first birth I finally got to see. She kidded with no problems at all. At that time we mostly had Nubians. Then we got an Alpine and a huge Nubian buck. That was the year when we bred our does to Nubian. We had some really great kids to show this year. We did a lot of work to find bucks of every breed we had so we could have purebred kids for next year. We bought a handsome LaMancha buck from Penny Murton, a nice buck from Julie Martineau and Ed Cavanagh helped us out with the other breeds, Alpine and Saanen. So we are going to have a fun breeding season.

We have had a lot of goats come through our barn. Some not so good as others, but we only sell those culls as pets. We have never had to send a goat to the sale barn. Right now we have 20 goats and that is a great number to manage. At one time we had 32 goats and I found that was too much work. So we sold some to people looking for pets, or for companions for their horse or other goats. Two legged kids also love goats. They make a great pet for a young farmer.

My husband and I love our goats and love talking to people at shows about our goats. Currently we are thinning out our Nubian herd and focusing on the Saanen and LaMancha breed. We also just acquired an excellent Saanen kid from Ed Cavanagh's breeding. I can't wait to show her at our last show in Lindsay, Ontario.

Well, our breeding season is about to start and we are looking forward to the kidding season next year. We should have some good kids to show.

I would also like to thank all the "goat" friends that have helped us to get started and also for all the answers to our questions. In the future I hope we can help others just starting out. Goats are fun and challenging to raise, but if you love to have an animal with personality and that are affectionate, why not get a goat or two? Join a 4-H club or the Canadian Goat Society, show them and have some fun. I am glad I did! It is a very rewarding hobby to have.

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 live 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.

Price per manual      OGBA Members \$25.00      Non-Members \$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 manuals through the OGBA Secretary.