

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 (2 vacancies)

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

Program Launched *submitted by Garry Claassen*

A new joint federal provincial program, to help farm families boost their income opportunities, was launched, with little fanfare, in mid-October. The following are some snippets from a farm newspaper article (late November).

- The program, called the Canadian Agricultural Skills Service (CASS) was launched in mid October.
- "CASS has the flexibility to design the program that's right for each farm"
- Farm families can use CASS:
- To get new management skills such as training in accounting and human resources
- To add new production skills (like ration balancing or artificial insemination)
- To acquire skills to earn more off-farm income
- To transition away from the farm

A key feature of CASS is that it is available to the farm family, both husband

and wife can participate and benefit from the program.

The funds are available on a sliding scale based on net family income. Net family income of < \$35000, husband and wife could each qualify for the maximum of \$16000. Net family income of \$35000 - \$40000 support is capped at \$12000 each. Net family income of \$40000 - \$45000 support is capped at \$8000 each.

CASS funding covers costs like tuition costs, workshop or field day fees, tutoring costs, text books, even expenses for internet or cable connections. Depending on circumstances some participants would also qualify for travel and accommodation, daycare and replacement labour costs.

More information and application forms can be obtained at any Service Canada outlet, available in most communities. See 'Blue Pages' or call 1-800-622-6232 to find an outlet near you. More information is also available by searching for Canadian Agricultural Skills Service at www.agr.gc.ca or at www.service-canada.gc.ca

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.

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	TBA

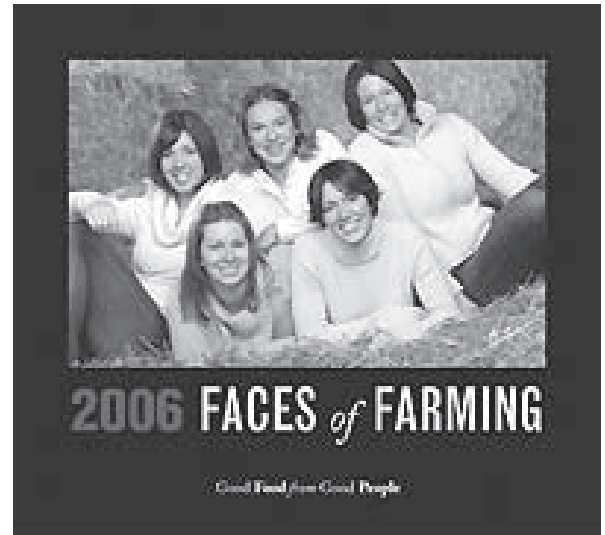
Committee Chairs

Chevon	Lucy Berger
Dairy	Garry Claassen
Fibre	Allison Taylor
Promotions	TBA

Faces of Farming Calendar

OGBA is proud to have participated in the 2006 Faces of Farming calendar project. 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. And, goats are the only commodity with two months' coverage: May features Tobin Schlegel of Sugarfield Boer Goats in Tavistock (along with his fiance, Erin), and October features dairy goat farmers Dirk and Katie Hoogaker.

The 2006 calendar has been distributed to politicians, media and retailers across the province to raise the profile of Ontario agriculture. Copies are still available from www.ofac.org.



4-H Logo Contest

OGBA's 2005 4-H Logo contest winner is the Norfolk County Club. The OGBA congratulates club leader, Wendy Lamb, and all club members: Anita & Aaron Brink, Brad & Chrissy Boyer, Jenny & Kristabell Harris, and Diana Inthout. Each will receive a one year membership in the OGBA, with *Browse (GoatKeeper)*.

The OGBA holds a logo contest each year. Details about this year's contest will soon be available on the OGBA web site: www.ogba.ca.



Growing Your Opportunities

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture & Food is offering a one-day workshop entitled "Growing Your Opportunities" in several locations across the province in early 2006. 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 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 <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/conference/index.html> or by contacting the Agricultural Information Contact Centre 1-877-424-1300.

Schedule: Orangeville-February 25, Essex/Kent-March 1 or 2, Huron/Perth-March 21, Hamilton-March 28.

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.

CNGF Rep for OGBA Garry Classen
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