



BROWSE

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

OGBA Directors

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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.

NOTICE OF MEETING

OGBA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1 pm - Saturday, April 29, 2006
Royal Canadian Legion #48, Morrisburg ON

Directions from 401:

Exit S at Morrisburg exit #750

At Highway #2 (lights), continue straight towards the river

Left onto Legion Street

The Legion is on the left hand side.

The meeting will be held upstairs in the Legion

If you have any agenda items to raise, please contact the
OGBA Secretary ASAP info@ogba.ca

Goat-related businesses are welcome to bring display materials; however please be advised that space is somewhat limited, and that the meeting is upstairs.

We hope to see you there!

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	Dino Iannuzzi

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What Can We Do About Predation?

*Presentation to the Eastern Ontario Chapter of Rare Breeds Canada
by Eugene L. Fytche, P.Eng.
Beckwith Township Council Chambers, November 5, 2005*

Long term production of food is in everyone's interest, given the increasing world population. The demand that food be cheap and plentiful has led to emphasis on those breeds that are most profitable, and the neglect of other breeds that have been developed historically for human consumption. The threat to genetic diversity has led to the Rare Breeds movement to maintain some of the livestock and poultry breeds that have not met with commercial approval. Because the numbers of surviving animals and birds in the "rare breeds" are few, any losses to predators are tragic, and threaten the objective of maintaining them for future generations.

Whether or not predation impacts a flock or herd is a function of many factors: what kind of livestock or poultry, the presence of predators and what they are, the type of terrain and forest cover, the proximity of human habitation, to mention a few. Taking these and other environmental conditions into consideration, it is possible to reduce losses to predators and perhaps even eliminate them. This doesn't come without a cost, and the producer, whether commercial, family or rare breeder, must calculate his risk and be prepared to make the investment in labour and capital to achieve the right balance for his specific operation.

Restrictions of budgets in government departments has reduced their ability to count predators or to decide whether their numbers are increasing or decreasing. In Ontario the compensation payments allow some measure of livestock and poultry kills, that may be a proxy for population of wolves, coyotes and bears. Hunting and trapping may give a measure of fur bearing predator population, but there is no formula to relate scientifically these figures to population. The producer must then rely on his own observations and word of mouth with fellow producers to evaluate his risk.

Protection against predators is not a science, but over the last thirty years much attention has been given to the subject, and from it have evolved a lot of practices that are helpful. Some are management practices, such as not leaving dead animals where they can attract predators, others are more proactive such as hunting and trapping. In the recent past, we have seen the increased use of electric fencing and guard animals. None of these will protect 100% in all cases, but have proven to be very helpful. One of the problems in their application is suiting the method to the producer, because not everyone has the characteristics that a successful result from choosing a method may require. For example, someone who doesn't like dogs shouldn't invest in a guard dog.

The economics are very simple. How much must be invested to save how many animals or birds. For the factory farm, this is pretty well the only consideration. But for the family farm, it goes beyond

that, because the producer develops a bonding with his livestock, and may be devastated to see that a fisher has killed many chickens during a nocturnal visit. For the heritage animal custodian, it goes beyond both of these costs, since the loss of an animal is also a loss to the future diversity of blood lines of the breed. Thus it is most important that the protection of rare breeds be effective.

We are dealing with natural phenomena, both on the predator side, the livestock side, and on the part of the producer. The methods, too have a variability. Electric fencing is subject to vegetation growth and weather. Guard animals are natural products, and vary in their response to guard duties. The protection adopted for one farm may impact on the predator problem of a neighbour. It is important that a producer with valuable livestock make himself aware of all these variables and make a wise choice of how he chooses to protect his flock. It is what works for him that counts.

One factor that beclouds the issue is that of compensation for livestock killed. In Ontario, wolf, coyote and bear kills can be compensated, although kills by other predators are not. As a result, some producers make a virtue of "selling the lamb to the Township". Under the legislation a producer is required to take care of his livestock, and the interpretation is becoming more restrictive. The compensation, however, distorts the necessity to protect commercial livestock. For rare breeds, compensation should not be the primary consideration in protecting animals.

There are many sources of information on protective methodology, including government, the internet and other producers. There is no excuse for leaving domestic livestock at the mercy of wild predators and domestic dogs.

Good luck!

The author has until recently operated a commercial flock near Ottawa in an region he classes as medium risk. He has spoken widely on this subject and has written two books, "...May Safely Graze" and "Wild Predators? Not in my Backyard!" Both are available from the author. Prices are \$12.95 and \$20.00 respectively, plus \$3.00 for mailing. For information or orders: efytche@sympatico.ca

PROTECTIVE MEASURES

PASTURE	ENCLOSURE
	GUARD ANIMALS
	HUNTING & TRAPPING
	DEN CLEARING
ENCLOSURES	FENCES - LOG
	WIRE
	ELECTRIFIED
	CHICKEN TRACTOR
	HOUSING - HERITAGE
	FORTRESS

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 Ontario Goat Producer Farm Signs

available 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.) 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! 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.

