



BROWSE

goat news from Ontario

Ontario Goat Breeders Association
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Chevon - Lucy Berger
Fibre - Allison Taylor

Districts:

District 1: 705/807 area codes
District 2: 613 area code
District 3: 519 area code
District 4: 905/289/416/647 area codes

Canadian Dairy Buck Classic, June 7 at Orillia, Ontario

The committee for the Canadian Dairy Buck Classic would like to announce the third annual event to be held June 7, 2008, once again hosted at the Orillia Fairgrounds.

The Canadian Dairy Buck Classic was founded to showcase the primary source for genetics in our herds, our herd sires. Emphasis is placed on presenting herd sires objectively with pedigree information, production data (when available) and type evaluation (classification and competition). This year's event will once again host a two ring CGS sanctioned dairy buck show with sections for Saanen, Alpine, Toggenburg, Nubian, LaMancha and AOP. Patrick McClean will judge the first ring, with ring two judge TBA. The event will once again offer onsite classification for those interested in the service (bucks need not be entered in the show!). Last year's event featured 92 entries in the show, with 42 animals classified. For more information please contact Bonnie MacPherson (613-283-4408) or Jim Tindall (905-852-9966), or go to the website, www.buckclassic.ca.

Consumer Protection at Fairs and Exhibitions

One-day workshop sessions will explore and explain how consumer protection programs can be more effective at events where humans and farm animals are in close proximity to each other, including fairs, expositions, petting zoos, classrooms and tourism venues.

Participants will partake in interactive discussions and learn how to develop site-specific tools to evaluate your facilities as well as action plans to minimize the risks associated with pathogens. They will leave with a starter kit for creating or enhancing consumer protection programs at their own facility. The Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions is hosting a Consumer Protection Program workshop at:

April 26, 2008 - North Bay, ON

May 5, 2008 - Markham, ON

Visit www.canadian-fairs.ca/cpps/site/workshop_en.html or call 1-800-663-1714.

Government Expands Training and Outreach Services

January 23 - The province is providing \$200,000 to to enhance its telephone support services, and to provide additional training for peer volunteers and regional services, particularly in areas with greater numbers of producers needing assistance. The Farm Line (1-888-451-2903, www.thefarmline.ca) is a not-for-profit organization that provides front-line peer support and referral services. In operation since November 2000, the Farm Line Support Service is a telephone support help line for farmers and rural families in Ontario. The Farm Line provides referral to advisory services that address human and rural family dynamics as well as legal and financial resources. The toll-free, confidential and bilingual service gives farm and rural families access to peer support on agricultural subjects, addressing issues and situations ranging from financial and legal, to personal, family and mental health. Support and referral services also provide farmers access to mentoring, enhanced advisory services and networking.

Contact: Kelly Synnott, Minister's Office, 416-326-6439

Interested in being an OGBA Director?

Article VII of the current Constitution (October 2005) states that Members interested in becoming Directors must submit their intent in writing 90 days prior to the AGM. If more than three (3) members submit letters of intent, voting will take place at the Annual General Meeting. New directors will assume office following the election and after the conclusion of business of the retiring Board of Directors.

CNGF Rep for OGBA Garry Claassen
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Deadlines Extended For Small Meat Plant Operators

January 28 - The Ontario government is helping small freestanding meat plants in Ontario meet provincial food safety standards, Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, announced today. Plant operators will continue to have access to business advisory services and now have more time to apply for funding to make improvements to their operations.

Meat plant operators can apply to the Meat Plant Assistance Program to make plant upgrades to meet new food safety put in place in 2005. Plant operators can obtain up to \$25,000 in financial assistance under this program.

The Meat Plant Assistance Program is part of a larger program to assist the meat industry through education, training, and facility and operational upgrades.

There are 170 provincially-licensed slaughter plants and more than 630 freestanding meat plants in Ontario. Freestanding meat processors include businesses that process products like bacon, deli meats and smoked ham, and businesses that produce items like roasts, chops and steaks and sell them to wholesalers, food service operations and retailers. The new deadlines are October 1, 2008 and October 1, 2009, depending on type of operation.

Contact: Kelly Synnott, Minister's Office, 416-326-6439

Tax Deferral for Farmers in Some Areas of Ontario

Owen Sound, Ontario, March 7, 2008 - Owners of breeding livestock in certain areas of southern, eastern and northwest Ontario, who were forced to sell all or part of their herd in 2007 due to drought conditions, will be eligible for a one-year tax deferral on 2007 income from these sales.

The deferral was made after reviewing forage yield, precipitation, soil moisture and water supply data for the 2007 growing season. In the case of consecutive years of drought designation, producers may defer sales income to the first year in which the area is no longer designated.

Thirty per cent of income from net sales can be deferred if the breeding herd has been reduced by at least 15 per cent, but less than 30 per cent. Where the herd has been reduced by 30 per cent or more, 90 per cent of income from net sales can be deferred. This will help replenish breeding stock in the coming year.

Eligible producers will be able to request this deferral when filing their 2007 income tax returns. Livestock producers are advised to contact their local Canada Revenue Agency Tax Services Office for details on the income tax provisions.

2007 Designations - Ontario:

City of Hamilton	City of Kawartha Lakes
City of Toronto	County of Brant
County of Bruce	County of Dufferin
County of Elgin	County of Essex
County of Frontenac	County of Grey
County of Haldimand	County of Hastings
County of Huron	County of Lambton
County of Lennox and Addington	County of Middlesex
County of Northumberland	County of Norfolk
County of Oxford	County of Perth
County of Peterborough	County of Prince Edward
County of Simcoe	County of Wellington
Municipality of Chatham-Kent	
Regional Municipality of Durham	
Regional Municipality of Halton	
Regional Municipality of Niagara	
Regional Municipality of Peel	
Regional Municipality of Waterloo	
Regional Municipality of York	
Territorial District of Algoma	
Territorial District of Manitoulin	
Territorial District of Thunder Bay	
United Counties of Leeds and Greenville	

Growing the Margins: Energy, Bioproducts and Byproducts from Farm and Food Sectors Conference and Exhibition

This event will be held April 1-5, 2008, at the London Convention Centre in London, Ontario. The conference will explore the technological, operating, policy, regulatory, financial and other challenges and opportunities facing farms and related industries as they strive to improve their energy efficiency, better utilize byproducts and ultimately improve their bottom lines.

Growing the Margins will be of interest to livestock and field and horticulture crop farmers, greenhouse operators, food and beverage processors, technology and service providers, governments at all levels, utilities, researchers, financial institutions and other stakeholders who are attracted by the social, economic and environmental benefits of expanding opportunities for farm and food processors beyond traditional crop, meat and food production to becoming suppliers of energy and new products.

Phone 416-426-7029, fax 416-426-7280, email info@gtmconf.ca, or visit the website at a www.gtmconf.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: (Prices are in Canadian funds)
OGBA Members \$25.00 Non-Members \$35.00

Shipping is \$5 extra per manual, or arrangements can be made for pick-up in your district. Order manuals through the OGBA Secretary.

The objectives of OGBA are:

1. develop, provide and circulate sound and objective information about goats;
2. assist goat owners in the improvement and development goat breeds;
3. encourage and promote the advancement of the goat industry and new technologies such as AI and embryo transplant;
4. assist in the development of the meat, fibre, miniature, and dairy products markets in Ontario;
5. promote the development, sale, and export of agricultural products relevant to the goat industry;
6. provide educational opportunities related to agriculture and rural life relevant to the goat industry;
7. work co-operatively with provincial and national livestock groups for the advancement of the goat industry.