

2024 Ontario Report to the CSBA

The Ontario Purebred Sheep Industry had 255 members registered with the CSBA in 2023 with 2175 registrations and 1020 transfers.

The Purebred Sheep Breeders of Ontario (PSBO) hosted an education day which included a junior show, seminars, and an online sale. The day was held at the Erin Fairgrounds. 36 juniors participated in several events including: judging, fitting, showmanship, and a quiz. Sale animals were on site for viewing. Plans are underway for this year's Education Day which will be held June 29th and 30th. The 2023 scholarship winners were Hillary Schneider and Madeleine Cullen.

The Ontario Sheep Farmers (OSF) organization is continuing to focus on Education, Advocacy and renewed focus on Marketing Lamb. OSF offers courses on Introduction to Small Ruminants and as well as an in depth program called the Master Shepherds Course, which includes several modules over a year and half time period. OSF has partnered with Scotiabank to offer easy to access funding for existing shepherds in Ontario who wish to expand their flocks. From the direction of the Board of Directors, OSF staff are currently working with a few processors and retailers to develop a Summer BBQ season promotion to help market lamb in the traditionally higher volume, lower lamb price time of the year. Over the last year OSF worked with a group of Dairy Sheep Producers to form the Dairy Sheep Co-op. This progressive group of producers are marketing milk to several processing plants in Ontario and one in the USA.

The 2024 Genovis Award winners for the 2023 year are as follows;

Terminal Category; 1st Cedar Creek Charollais, 2nd Todd Sheep Company, 3rd Maple Meadow Farms

Maternal Category; 1st Cursio Farms, 2nd Rising Oak Dorsets, 3rd Century Lane Farms

Prolific Category; 1st Cedar Creek Rideau, 2nd Tie Tulach Ard Farm & Lamb Lady Farm, 3rd Craigmore Farm

Crossbred Productivity; 1st Brubacher Ovine, 2nd Fare View Acres, 3rd Asphodel Sheep Co

Ontario is currently updating the 4H Sheep Project Manual. The CSBA supported this initiative with monetary and material resources. Keith is on the manual review advisory committee. This resource should be available for 2025.

The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair celebrated it's 101st Anniversary in November of 2023. In November 2024 the Royal will be hosting a national sheep show in Toronto, Ontario showcasing some of the top purebred sheep from across Canada.