

## 2026 CSBA Alberta Provincial Report

I am pleased to present the 2025 provincial summary for the Alberta Sheep Breeders' Association.

In November 2025, ASBA held their 122nd Annual General Meeting. It was very well attended, with many producers eager for Alberta's turn to host the All Canada Classic in 2027. In 2025, Alberta had 154 CSBA members.

I would like to thank the board of directors, Kristen Kobitsch, Cindy Crawford, Kathleen Raines, Isabelle Nichol, Gerrit Brinkmann, and Linda Brandes, our secretary/manager, for a very successful 2025 and for their dedication and enthusiasm for the sheep industry.

The past year was a busy one. ASBA hosted several events, the most recent being our biannual symposium. The Alberta Sheep Breeders' Association's 2025 biannual symposium took place in October at the Camrose Resort Casino & Hotel. The symposium is a premier industry event that featured local experts. It provided producers with an opportunity to hear speakers share their expertise on a variety of topics, attend a Sheep-Bytes ration-balancing workshop, and take in the trade fair, silent auction, and lamb banquet. A big thank you to Cindy Crawford, the symposium chair, for organizing the symposium. ASBA relies primarily on symposium profits to operate for the next two years as well as to host several events for producers.

ASBA also held a lamb necropsy workshop and, in collaboration with Alberta Lamb Producers, hosted a Cache Valley Virus workshop. Unfortunately, the online sale did not have adequate consigned animals to proceed. We are hoping to try again in 2026.

ASBA would also like to continue acknowledging the Sheila Stephen Memorial Scholarship, which annually supports one or two scholarship recipients. This past fall, Tori Anderson was awarded a \$575 scholarship. We also raise funds through the Symposium Silent Auction, which supports various youth sheep events, as well as our Youth Incentive Fund. The Youth Fund provides

\$500 toward the purchase of a purebred sheep. Young shepherds compete to win by completing fun, engaging activities. The board enjoyed brainstorming unique ideas that encouraged youth to grow their knowledge of the sheep industry. This year, ASBA offered the fourth Youth Incentive Program, and Abby Tilleman was the recipient this year.

In 2025, ASBA continued to promote the value of purebred registered sheep. As a result, our goal is to continue building on the increase in registrations that Alberta saw in 2024. ASBA worked with Alberta Provincial 4H and with Summer Synergy to promote the inclusion of purebred classes in their shows. As in previous years, sponsorship of 4H clubs and Summer Synergy continued.

We look forward to another year of supporting youth and their purebred sheep.

As current CSBA representative on the CSF board, I am pleased to continue being an Alberta voice within the Canadian Sheep Federation. Alberta producers have provided positive feedback in this regard.

To close, I would encourage purebred producers to register their purebred sheep, and commercial buyers to ask for the registration papers for the purebred sheep they purchase.

Registrations do matter, and ***purebred*** does mean registered.

Respectfully submitted,

***Bernadette Nikkel***