

ONTARIO GOAT UPDATE

Farmers working for farmers!

This list is an example of some of the work Ontario Goat has been involved with on your behalf with a goal of making our industry sustainable, viable and efficient.

Animal Health and Welfare

- Partnered with OSMA to organize the popular Euthanasia training workshops. Producers received \$1,000 in free training and captive bolt equipment to take home
- Developed animal welfare educational resources for goat producers including:
 - Dairy body condition scoring chart, Euthanasia workshop and resources, Welfare assessments-video-booklet, Kid welfare-video-booklets, Goat health assessments-handouts, Shipping checklist, multiple welfare articles
- Continue to respond to numerous calls for assistance on goat farms as a result of public complaints filed with OSPCA
 - Protecting the integrity of the Ontario goat industry for all
- Provided feedback to government on the proposed changes to the federal Transportation of Animals regulations
- Provided comments to Health Canada on changes that will be happening to the industry's access to antibiotics
 - Lobbying for drug approvals for small ruminants with Health Canada
 - Working with Health Canada on livestock response to anti-microbial resistance (AMR)

Research and Innovation

- Collaborating with University of Guelph across several departments on a number of project proposals and funded projects (and providing letters of support) that include research on: Production limiting diseases, increasing milk yield, kid mortality, adult goat mortality, extra label drug use, disbudding, milk quality, genomic selection, genomic evaluation, genetic resistance for diseases such as CAE

Communication and Education

- Goat Gazette written and distributed monthly
- Provided goat activity booklets and factsheets to a number of local fairs
- Liaised with Foodland Ontario to promote Ontario goat meat and cheese products
- Responded to numerous calls for information regarding Infant Formula plant in Kingston
- Responded to numerous requests for information regarding market opportunities and market conditions

Leadership and Government Relations

- Participating in OMAFRA's Goat Roundtable Steering Committee
- Actively involved with OMAFRA's Goat Industry Roundtable Meeting
 - Eldon Bowman, Vice Chair of OG is the Roundtable Co-Chair representing goat farmers
- Met with Deputy Minister to outline priorities of the goat industry
- Met with Minister's office to address investment required in goat sector
- Participated in the federal consultations for Canada's Food Policy
- Lobby federal Ag Minister for funding for dairy goat farms impacted by CETA like what is being given to cow dairy farms

Industry Development

- Released 2016 Cost of Production (COP) data analysis report
 - OG has cancelled remaining parts of the project and 2017 data will not be collected as planned
- Working with OMAFRA on AgriStability participating for goat farmers
- Partnering with the Agricultural Management Institute on the development of online business management tools for goat farmers
- Liaising with ACC Farmers Financial to maintain the Advanced Payment Program for goat farmers
- Responding to requests for information from financial institutions, business consultants and others advising goat farmers
- Worked with Canadian Animal Health Coalition on Emergency Management planning resource kit for goat farmers