

# 2024 Annual General Meeting Report

# ONTARIO GOAT



## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS:

It is my great honor to welcome you to this year's Annual General Meeting. As we gather here today, we reflect on the achievements of the past year and look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead. This meeting serves as a vital platform for us to share insights, discuss challenges, and outline our strategic vision for the future. Your dedication and support have been instrumental in driving our success, and I am confident that, together, we can continue to achieve remarkable milestones. Thank you for your commitment and participation, and I look forward to a productive and inspiring meeting.

~ Christopher Orr, President Ontario Goat

## ONTARIO GOAT WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE 2024 AGM SPONSORS!



## AGM Speakers:

1. Dr. Cathy Bauman – “Rethinking Mastitis & The Role of SCC”
2. Prakash Singh – “RFID Systems, Records, and Accurate Data”
3. Ashley Scott – “Goat Herd Traceability”
4. Cecilia Greene – “CNGF Role in Traceability for Goat Herds”



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2024

### Winter 2023/2024

- Participated in creation of Goat Code of Practice
- Grey Bruce Farmers Week – Elmwood, Ontario
- CMGA AGM Silver Sponsorship
- 4H Goat Show Sponsorship
- AGM 2023

### Spring 2024

- Creation of Goat Activity Booklets for kids
- Flemming College Small Ruminant Seminar – Lindsay, Ontario
- ODGC AGM Speaker – Wingham, Ontario
- OMAFRA Grow Ontario Food Summit – Guelph, Ontario
- Attended PAWS commodity group session – Guelph, Ontario
- Elgin Federation of Agriculture Breakfast Meeting – New Sarum, Ontario

### Summer 2024

- Liquid Feeds Dairy Goat Car Tour 2024 – Holstein, Ontario
- Traveling Griffin Goat Campaign
- University of Guelph Biosecurity study – Ontario Veterinary College
- Outdoor Farm Show – Woodstock, Ontario
- Goat fibre spinning demonstrations
- Goat cheese sample industry promotions

### Fall 2024

- Plowing Match – Lindsay, Ontario

### Winter 2024/2025

- Grey Bruce Farmer's Week – Elmwood, Ontario
- CMGA AGM Silver Sponsorship



*"If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself." – Henry Ford*





## HIRING COMMITTEE REPORT

~James Korvemaker, Hiring Committee

In December 2024 Ontario Goat Board of Directors was informed by then General Manager Jim Millington that he had been offered a new position in the seed industry and would like to end his term as GM of Ontario Goat.

Throughout his term of just over a year, Jim was instrumental in updating many of the administrative aspects of Ontario Goat including updating tax filing, banking, and with the assistance of Elaine Graham updating our constitution by way of the Articles of Amendment, as well as our Bylaws, Policies and so on, to conform to the new Ontario Non Profit Corporations Act or ONCA.

With Jim's impending departure, the Board followed the same procedure used when Jim was hired. The job opening was posted on the Ag Careers job search website and a hiring committee was set up. Hiring Committee members were Michele Bowering, Murray Lewis, Jim Millington, and myself.

We received five applications whose resumes were shared with the entire Board. The Hiring Committee went through and discussed the five applicants and their resumes. Three of the applicants were given an interview via Zoom. Of the three applicants we interviewed, the hiring committee felt that only one met the qualifications we were looking for – experience in agriculture, commitment to the goat industry, and the skills and dedication needed to provide Ontario Goat with stable and knowledgeable leadership. So at our Board meeting on January 27, 2025 the committee recommended hiring Stacey Underwood. Our chairman, Christopher Orr, recused himself from the discussion and decision making process due to a conflict of interest. Stacey is married to Christopher and they run a meat goat operation in the Listowel area. The remaining Board members voted unanimously in favour of the Hiring Committee's recommendation, and Stacey began the work of transitioning into the role as of Feb. 1.

Jim stayed on for several weeks to assist Stacey in her new role. As many things have changed during the past year in terms of organizational structure, policies and procedures as well as a new general manager, the Board and GM have been working hard to adjust to this new more formalized structure. We thank Jim for his dedication and capable leadership in the past year. We thank Stacey for her enthusiasm for her new role and her diligence in getting up to speed in short order with her role and all of the formal requirements for the organization. And we thank you for your support and patience and we work through the implementation of an updated organizational structure and procedures. As an organization we are committed to a thriving goat industry in Ontario and we appreciate your support and involvement in working on your priorities for our industry.

## 2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

~Murray Lewis, Treasury Committee

In order for ON Goat to have its winter speaker's program when most Members were likely to be able to attend, the 2024 Financial Statements are currently unavailable.

Unfortunately, the transition between General Managers has not allowed adequate turnaround time for the 2024 year-end Financials to be audited and returned in time for today's AGM.

"Ontario Goat Board wants to assure Members that the bank account is very healthy."

The Board will call a Special Member's Meeting to present the audited 2024 Financial Statements for approval as soon as they become available; and to appoint an Auditor for the upcoming year.

*"Alone we can do so little;  
together we can do so  
much."*

*- Helen Keller*

