

# Okanagan Shuswap Sheep Producers' Association (OSSPA)

AGM September 19, 2018

## Education Report October 2017 to September 2018

### October 18, 2017

Caleb Stuart, Sales Agronomist, Okanagan Fertilizer Ltd., Enderby indicated that the company deals mainly in fertilizers, but also provides agricultural seed and farm chemicals. Caleb talked about the importance of soil testing and the choices regarding forage seed selection. The session was held at the Armstrong Spallumcheen Chamber of Commerce and 14 OSSPA members attended.

### January 21, 2018

Dr. Rod Gilmer and Dr. Caroline Ohse, Armstrong Veterinary Clinic, conducted a lambing information session. Dr. Ohse went through a detailed PowerPoint presentation of the lambing process covering all aspects of lambing including the three stages of labour and delivery: pre-birth, the birth and a postnatal check of the ewe. Doctors Gilmer and Ohse talked about the many conditions and challenges of lambing. There was a vibrant Q & A during and after the PowerPoint presentation. The session was held at the Armstrong Spallumcheen Chamber of Commerce. In attendance were 17 OSSPA members and 13 guests.

### April 18, 2018

Richard Yntema is the Owner/Operator of Valley Wide Meats, Enderby. The topic was Lamb/Sheep Meat – What the producer may want to consider regarding quality and grade standards. He indicated that a 55 to 70-pound carcass weight for lamb is optimal. The fat cover keeps moisture in the meat, stopping the carcass from drying out while hanging. He said that grass fed is a real niche market and shown to be a healthier food source than grain fed animals. Richard talked about the challenges he has of keeping qualified employees in his processing facility, partly due to the seasonal nature of the business. The session was held at Armstrong Spallumcheen Chamber of Commerce. The session was attended by 14 OSSPA members and three guests.

### May 16, 2018

Dr. Shaun Tryon conducted a two-hour workshop regarding internal parasites in sheep at Finlay Farm. He provided various handouts – some hard copy and access to links. Dr. Tryon talked about the purpose and demonstrated the use of the FAMACHA Card. He demonstrated how to collect feces, how to prepare slides, including the McMaster slides for the fecal egg counting procedures and then coached the attendees in the use of the microscope to determine parasitism. Thirteen OSSPA members and four guests attended this busy and interesting workshop – AKA “Fun with Feces” – Part 2.

### June 20, 2018

Jody Atkinson, Member of Ponderosa Spinners, Weavers & Fibre Artists Guild in Kelowna joined us with a brilliant “Fleece Talk.” Jody is an avid spinner and raises her own wool sheep and alpacas. She talked about the attributes of various wool breeds, indicating her binder from her program studies. Jody brought samples of felting and weaving and amazed us with her knowledge and enthusiasm. There were 16 in attendance, including two guests, at the Armstrong Spallumcheen Chamber of Commerce.

Submitted by Karen Mernett, Education Coordinator