



Alberta Lamb Producers 2021 Annual General Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Keynote speaker presentation with Dr. Lynn Tait
Techniques for Managing Breeding in Sheep
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Chair Address
5. Acceptance of 2020 AGM Meeting Minutes
6. Director Acclamations
Board Appointments
7. Financial statements for 2020-2021
8. ALP Operational Budget 2021-2022
9. Your Check-off at Work: Review
Producer engagement, Producer Resources, Advocacy and Research
10. Looking Forward
ALP Bylaws, Plebiscite, New 5-year strategic plan
11. Moderated Producer Q & A
12. Producer Resolutions
13. Sheep Benchmarking Survey with Seyed Ali Goldansaz, *PhD*
14. Adjournment of ALP AGM

"Empowering the sheep industry through education, innovation, and advocacy."



2021 AGM Chair Address

What a year it has been.

I look back at the previous year's addresses and recognize it is usually about recapping the previous year; the past. Instead, I want to focus on the future and what we can look forward to as producers. The meeting material and AGM will recap some of the highlights from the past year.

Alberta Lamb Producers (ALP) held a series of virtual Town Hall Meetings and many virtual strategic planning sessions with the Board of Directors to start building out the next five years. It is a transformative time with new energy behind price insurance, CAP funding, ALP program offerings, and proactively identifying research priority areas.

In the year ahead, you can look forward to continued, targeted webinars based on the feedback provided through our producer consultation campaign (surveys, phone calls, and town halls). If you did not have the opportunity to return the call from the office through the summer campaign, I encourage you to reach out to add your feedback on the two questions asked.

In terms of research, the pneumonia vaccine project will kick off with funding from stakeholders, including ALP and Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR). We will also see phase two of the previously performed pregnancy detection studies that seek to create a point of care – pregnancy litter size (PoC PLS) tool to allow producers to test at the pen side.

We attempted to move forward with hosting an in-person AGM in 2021, but with the state of emergency and further restrictions introduced in September, the ALP Board of Directors chose not to proceed as we would have been unable to bring together all producers. This impacted the ability to administer a fair plebiscite vote, which will now be held at the 2022 AGM. We can look forward to a 2022 plebiscite vote, with contingencies in place in the unlikely event that next year's in-person AGM requires cancellation. If we can move forward with an in-person AGM, we will be looking at ways to include workshops and other events to make it worth the travel for the producer and look forward to being together again.

Even though the organization was forced to operate virtually, our relationships have continued to grow, build, and open doors. I had a member from another province tell me this year that

Empowering the sheep industry through education, innovation, and advocacy.

relationships are unnecessary; it's just business. I can't entirely agree; we are a small industry in the larger scheme of Canadian agriculture. But, through relationships, networking, and trust, our message is heard and, most importantly, can be pursued.

Nationally, I hope everyone has taken the opportunity to fill out the [environmental survey](#) that was circulated. This is a crucial benchmark survey and a step toward looking at areas to streamline. Our membership with the Agriculture Carbon Alliance (ACA) and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture has been working with the government to create and challenge environmental policies that will impact producers. In the absence of the Sheep Value Chain Roundtable, sheep industry organizations have come together to form a roundtable by and for the Canadian Sheep Industry. We are anticipating this being setup for the fall. I am hopeful to see this roundtable grow and provide fruitful discussion that provinces can action together.

I want to express my gratitude for your attendance at tonight's AGM. Thank you for taking time to be engaged in our organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Greir", is placed over a light gray rectangular background.

Ryan Greir
Chair, Alberta Lamb Producers

Alberta Lamb Producers Virtual Annual General Meeting November 28, 2020

The meeting was opened at 7:34 pm with 38 attendees.

1. Motion: To accept agenda as presented.

Motion: Norine Moore. Seconded: Kevin Spahich. Carried.

2. Motion: To approve the 2019 meeting minutes as presented.

Motion: Judy Buck. Seconded: Darlene Stein. Carried.

3. Acclaimed Director Speeches

a. Judy Buck

b. One Director vacancy on the board was explained

4. Alberta Lamb Producers Financial Statements

Shannon Troke with King and Company Chartered Accountants presented the ALP financial review statements.

Note: The financial review statements include the project funded money that has flowed through ALP during the year for the pregnancy detection research project.

Motion: That the 2019/20 Financial Statements of Alberta Lamb Producers be approved as presented.

Motion: Norine Moore. Seconded: Erin Yaremko. Carried.

Notes:

The ALP financial review was clean. The financial allocation and grants were explained. Net income and overall expenses were similar to the previous year.

King and Company financially reviews and audits other agricultural organizations under the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act, including Alberta Pork, Alberta Turkey, and Alberta Chicken. Marketing Council was informed of this change.

Motion: That the 2020/21 Financial Statements of the Alberta Lamb Producers be financially reviewed by King and Company Chartered Accountant.

Motion: Bernadette Nikkel. Seconded: Erin Yaremko. Carried.

5. Alberta Lamb Producers budget 2020/21 was presented by Karl Denwood.

This document excludes all project funding so is more representative of how ALP has used and proposes to use check off dollars.

6. Presentation of ALP Annual Report

Ryan Greir, Brittany Walker and Ashley Scott presented the ALP Annual Report. Guest presentations were made by:

- Seyed Ali Goldansaz, Pregnancy Detection Research Study update

7. 2020/21 Proposed Resolutions

To submit a resolution for discussion at this year's AGM, eligible Alberta Lamb Producers needed to complete our resolution form and submit it to the ALP office by November 1, 2020. **Proposed resolutions would not be accepted past this deadline or from the floor at the virtual AGM.**

ALP received only one, proposed resolution. Please see the submission below, with details about the proposed resolution.

Proposed Resolution: Alberta Lamb Producers to approach CSF to establish alternate suppliers of CSIP tags.

Details about proposed resolution: CCWG having such a monopoly on the distribution of CSIP tags is not in the best interest of lamb producers. Tags should be readily accessible to all producers at a local retail level, producers should not have to rely on mail order. It should be modeled after CCIA; a more progressive system.

Votes For: 7

Votes Against: 17

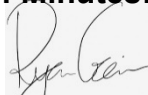
Vote Abstain: 1


Defeated.


8. Motion to Adjourn: Norine Moore.


9. Adjournment: 9:46 pm.

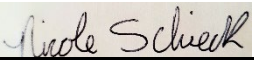
Approval of Minutes:

Signature:  _____ Date: December 10, 2020
Ryan Greir, ALP Director

Signature:  _____ Date: December 10, 2020
Brittany Walker, ALP Director

Signature:  _____ Date: December 10, 2020
Darlene Stein, ALP Director

Signature:  Date: December 10, 2020
Karl Denwood, ALP Director

Signature:  Date: December 10, 2020
Nicole Shieck, ALP Director

Alberta Lamb Producers Director Acclamation for 2021-22

There were five Director-at-large positions open on the 2021/22 ALP board. Three eligible producers submitted valid nominations forms before the July 31, 2021 deadline to be entered as candidates in the 2021 election. As we only received three valid nomination forms for the five Director-at-large positions, no election is needed to be held this year. The three nominated producers will be acclaimed to the board at the ALP AGM on November 20th, 2021.

Due to **Alberta Lamb Producers Plan Regulation AR 263/2001, s. 34 Election of directors**, it is clear that the authority for nominations is to be once a year, so an additional call for nominations in the 2020 calendar year, is not aligned with the regulation. Subsection (9) states that if the position is vacant (after following the nomination process), the Commission must in accordance with section 20, move forward with filling the position by appointing from among eligible producers. ALP followed due process for nominations and would be adhering to our regulation by appointing as per s. 20 of the regulation, to fill the two vacant positions.

ALP will have two Interim Director-at-large positions available and will be recruiting to fill the positions after the AGM, as per our Plan Regulation.

As mentioned above, ALP has successfully filled the other 3 Director-at-large position and is pleased to announce that Nicole Schieck, who will be entering her second term on the ALP board along with Emilie Rowe and Richard Boscher, will be acclaimed at the AGM. Their acclaimed director profiles will be included in our 2021 AGM meeting package. Please help us welcome our acclaimed directors to the board!

Acclaimed Directors

Emilie Rowe Contact: 403-915-5497, emilie@ablamb.ca

Emilie graduated from the University of the West of England, in the UK, in 2014 with a degree in Agricultural Business Management. In 2016 Emilie and her partner James decided to relocate to Canada. In January 2021, they set up their farming operation, Wilson Acres Farm, in Arrowwood which is around an hour southeast of Calgary. They have 3 dogs, chickens, a guardian llama and currently run 150 breeding ewes, lambing 3 times a year. Their flock are solely indoors in their barn, but they do have 12 acres for some grazing. They primarily run commercial Dorsets, but also have Suffolk, Ile De France, Canadian/Rideau Arcotts along with owning pedigree Dorset rams for genetics.

Their plan for the future is to expand their breeding flock, acreage, run a small pedigree flock and would love to bring more genetics over from flocks in the UK. Emilie is currently employed full time in the agricultural industry and in her spare time she loves to camp and craft with wool.

Nicole Schieck **Contact:** 780-993-2037, nicole@ablamb.ca

Nicole Schieck lives by Two Hills AB, where she and her husband run their farm Schieck Livestock. They run a primarily purebred flock of around 100 Southdown and Dorset sheep, and are working on increasing their flock size. While her husband works away from home cowboying the majority of the year, she stays at home and runs the farm, with a part time job working the sheep sales at the Beaver Hill Auction in Tofield.

Originally from mid-western Ontario, Niki was born and raised in the sheep industry, and for 20 years went around the province with her family doing the commentary for their sheep shearing demonstrations, educational displays and clinics. She now continues mentoring sheep producers in Alberta, and doing clinics to help 4-H clubs, as well as judging sheep shows through western Canada in addition to advocating for the ALP board. Nicole is entering her second term on the ALP Board.

Richard Boscher **Contact:** 639-536-3272, richard@ablamb.ca

My name is Richard Boscher, and I'm excited to be joining the ALP board of directors. I live near Kitscoty, Alberta, with my wife, Lindsay, and our two daughters, Kadence and Brooke. Our farm, "Little Big Sheep Farm," was named by my youngest daughter because it's "big sheep on a little farm."

Growing up a town kid in Russell, Manitoba, I always had a curiosity for working with animals. Through connections with friends and church members, I got experience working with livestock and wild stock over the years. I worked on a PMU farm for a while and was always eager to help friends and family with their farm operations. I have passed that passion for animals onto my daughters, so our operation is much a family affair.

My job by day as a measurement and regulatory specialist for the oil and gas industry has equipped me with the skills to manage, problem solve and develop processes that make our sheep farm more efficient. Our farm is managed and operated by myself and my two daughters, who are 12 & 15 years old. As I see my girls out there sorting sheep, treating illness, processing and weighing lambs, inserting CIDR's, I know that this farm is more than just another source of income. It provides innumerable opportunities for them, and the benefits will impact them for the rest of their lives.

Again, I look forward to aiding in the industry's progression and working with fellow producers to benefit all Alberta producers.

ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS

Financial Statements

Year Ended August 31, 2021

Draft for discussion purposes only

ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS
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Year Ended August 31, 2021

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Draft for discussion purposes only

INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER'S REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

To the Members of Alberta Lamb Producers

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of Alberta Lamb Producers which comprise the statement of financial position as at August 31, 2021 and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Practitioner's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Conclusion

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that these financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Alberta Lamb Producers as at August 31, 2021, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Edmonton, AB
October 15, 2020

CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS
Statement of Financial Position
As at August 31, 2021

	2021	2020
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash (Note 2)	\$ 266,416	\$ 135,053
Short-term investments (Note 3)	139,997	139,997
Accounts receivable	28,455	17,688
Prepaid expenses	2,672	-
	437,540	292,738
CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 4)	13,718	3,597
	\$ 451,258	\$ 296,335
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 5)	\$ 18,752	\$ 13,364
Deferred revenue (Note 6)	4,090	825
Deferred contributions (Note 7)	83,221	4,521
	106,063	18,710
NET ASSETS		
Invested in capital assets	13,718	3,597
Internally restricted (Note 8)	170,959	23,908
Unrestricted	160,518	250,120
	345,195	277,625
	\$ 451,258	\$ 296,335

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

_____ Director

_____ Director

ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS**Statement of Operations****Year Ended August 31, 2021**

	2021	2020
REVENUE		
<u>Checkoff</u>		
Sheep	\$ 237,005	\$ 209,223
Wool	2,288	3,451
	<u>239,293</u>	<u>212,674</u>
<u>Other</u>		
SheepBytes	14,011	9,438
Advertising	12,530	11,331
CEBA loan forgiveness	10,000	-
Interest	1,714	3,651
Expense recoveries	498	872
	<u>38,753</u>	<u>25,292</u>
Grants (Note 7)	32,346	89,562
	<u>310,392</u>	<u>327,528</u>
EXPENSES		
<u>Advocacy</u>		
Industry support	4,416	6,988
Industry liaison	387	9,109
	<u>4,803</u>	<u>16,097</u>
<u>Extension</u>		
Newsletter	14,841	24,108
SheepBytes	4,112	3,946
AFAC	1,817	1,000
Advertising and promotion	645	200
	<u>21,415</u>	<u>29,254</u>
<u>Operating</u>		
Salaries, benefits and staff development	89,419	86,059
Directors	13,637	20,917
Accounting and legal	10,002	5,997
Administration and communications	9,320	10,574
Website	5,220	2,606
Amortization of capital assets	3,879	635
Insurance	916	3,252
Annual General Meeting	200	1,924
	<u>132,593</u>	<u>131,964</u>
Grants	33,971	76,270
Checkoff refunds	50,040	38,249
	<u>242,822</u>	<u>291,834</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	<u>\$ 67,570</u>	<u>\$ 35,694</u>

ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS
Statement of Changes in Net Assets
Year Ended August 31, 2021

	Invested in Capital Assets	Internally Restricted (Note 7)	Unrestricted	2021	2020
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 3,597	\$ 23,908	\$ 250,120	\$ 277,625	\$ 241,931
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(3,879)	9,899	61,550	67,570	35,694
Purchase of database	14,000	-	(14,000)	-	-
Transfer of cash for SheepBytes	-	(2,848)	2,848	-	-
Transfer of cash for industry research funds	-	20,000	(20,000)	-	-
Transfer of cash for emergency operating funds	-	120,000	(120,000)	-	-
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 13,718	\$ 170,959	\$ 160,518	\$ 345,195	\$ 277,625

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ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS**Statement of Cash Flows****Year Ended August 31, 2021**

	2021	2020
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 67,570	\$ 35,694
Item not affecting cash:		
Amortization of capital assets	3,879	635
	<u>71,449</u>	<u>36,329</u>
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	(10,767)	(1,093)
Prepaid expenses	(2,672)	-
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	5,388	(1,502)
Deferred revenue	3,265	825
Deferred contributions	78,700	(54,166)
	<u>73,914</u>	<u>(55,936)</u>
Cash flow from (used by) operating activities	<u>145,363</u>	<u>(19,607)</u>
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of short-term investments, net	-	(35,678)
Purchase of capital assets	(14,000)	(4,232)
Cash flow used by investing activities	<u>(14,000)</u>	<u>(39,910)</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH	131,363	(59,517)
CASH - BEGINNING OF YEAR	135,053	194,570
CASH - END OF YEAR	\$ 266,416	\$ 135,053

ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended August 31, 2021

NATURE OF OPERATIONS

Alberta Lamb Producers (the "Organization") is a producer supported organization that operates under regulation of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act of the Province of Alberta. Its mandate is the promotion and enhancement of the sheep and wool industry in Alberta.

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Presentation

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Revenue Recognition

The Organization follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Restricted investment income is recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted investment income is recognized as revenue when earned.

Checkoff fees are recognized as revenue when received or receivable. Checkoff fees are set at \$1.50 for each tag issued, less an administration fee of 3%.

Financial Instruments

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value when acquired or issued. In subsequent periods, financial assets with actively traded markets are reported at fair value, with any unrealized gains and losses reported in income. All other financial instruments are reported at amortized cost, and tested for impairment at each reporting date. Transaction costs on the acquisition, sale, or issue of financial instruments are expensed when incurred.

Cash

Cash is comprised of cash held with financial institutions.

Capital Assets

Capital assets are stated at cost less accumulated amortization. Capital assets are amortized over their estimated useful lives at the following rates and methods:

Office equipment	20%	declining balance method
Computer equipment	30%	declining balance method
Leasehold improvements	20%	declining balance method
Database	20%	straight-line method

The Organization regularly reviews its capital assets to eliminate obsolete items. Government grants are treated as a reduction of capital assets cost.

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ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended August 31, 2021

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(continued)*

Contributed Services

The operations of the Organization depend on both the contribution of time by volunteers and donated materials from various sources. The fair value of donated materials and services cannot be reasonably determined and are therefore not reflected in these financial statements.

Measurement Uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Such estimates are periodically reviewed and any adjustments necessary are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

2. CASH

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Unrestricted		
Cash	\$ 12,246	\$ 106,624
Internally Restricted		
Cash for emergency operating funds	120,000	-
Cash for SheepBytes	30,959	23,908
Cash for industry research funds	20,000	-
	<u>170,959</u>	<u>23,908</u>
Externally Restricted		
Cash for vaccine research project grant	75,000	-
Cash for pregnancy research project grant	8,211	4,521
	<u>83,211</u>	<u>4,521</u>
Grand Total	<u>\$ 266,416</u>	<u>\$ 135,053</u>

3. SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS

Short-term investments represents a guaranteed investment certificate that has a maturity date of February 13, 2022 and bears interest of 0.5% (2020 - 2.00%).

ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS**Notes to Financial Statements****Year Ended August 31, 2021****4. CAPITAL ASSETS**

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	2021 Net book value	2020 Net book value
Office equipment	\$ 4,494	\$ 4,494	\$ -	\$ -
Computer equipment	4,232	1,714	2,518	3,597
Leasehold improvements	2,154	2,154	-	-
Database	14,000	2,800	11,200	-
	<u>\$ 24,880</u>	<u>\$ 11,162</u>	<u>\$ 13,718</u>	<u>\$ 3,597</u>

5. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES

	2021	2020
Operations	\$ 11,996	\$ 8,709
Salaries	3,501	2,827
Goods and services tax	3,255	1,828
	<u>\$ 18,752</u>	<u>\$ 13,364</u>

6. DEFERRED REVENUE

	2021	2020
Advertising	\$ 3,265	\$ -
AGM sponsorship	825	825
	<u>\$ 4,090</u>	<u>\$ 825</u>

7. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS

Deferred contributions represent restricted operating funding received in the current year that is related to subsequent periods. The following is a summary of the changes for the period ending August 31:

	2021	2020
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 4,521	\$ 58,687
Contributions received	111,036	35,396
Recognized as revenue	(32,346)	(89,562)
	<u>\$ 83,211</u>	<u>\$ 4,521</u>

(continues)

ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended August 31, 2021

7. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS *(continued)*

	2021	2020
Deferred contributions are comprised of:		
Vaccine research project	\$ 75,000	\$ -
Pregnancy research project	8,211	4,521
	<u>\$ 83,211</u>	<u>\$ 4,521</u>

8. INTERNALLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

The board of directors has internally restricted net assets for the following purposes:

	2021	2020
Emergency operating funds	\$ 120,000	\$ -
SheepBytes	30,959	23,908
Industry research funds	20,000	-
	<u>\$ 170,959</u>	<u>\$ 23,908</u>

9. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year, the Organization paid fees and reimbursed expenses to directors totaling \$13,637 (2020 - \$20,917).

These transactions are in the normal course of operations and are measured at the exchange amount, which is the amount of consideration established and agreed to by the related parties.

10. COMMITMENT

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is responsible for Canadian traceability. At the time of implementation, the CFIA chose the Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF) as the representative for the sheep industry for traceability. The CSF contracted the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) as its responsible administrator to meet CFIA requirements. The purpose of this agreement is to govern the distribution and sale of approved tags to sheep producers across Canada. Alberta Lamb Producers has an agreement with Canadian Cooperative Wool Growers (CCWG) that automatically renews every year unless the contract is renegotiated or terminated by either party. Amendments to this agreement require being agreed upon by the parties on or before October 15 of each year to be in effect on January 1 of the following year.

ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended August 31, 2021

11. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Organization is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments and has a comprehensive risk management framework to monitor, evaluate and manage these risks. The following analysis provides information about the Organization's risk exposure and concentration as of August 31, 2021.

Credit Risk

Credit risk arises from the potential that a counter party will fail to perform its obligations. The Organization's financial instruments that are exposed to credit risk are primarily cash and accounts receivable. The Organization maintains its cash in a major financial institution. An allowance for doubtful accounts is established based upon factors surrounding the credit risk of specific accounts

The Organization's accounts receivable are exposed to credit risk as the majority of receivables are from entities that conduct their business within the same industry.

12. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Some of the comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.

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			Budget amounts	Budget
			2020-21	2021-22
Account	Item	Revenue		
4000	1	Check off - sheep	\$208,000.00	\$230,000.00
4005	2	Check off - wool	\$4,500.00	\$2,500.00
4105/15	3	Newsletter Advertising	\$11,000.00	\$12,000.00
		Online/Web Advertising	\$1,000.00	\$500.00
4200	4	Recoveries	\$0.00	\$0.00
4900	5	Interest	\$1,700.00	\$1,500.00
4300	6	Manuals, programs and courses	\$0.00	\$0.00
4400	7	SheepBytes - ALP income	\$1,000.00	\$1,800.00
-	8	Transfer from reserves*	\$31,380.00	\$25,288.00
4700	9	AGM Meals	\$0.00	\$0.00
4410	10	AGM Sponsorship	\$0.00	\$825.00
	11	Refunds from Government	\$0.00	\$0.00
	12	Total	\$258,580.00	274,413.00
		Expenses		
7500		Advocacy*		
7595	13	Industry support	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00
7530	14	Industry liaison (govt & ind)	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
7550	15	Promotion	\$500.00	\$500.00
7560	16	Regional funds	\$0.00	\$0.00
7561	17	Provincial 4-H	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
7565	18	Industry events - Symposium	\$1,250.00	\$0.00
8200	20	Calgary Stampede Sponsorship	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
7115		Plebiscite	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
7105	21	Promotional Events	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
8055	23	AFAC membership	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
7500	24	Total	\$32,250.00	\$ 31,000.00
8000		Extension		

8005	25	Newsletter	\$11,500.00	\$11,500.00
8010	26	Newsletter ads commission	\$2,650.00	\$2,650.00
8025	27	Industry Research	\$5,000.00	\$11,500.00
new item		Producer Education	\$7,000.00	\$6,000.00
8000	29	Total	\$26,150.00	\$ 31,650.00
9000		Operating Expenses		
-	30	Admin & communications		
9030	31	Admin	\$2,100.00	\$1,100.00
9025	32	Communications	\$6,900.00	\$6,900.00
9040	33	Website	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00
9045/50	34	Service charges/penalties	\$250.00	\$250.00
9070	35	Office Supplies	\$2,200.00	\$2,200.00
7110	36	Office Equipment/I.T.	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
-	37	Total Admin & communications	\$18,450.00	\$17,450.00
9038	38	Staff Recruitment	\$0.00	\$0.00
	39	Capital Purchase	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
9005	40	Salaries & Wages	\$88,000.00	\$90,043.00
	41	Staff Devt	\$3,000.00	\$3,500.00
9010	42	Directors expenses	\$37,580.00	\$37,580.00
9007	43	Governance Training	\$0.00	\$0.00
9009	44	Strategic Planning	\$0.00	\$1,800.00
9015	45	Audit & legal	\$10,000.00	\$12,000.00
9060	46	Insurance	\$1,900.00	\$1,890.00
9100	47	AGM meeting expenses	\$2,250.00	\$3,500.00
	48	Loss on disposal of assets		
	49	Amortization		
7000	50	Check off refunds	\$38,000.00	\$43,000.00
9000	52	Total	\$200,180.00	\$211,763.00

	53	Total expenses	\$258,580.00	\$ 274,413.00
	54	Excess of revenue over expenditures		\$ -

Your Check Off at Work: 2020-21 Year in Review

Alberta Lamb Producers mission:

“Empowering the sheep industry through education, innovation and advocacy.”

ALP wishes to thank producers for your continued support and understanding that the check-off you pay is your investment in your industry. Your funds provide for the organization’s operational expenses, communications and advocacy efforts. In addition, it enables the organization to obtain funding and manage industry development projects. From providing management resources to promoting the lamb you produce, ALP gives you a beneficial return on your investment.

2020/21 for ALP was another unprecedented year due to the Covid-19 outbreak. Despite these challenges, ALP worked diligently to ensure that our producers’ and industries best interests were represented on both the provincial and federal conversations. ALP staff were also able to maintain key services and built on an existing foundation to pose the organization for progress as the 2021/22 year begins. A return to long-term staffing and regular communications helped propel key initiatives forward and will continue into the new year.

Board Governance

Proper governance is vital for effectively and efficiently moving an organization’s mission and initiatives forward. Despite being unable to meet for in-person quarterly meetings for most of this past year, the board did maintain their bi-monthly conference call schedule (every second and fourth Thursday evening of the month) along with an in-person meeting that took place September 18-19, 2021 in Airdrie, Alberta.

Producer Engagement

ALP eligible producers’ biggest challenges and priority research areas were identified this past summer!

ALP was pleased to announce on June 22, 2021 that our application to access funding from the Canada Summer Job Grant in 2021 to hire 1 (one) summer worker had been approved!

ALP hired Isabel Reves, a local Airdrie resident who just recently graduated from High School, with Honors to fulfill our summer intern position of Administrative Coordinator.

Isabel started with ALP on Monday, June 28th and worked up until the week of August 23, 2021.

As part of our support to the upcoming ALP plebiscite, Marketing Council had asked us to ensure producer contact information was up-to-date, including e-mail addresses. Part of Isabel's role with us over the summer, was to update our producer database with current and up to date

producer information (mailing address, phone number, and as abovementioned, email addresses for important e-communications and the ability to vote electronically in the upcoming plebiscite). All eligible Alberta Lamb Producer would have received a phone call from her over that next 9 weeks to review and/or update the information we currently have on file.

ALP's board has also been working diligently on the organizations new, 5-year strategic plan and needed feedback from our producers to help guide them in identifying our strategic objective themes and to ensure we are providing the necessary support to our producers that they need. With this being said, we also had Isabel ask producers these two questions*:

**If you didn't respond to these questions yet, please feel free to reach out to the ALP office prior to the town hall meeting to share your thoughts/answers.*

1. What is your biggest challenge as a producer?
2. What do you think should be included under ALP's research priorities?

The main themes that were identified after reviewing the data collected by our summer intern is as follows:

- Feed
- Marketing
- Health
- Flock Management
- Predation
- Environment
- Labor
- Producer Outreach

ALP Producer Town Hall Meetings

Following this past year's AGM, the ALP Board of Directors decided to create a Producer Consultation Committee, as we recognized that we as an organization can do better to engage and connect with our eligible producers between AGMs. The Producer Consultation Committee's first step was to create and distribute a producer survey, which was sent out following the 2020 AGM. Through the feedback we received, we followed up by hosting a townhall meeting for our eligible Alberta Lamb Producers, that took place on July 20, 2021.

With the success and positive feedback from the July town hall meeting, ALP also hosted a fall session. It was held on October 21, 2021, as requested by producers on the first call, where we discussed important topics such as CAP Funding, Insurance, BRM, other services etc. that we were unable to cover during the summer meeting.

ALP would like to thank those eligible Producers who were able to attend and for the dialogue that took place on the call. Moving forward, we hope all eligible Alberta lamb producers will

engage in these town hall meetings. Attendance and engagement will signal a need to continue with them and your feedback on content and format will shape them to make the most of the time together. If you have any questions, please contact Ashley Scott, ALP Executive Director at info@ablamb.ca.

Producer Resources

ALP continues to provide resources to producers both as downloads from the website and as printed copies, including factsheets and production modules developed in Alberta for Alberta flocks. All production modules may be downloaded for free and printed copies are sold at cost. Once again in the spring of 2020, ALP offered free lamb kits to producers. The kits highlight the importance of neonate interventions and post-mortems.

In 2021, ALP introduced a new Producer Education Webinar Series as we know how valuable it is for producers to have access to educational tools and relevant and informative resources. We launched our first webinar in January 2021 and have hosted monthly webinars every since. This webinar series is hosted on the ZOOM platform and is free of charge for Producers to register for and attend. Please note that you need to register in order to be sent the Zoom Meeting link to join the webinar.

ALP created a new tab on our website to share our upcoming webinars. It can be found here: <https://ablamb.ca/index.php/resources/producer-education-events>. Once a webinar has been confirmed, we will post the information here on our website, along with the registration link to sign up.

We hosted the following topics in 2021:

Feeder Loan Guarantee Program Webinar with Joe Kuhar, FAA General Manager
[Watch the recording](#)

Alberta Breeder Finance Inc. (ABFI) Program Webinar with Shelby Thue, FAA Program Support
[Watch the recording](#)

Western Cash Advance Payments Program (WeCAP) Webinar Joe Kuhar, FAA General Manager
[Watch the recording](#)

Fine tuning your vitamin and mineral program with Dan Morrical, Production Expert, Premier 1 Sheep Supplies
[Watch the recording](#)

Seeding Down Forage Stands - Get off on the right foot with Grant Lastiwka
[Watch the recording](#)

Sheepbytes Ration Balancer Workshop: Introduction and Overview

Sponsored by: Alberta Lamb Producers and Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board

[Watch the recording](#)

Sheepbytes Ration Balancer Workshop: Using Student Accounts for Practice Session

Sponsored by: Alberta Lamb Producers and Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board

[Watch the recording](#)

Parasite Management is not just Deworming with Dr. Lynn Tait

[Watch the recording](#)

Annual Grazing for Sheep with Graeme Finn

[Watch the recording](#)

Iceberg diseases - infectious diseases that keep adult sheep from performing as they should with Dr. Paula Menzies

[Watch the recording](#)

Feeding Replacement Ewes and Feeding Late Gestation Ewes with Dr. Paul Luimes, College Research Professor, Coordinator of Ag. Diploma Program, University of Guelph

[Watch the recording](#)

Wintering Sheep on Limited and Non - Traditional Feeds with Barry Yaremciio

[Watch the recording](#)

Implications of genetics/genomics: what lessons can Alberta Sheep Producers learn from other industries, with Ghader Manafiazar, University of Alberta, Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Sciences (AFNS), Post-Doc

[Watch the recording](#)

Predation and Wildlife Problems for Landowners Webinar with Ross Hinter, Liaison & Program Development, Alberta Trappers Association

[Watch the recording](#)

If you would like to be connected with a trapper in your area, please reach out to Ross at ross@albertatrappers.com or 780-832-7908

Upcoming Webinars:

Webinar by Dr John Gilleard BVSc, PhD, DipACVM, MRCVS, Professor, Parasitology - Department of Comparative Biology and Experimental Medicine, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at 7pm MST

Presentation is 45min, with a 15 min Q & A

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0oduqupzwwqEtK-ZW9U22jMa4FBB9OJhMjk>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Predator Compensation Investigations webinar with Alex Bolland, Alberta Fish and Wildlife Officer

Alex has been a member of the Alberta Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Services (FWES) for 7 years and hold a Bachelor's of Natural Resource Enforcement from Vancouver Island University. He has been posted to Grande Prairie, Lethbridge and currently Cardston. He is also a member of the Predator Response Team, and a Drone Pilot.

Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at 7pm MST
Presentation is 45 min, with 15 min Q & A

This webinar will encompass the Wildlife Compensation claim process, from initial phone call from the producer, investigation and the final submission of documents to Alberta Environment and Parks. I will tailor the presentation primarily on sheep, however most of our investigations are Beef related given Alberta's prominent Beef production. The main topic will be educating on what Coyote, Wolf, Cougar and Bear injuries/kills look like and what mitigation efforts can be taken to minimize conflicts before they happen. All producers should have the Alberta Guide to predators pamphlet which can be found here:

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/9781460115619>

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYld--qrDooHtJvmU4a21Jjmv6_pgvLvUnW

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

We are in the works for confirming our speaker list for 2022. Some of the topics we look to cover are shearing, wool fibre workshop, electric fencing, economics of accelerated lambing, selecting breeding stock ewes and rams, solar grazing, traceability, management systems, marketing, and new born lamb survivability.

Never used the ZOOM meeting platform before? We've got you covered; ALP has put together a document that provides the information on how to join the meeting/webinar along with some tips for a successful experience!

Unable to attend one of the webinars? No problem – we will be recording the webinars and sharing them afterwards on our website, YouTube channel, social media platforms and our weekly e-communication, N'ewesline!

ALP would like to hear from our Producers as to what type of content they would like to see covered in this webinar series. If you have any suggestions, please email them to ALP Executive Director, Ashley Scott at info@ablamb.ca for consideration.

Advocacy

ALP enables the sheep industry and its producers to have a voice, to be at the table when decisions are being made and to encourage the development and success of the industry. Alberta Lamb Producer Staff and directors participate in weekly calls across a variety of organizations both federally and provincially to represent the best interest of sheep producers, from animal welfare, transport regulations, to government policy changes, we do our best to cover issues that are or will be a concern to producers. Some examples of recent advocacy efforts include:

- 2021 Canada-Alberta Livestock Feed Assistance Initiative, AgriRecovery: ALP was in constant communication with our provincial government to advocate on behalf of our industry for the inclusion of sheep, as we know it was extremely important for our producers to have access to these program supports to maintain their operations during the extreme weather conditions.
- External committees, e.g. Alberta Farm Animal Care, Farmer Led Research - RDAR Advisory Committee, ABVMA ABVTA ERVPWC working group, VAMI Stakeholder Committee.
- Video Ante-Mortem (VAMI) Inspection Industry Stakeholder Committee: ALP advocated on behalf of our industry to be included in the program as our industry, along with the others already included, could benefit from improved animal welfare outcomes (not having to transport compromised animals and it ensures that emergency animals are dealt with quicker) and allows for the meat to be for sale, which in turn creates increased protein into the food chain, which is especially important for our industry as we are often short product, specifically, at certain times of the year. By extending the opportunity for our producers to sell the meat from their emergency situation, it also provides a more positive outcome to an unfortunate circumstance.
- National Sheep Network: Communication and collaboration with government and industry stakeholders regarding national issues: e.g. Business Risk Management Programs, national animal health/biosecurity program. The NSN website was published in 2019: www.nationsheepnetwork.com
- Throughout Covid-19, participating and advocating on behalf of our producers and industry needs during our weekly Agriculture Producer calls with our Agriculture Minister, Devin Dreeshen and weekly federal calls with AAFC/ACC.



Progress Report

ABVMA-ABVTA Veterinary Professional Workforce Study

The Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA) and the Alberta Veterinary Technologist Association (ABVTA) commissioned a Veterinary Professional Workforce Project through a grant from Alberta Labour and Immigration.

The veterinary profession in Alberta is experiencing a crisis in shortages of both veterinarians and veterinary technologists. The objectives of the Veterinary Professional Workforce Study were to:

1. Understand the labour shortage of veterinary professionals in Alberta
2. Identify current and future challenges facing the veterinary medicine labour supply
3. Identify supports or strategies to mitigate the labour shortage

Conclusions from the workforce study:

1. Demand for veterinary services in Alberta will continue to outpace population growth.
2. The current workforce is challenged to meet current demand, as evidenced by high vacancy rates for veterinarians and veterinary technologists.
3. The combination of strong demand and need to address workforce turnover will result in substantial numbers of new hires required for the sector.
4. Alberta's current education and training system is unlikely to meet the projected demand for veterinarians.
5. Retention of veterinary technologists has been identified as a major human resource challenge for the sector.
6. Internationally trained veterinarians make up a small number (7-9%) of professionals registered annually. Alberta will continue to rely on these graduates to some extent and they must be better integrated into Alberta's workforce.
7. Pet owners and the general public are generally unaware of the role of veterinarians and veterinary technologists, the cost of pet ownership, the cost of animal medical procedures or the benefits of pet insurance.

Subsequent Activities

Two working groups were formed to review the report and its recommendations as well as further discuss possible actions.

1. Education and Retention of Veterinary Professionals in Western Canada (ERVPWC) Working Group
The ERVPWC working group met June 24, July 16, August 20, Sept 15.

Participants:

- Rural Municipalities of Alberta, Alberta Urban Municipalities Association
- Commodity groups: AB Beef Producers, AB Cattle Feeders, AB Lamb Producers, AB Milk, AB Pork, AB Sheep Producers, AB Turkey Producers, Egg Farmers of AB
- Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- Educators:
 - Veterinarians: University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM) and Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) Saskatoon, SK
 - Veterinary Technologists: Grand Prairie Regional College, Lakeland College,

NAIT, Olds College

- Veterinarians, veterinary technologists
- Practice owners, practice managers
- ABVMA Council and ABVTA members including Chief Provincial Veterinarian
- ABVMA staff

2. RVT Utilization

The RVT Utilization working group met June 23, July 13, August 12, Sept 14.

Participants:

RVTs, veterinarians, practice managers, practice owners, ABVTA and ABVMA Council members

The working groups reviewed the Workforce study report, focusing on the recommendations. The groups also identified additional goals. They then prioritized the goals. These prioritized goals will be discussed further by ABVMA Council and ABVMA Board meetings in October 2021.

In addition to following up with the recommendations from the working groups, ABVMA Council approved funding of an Economic Impact Assessment (EIA). This type of study has not previously been conducted for the veterinary industry in Alberta and is important in having complete information to work with government and stakeholders to increase the veterinary workforce in Alberta. The EIA is expected to be completed in December 2021.

Ongoing veterinary professional shortages pose significant risk to Alberta's economic growth, animal and human health, trade agreements, food supply, municipal sustainability, community socio-economics, and the mental health of the profession.

ABVMA will be engaging with stakeholders in further discussion over the next few months once ABVMA Council and ABVTA Board of Directors have approved recommended actions.

Video Ante-Mortem (VAMI) Inspection industry Stakeholder Committee

The purpose of this committee is to keep industry stakeholders informed about the Video Ante-mortem Inspection (VAMI) project and seek input and feedback as Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) operationalizes this new method of ante-mortem inspection.

Background: In response to industry concerns regarding limited options to deal with animals in an emergency situation, AF has been investigating the use of video to conduct an ante-mortem inspection. In 2019 AF conducted a pilot project to test this method and concluded that video can be used to conduct effective ante-mortem inspections under the right conditions.

On July 28, 2020, a revised Alberta Meat Inspection Regulation (MIR) came into force that will allow live animal ante-mortem inspection by video. The section on video inspection, Section 40.1, is scheduled to come into effect on January 1, 2022, to allow AF time to connect with industry stakeholders and develop an effective program. The VAMI program will be a new option to assist producers, feedlot operators, and other stakeholders with emergency animals and other eligible animals.

AF has initiated a project to operationalize VAMI by January 1, 2022. They recognized the importance to have input from stakeholders that will be impacted by, or utilize, the VAMI program. AF wants to ensure that the plan to operationalize VAMI will be practical, effective, and secure.

Research

Research and development provide on-going improvements to sheep production, and collaboration between industry and researchers facilitates these advances. ALP has an important role in setting research priorities and directing research funds. Industry endorsement helps researchers secure funding by validating the significance of their projects to the sheep industry. Industry financial contributions can be further leveraged to ensure projects are adequately funded. Research into sheep production in Alberta happens, in part, because of the support and endorsement of producers through ALP. We are pleased to announce Alberta research project funding has been awarded to the sheep industry! Please find information on the newly awarded research projects below.

Project title: Investigating the efficacy of sheep respiratory vaccines in pre-weaned and weaned lambs

The Alberta Lamb Producers recently received \$150,000 in funding from RDAR to evaluate the efficacy of a UK sheep respiratory vaccine from Merck called Ovipast Plus, and to evaluate an experimental sheep respiratory vaccine from VIDO, which was built a few years ago with ALMA funding and support of others in the sheep industry, including ALP and OSF. Lead researchers for

this vaccine study are Dr. Joyce Van Donkersgoed from Alberta, Dr. Cathy Bauman from Ontario Veterinary College (OVC), and Dr. Jose Perez-Casal from VIDO.

The RDAR funding is matched with industry funding from Alberta Lamb Producers (ALP), Ontario Sheep Farmers (OSF), Merck Animal Health, and the North American Lamb Corporation (NALC). The research will evaluate the effectiveness of the vaccines in ewes in boosting colostral immunity to reduce preweaning mortality and in weaned lambs to reduce post-weaning mortality. Additional outcomes that will be measured include growth performance and carcass quality. The research requires large numbers of ewes and feeder lambs with the ability to follow the animals through slaughter; therefore, the research will be conducted at the NALC ewe barns and feedlot in Iron Springs, Alberta and the feeder lambs will be followed through at slaughter at Canada Lamb Processors in Innisfail, Alberta.

This research will also provide training of a Master's student in epidemiology at OVC. The research will start this fall and hopefully be completed by December 2022. Results will be communicated to sheep producers.

We thank RDAR for supporting this important industry applied vaccine research and stayed tuned for more project updates to come!

Project Title: Identification of predictive blood biomarkers related to sheep parasitic infections via metabolomics

The Alberta Lamb Producers has recently supported a successful project application titled "Identification of predictive blood biomarkers related to sheep parasitic infections via metabolomics" by [Dr. Seyed Ali Goldansaz](#). This research will investigate blood components that could be used for detecting subclinical parasitic infection in sheep. The project is managed by Olds College, and is a collaboration between University of Alberta, University of Calgary, Dalhousie University, Ontario Sheep Farmers and ALP.

Parasitic infections are production-limiting diseases that adversely affect sheep through reduced weight gain, lower immunity and increased susceptibility to miscarriage at pre-clinical stages. Parasitic infection in its clinical stages is also very detrimental to the animal. Conventional management practices are predominantly passive and involve blind treatment of animals with anthelmintic drugs, not considering the type of parasite or the infection load. Aggressive use of drugs has created resistant parasites and decreased the efficacy of anthelmintics. Current diagnosis methods are based on direct measurement of the infection after clinical symptoms. This is not ideal as most animals maintain the infection at the subclinical level, typically associated with significant reduction in animal performance. The production losses at the subclinical stage and the expense of diagnosis and treatment at the clinical stage both contribute to increased cost of production. An alternative method to detect parasitic infection in individual animals prior to manifestation of clinical signs can provide faster and less expensive outcomes. The current project is measuring parasite-induced changes at pre-clinical stages of the infection in sheep blood to identify components (biomarkers) that are representative of the infection as a novel

screening method. These blood biomarkers can be translated into a handheld device for real-time, pen-side prediction of parasitic infection using a few drops of blood.

This project has already started and is expected to run till 2023, with a possibility of extension depending on the initial results. It is great to know that up to seven people including at least one graduate student will be trained to work with sheep as part of this project. There is a plan to publish multiple progress reports through the ALP's newsletter, and plan two producer events to educate on effective methods of parasite management in Alberta sheep flocks. Many thanks to RDAR for supporting the sheep industry by investing in this project.

Project Title: Smart handheld device for automatic blood analysis: Innovative prediction of sheep pregnancy and litter size

The Alberta Lamb producers, in collaboration with Ontario Sheep Famers, Lakeland College, Olds College and the University of Alberta, are supporting a successful project application with RDAR funding of \$248 000 entitled, "Smart handheld device for automatic blood analysis: Innovative prediction of sheep pregnancy and litter size. Under the guidance of Drs. Susan Markus and Seyed Ali Goldansaz, the research is focused on designing a handheld point of care (PoC) tool to deliver real-time pregnancy and litter size results within minutes of collecting fresh blood (via an ear prick). This same team was successful under a previous ALMA grant in identifying blood biomarkers of pregnancy and of litter size in ewes at approximately 50 days gestation. Current livestock diagnostic methods generally involve expensive laboratory equipment run by specialized personnel and long waiting times for results. Thus, rapid and cost-effective detection of livestock production & health is limited. Accurate early detection of pregnant ewes is required to implement appropriate nutrition and animal welfare programs. Ewes carrying single lambs tend to deliver higher birth weight lambs with more dystocia issues while those carrying triplets have increased risks of pregnancy toxemia & hypocalcemia. This results in higher ewe mortality, lower birthweights & poor lamb survivability. While ultrasonography is the gold standard of pregnancy detection, many producers cannot access the service or find it too costly to justify given their flock size and/or remote locations. By developing a hand-held device that any producer can use with limited training, which also delivers quick results pen-side for sorting pregnant ewes and is cost-effective, this tool will allow targeted nutrition management of ewes to enhance lamb survivability and ultimately improve flock profitability and competitiveness.

Looking Forward

Alberta Lamb Producers

Transitioning to Bylaws

Backgrounder: November 2021

Alberta Lamb Producer's Regulatory Framework

Alberta Lamb Producers (ALP) is governed by the *Marketing of Agricultural Products Act*, which is often referred to as MAPA. MAPA sets out the powers of ALP as an agricultural Commission and gives ALP authority to collect a refundable service charge from Alberta producers who own sheep or sell wool (of \$1.50 for each sheep or one cent for each pound of wool or 2.2 cents for each kilogram of wool sold).

Acts are law made by a provincial legislature. These are also referred to as statutes or primary legislation. Regulations are rules made to provide detail to Acts. Each Act has its own regulations and the Act provides the decision-making authority for making any regulation pursuant to the Act.

The regulation that creates ALP and sets out its governance structure and related requirements is the **Alberta Lamb Producers Plan Regulation** (Plan Regulation). Currently, the Plan Regulation outlines rights of producers, voting, Board member eligibility, election rules, term limits, and other internal governance related aspects of the ALP.

ALP also administers the following regulations:

- Alberta Lamb Producers Authorization Regulation – sets the regulation-making powers of the ALP.
- Alberta Lamb Producers Regulation – provides the day-to-day requirements of the ALP, including licensing, service charges, quota allocation and governance, reporting and other technical matters.

When a change is required to the Plan Regulation, multiple decision-makers must approve the change before it can take effect, including:

- ALP Board of Directors, following consultation with producers and other key stakeholders.
- Marketing Council.
- Minister of Agriculture and Forestry.

This approval process is often described as time-consuming and limits the flexibility of ALP to make regulatory changes with respect to internal governance and operations in a timely fashion.

Opportunity for Change

In July 2020, MAPA was amended to provide agricultural Commissions like ALP with authority to establish bylaws. This shift means that ALP can move many of the provisions (rules) that currently exist in the Plan Regulation into bylaws that are made by ALP and approved by Marketing Council.

Bylaws are a regulatory tool that outline the governing rules of an organization. These are legal instruments that are enabled by MAPA and are enforceable by ALP.

By establishing bylaws, the process for making any change to ALP's internal governance operations (e.g., voting, term limits, etc.), will be much shorter. ALP anticipates that the approval process would be shortened substantially by establishing this bylaws framework. This framework also empowers ALP with authority over their internal governance and contributes to the Government of Alberta's current focus on Red Tape Reduction and removing regulatory burden and barriers in Alberta.

Oversight by Marketing Council as ALP's supervisory agency will continue to ensure appropriate

The Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council (Marketing Council) is ALP's provincial supervisory agency. Marketing Council oversees the implementation and administration of ALP's regulatory framework and advises the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry on matters relating to ALP, as well as Alberta's 19 other agricultural Marketing Boards and Commissions.

checks and balances in the system, alignment of bylaws with regulations and MAPA, and consistency across Marketing Board and Commission bylaws.

Transition to Bylaws

During consultation held virtually over the summer of 2021, producers were informed of this transition to bylaws and provided the opportunity to raise any questions or concerns to the ALP Board. Receiving none, the Board decided to pursue drafting bylaws in consultation with Marketing Council and its legal counsel and are presenting the final draft bylaws to producers for approval during the November 20, 2021, annual meeting.

Following majority support from producers, via a vote of eligible producers during the annual meeting on November 20, 2021, the ALP Board will request changes to ALP's Plan Regulation for these bylaws to become effective. The bylaws will not take effect until further changes to the Plan Regulation are made as many provisions currently in the Plan Regulation will need to be repealed in order for the bylaws to take effect.

A final draft of the bylaws has been developed and is ready for review and approval by ALP's eligible producers. The draft bylaws contain things that are currently in the Plan Regulation. ALP bylaws include rules for the following:

- ✓ Responsibilities and functions of the ALP
- ✓ General rights of licensed producers
- ✓ Requirements for appointing representatives
- ✓ Eligibility for serving on the Board
- ✓ Board member terms
- ✓ Board Executive election/appointment process & quorum for Board meetings
- ✓ ALP meeting procedures, including notification and quorum for meetings
- ✓ Voting procedures, including duties of the Returning Officer
- ✓ Administrative matters such as appointing an auditor and Board member remuneration
- ✓ Bylaws approval process
- ✓ Bylaws review schedule

As mentioned, many of the above elements currently exist within the Plan Regulation. These are proposed to move out (be removed) from the Plan Regulation and have been positioned in many instances in the ALP bylaws word-for-word. Some minor wording changes were made to clarify the rules.

The table below describes each proposed shift, the section where it is currently referenced in the Plan Regulation, and why the change is necessary. This table does not include minor/administrative items such as definitions that will be removed from the Plan Regulation (e.g., auditor, assets, etc.) or establishing a new definition for bylaws in the Plan Regulation.

Proposed change	Plan Regulation Reference	Why the change is necessary
The majority of the functions of the ALP outlined in section 9 will move to bylaws.	Section 9.	These provisions outline the main functions and internal governance operations of the ALP and as per section 26(2.1) of MAPA, can be moved to ALP bylaws.
Appointment of auditor and fiscal year definition moved to bylaws.	Sections 15 and 16.	Same as above.
Election of Chair, term of office for Board members, and removal from office will move to bylaws.	Sections 18, 19, most of section 20.	Same as above.
Meetings of directors, quorum for director meetings, directors' role,	Sections 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26,	Same as above.

Proposed change	Plan Regulation Reference	Why the change is necessary
annual meeting, special meetings, calling of meetings, quorum of producer meetings, producer eligibility and rights, voting, director eligibility and ineligibility, and returning officer will all move into bylaws.	27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 33.1, and 35	

The draft ALP bylaws also include requirements for approving bylaws and sharing the bylaws with others (e.g., publication), as well as a timeline for review to ensure the bylaws are evaluated on a regular basis.

Next Steps

Prior to our AGM, ALP will solicit feedback from producers on the final draft bylaws found in this package starting on page 39 starting November 1, 2021. **Producers will have until November 15, 2021, no later, to submit proposed changes for consideration before the final draft bylaws are to be presented and voted on during the November 20, 2021, annual meeting.**

ALP will work with its legal counsel and Marketing Council staff to amend the bylaws based on producer feedback, if any is received by November 15, 2021.

During the November 20, 2021, annual meeting, producers will be presented an overview of the bylaws and the final draft bylaws, as presented, will be voted on by producers. A majority of those voting (2/3) will be required in order for the motion “to accept and approve the draft bylaws as presented” to be carried.

Pending majority support of the draft bylaws from eligible producers, the ALP Board will request that Plan Regulation amendments be made and will work with Marketing Council to ensure this happens.

Once the Plan Regulation changes have been drafted and approved by the ALP Board, Council and the Minister, the ALP bylaws will then take effect. The bylaws will not take effect until changes are made by the Minister to the Plan Regulation and are filed with the Registrar of Regulations, Legislative Counsel Office.

For further information, contact ALP Executive Director, Ashley Scott at 403-948-8533 or by email at info@ablamb.ca.



BYLAWS

[Definitions](#) - paragraphs 1 and 2

[Part 1 – THE COMMISSION](#) – paragraphs 3 to 7

[Functions of the Commission](#)

[Part 2 – ELIGIBLE PRODUCERS](#) – paragraphs 8 to 21

[Eligible Producers](#)

[Eligible Producers who are individuals](#)

[Eligible Producers who are not individuals](#)

[Part 3 – DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS](#) – paragraphs 22 to 44

[Eligibility to be a director](#)

[Ineligibility to be a director](#)

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A Bylaw relating to the conduct of the affairs of the ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS made pursuant to Section 26(2.1) of the *Marketing of Agricultural Products Act*, R.S.A. 2000, Chapter M-4 (hereinafter the “Act”) and amendments thereto.

IT IS HEREBY ENACTED as Bylaws of the ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS as follows:

Definitions

1. Words used in these Bylaws have the same meaning as they do in the *Marketing of Agricultural Products Act*, the Alberta Lamb Producers Plan Regulation and the Alberta Lamb Producers Regulation.
2. In these Bylaws,
 - a) “annual meeting” means an annual general meeting of eligible producers;
 - b) “assets” means economic resources controlled by the body as a result of past transactions and from which future economic benefits may be obtained;
 - c) “auditor” means a professional accounting firm registered under the *Chartered Professional Accountants Act* and authorized to perform an audit or review engagement;
 - d) “bylaws” means these bylaws made by the Commission pursuant to section 26(2.1) of the Act;
 - e) “electronic means”, in respect of attending or holding a meeting or voting, means a method of electronic or telephonic communication that enables all persons attending the meeting to hear and communicate with each other instantaneously and also to vote, without limitation, teleconferencing and computer network-based, telephone-based, or internet-based communication and/or voting platforms;
 - f) “eligible producer” means a producer who qualifies as an eligible producer under paragraph 8.a);
 - g) “fiscal year” of the Commission is September 1 to the following August 31.
 - h) “investment” means a commitment of assets in order to gain a financial return but does not include an expenditure of assets for the purposes of research and development or current operations;
 - i) “special meeting” means a special general meeting of the eligible producers;
 - j) “special resolution” means is a resolution passed
 - (i) at a meeting, of which at least 21 days’ notice specifying the intention to propose the resolution has been duly given, and
 - (ii) by the vote of at least 75% of the who, in entitled to do so, vote at the meeting.

Part 1 – THE COMMISSION

Functions of the Commission

3. The Commission must
 - a) open one or more accounts in a bank, trust company, treasury branch, credit union or other depository;
 - b) designate those officers, employees and other persons as are necessary to sign cheques and transact the Commission's business with its bank, trust company, treasury branch, credit union or other depository;
 - c) when investing its assets must make prudent investments in accordance with the requirements of section 3 of the *Trustee Act* respecting the investment of assets and may delegate to an agent in accordance with section 5(1) to (3) of that Act;
 - d) establish policies respecting the management of its assets as required by the Operation of Boards and Commissions Regulation (AR 26/99);
 - e) cause books and records, including financial records, to be maintained
 - (i) from time to time as may be required under the Act, the regulations or by order of the Council, and
 - (ii) as may be determined by the Commission; and
 - f) maintain an office, the location of which must at all times be made known to each eligible producer.
4. The Commission may
 - a) enter into an operating line of credit or other loan agreement with its bank, trust company, treasury branch, credit union or other lending institution;
 - b) designate those officers, employees and other persons as are necessary to transact the Commission's business;
 - c) appoint officers, employees and agents, prescribe their duties and fix their remuneration;
 - d) subject to the Act, the regulations and any orders of the Council, issue administrative orders and directives governing its internal operation as it may from time to time determine;
 - e) become a member of any agricultural organization or any organization that promotes the interest of Alberta sheep and wool producers; and
 - f) contribute funds to any agricultural organization or any organization that promotes the interest of Alberta sheep and wool producers.

- g) retain earnings and revenues from year to year to finance this Plan.
5. A request to inspect the books and records referred to in paragraph 3.e) must be made to the Commission at least 7 days in advance.
 6. The Commission may authorize any person, entity or committee to exercise any of the powers of the Commission as set forth in the Plan or these bylaws or otherwise.
 7. Where a person, entity or committee is authorized under paragraph 6 to exercise any power on behalf of the Commission,
 - a) that person, entity or committee is to report back to the Commission with respect to the exercise of that power, and
 - b) the Commission retains a supervisory function to oversee the actions of that person, entity or committee in the exercise of that power.

Part 2 – ELIGIBLE PRODUCERS

Eligible Producers

8. For the purpose of the Plan and these bylaws,
 - a) an eligible producer is any producer who has paid a service charge under the Plan in the current or the 2 immediately preceding fiscal years, whether or not the producer requested a service charge refund;
 - b) the Commission must maintain a list of eligible producers identified by the Commission;
 - c) any producer who is not listed on the Commission's list of eligible producers must be added to the list where the producer can provide proof to the Commission that the producer has paid a service charge under this Plan in the current year for which the application is made;

Eligible Producers who are individuals

9. In accordance with and subject to the Plan and these bylaws, an eligible producer is entitled, as a matter of right
 - a) to attend annual meetings and special meetings, held under the Plan or these bylaws,
 - b) to make representations on any matter pertaining to the Plan, these bylaws and the Commission,
 - c) to vote on any matter under the Plan and these bylaws,
 - d) to vote at an election for directors,
 - e) to be a candidate in an election for director, and

- f) to vote in any plebiscites of producers held under the Act.
10. Subject to paragraph 11, an individual who is a producer shall not cast a vote or be a candidate in an election for director under the Plan and these bylaws unless that person's name appears on the current list of eligible producers.
 11. If an individual is not on the list of eligible producers on August 31 of the year in which an election for directors is to be held, that individual shall not cast a vote in an election unless the individual
 - a) signs a declaration, in the form and manner prescribed by the Commission, stating that the individual is or qualifies as an eligible producer under the Plan and these bylaws, and
 - b) files the declaration signed under clause (a) with the returning or deputy returning officer by such time and in such manner as prescribed by the Commission.

Eligible Producers who are not individuals

12. Paragraphs 13 to 21 only apply in respect of an eligible producer that is not an individual.
13. If an eligible producer is not an individual and
 - a) makes representations on any matter pertaining to the Plan and these bylaws,
 - b) attends meetings held under the Plan and these bylaws,
 - c) votes on any matter under the Plan and these bylaws,
 - d) votes at an election under the Plan and these bylaws, or
 - e) holds office under the Plan and these bylaws,it must do so in accordance with paragraphs 14 to 21.
14. An eligible producer must appoint an individual to be the representative of the eligible producer.
15. A representative appointed by an eligible producer must
 - a) represent that eligible producer in any matter pertaining to the Plan and these bylaws,
 - b) attend meetings on behalf of the eligible producer, and
 - c) vote and hold office, as the case may be, on behalf of the eligible producer.
16. If an eligible producer is
 - a) a corporation, it must appoint an individual who is a director, shareholder, member, officer or employee of the corporation as its representative,

- b) a partnership, it must appoint an individual who is a partner or employee of the organization as its representative; or
 - c) an organization, other than a corporation or partnership, it must appoint an individual who is a member, officer or employee of the organization as its representative.
17. An appointment of a representative must be
- a) in writing, in the form and manner prescribed by the Commission,
 - b) in the case where a vote is to be taken at a meeting, filed with the returning officer prior to the calling to order of the meeting at which a vote is to take place; and
 - c) in the case of an election, filed with the returning or deputy returning officer by such time and in such manner as prescribed by the Commission.
18. A representative of an eligible producer shall not cast a vote or be a candidate in an election for director under this Plan unless
- a) the individual who is the representative presents a document signed by the eligible producer indicating the name of the individual who may vote for the eligible producer, or
 - b) the individual who is the representative makes a statutory declaration stating that
 - (i) the individual is a representative of the producer, and
 - (ii) the individual has not previously voted in the election or on the matter in respect of which the individual wishes to cast a vote.
19. A statutory declaration made under paragraph 18.b) must be made in writing and filed with the returning officer prior to the votes being cast.
20. An individual cannot be a representative under this section for more than one eligible producer.
21. A representative shall not vote or hold office before that representative's appointment is filed in accordance with paragraph 19.

Part 3 – DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Eligibility to be a director

22. To be eligible for election as a director, a person must be an eligible producer, or the representative of an eligible producer appointed in accordance with these bylaws.
23. Subject to paragraph 24, an eligible producer is eligible to be re-elected as a director.

24. Where a director serves for 3 consecutive terms, that person is not eligible for re-election as a director unless at least one year has elapsed from the expiration of that director's 3rd consecutive term.

Ineligibility to be a director

25. A person is not eligible to be elected as a director or to continue to hold the office of director if that person
- a) as of the date of the election is under 18 years of age;
 - b) is a dependent adult as defined in the *Adult Guardianship and Trusteeship Act* or is the subject of a certificate of incapacity under that Act;
 - c) is a formal patient as defined in the *Mental Health Act*;
 - d) has been found to be a person of unsound mind by a court elsewhere than in Alberta;
or
 - e) has the status of a bankrupt.

Directors nominations

26. Nominations for candidates to be elected as a director must be filed at the Commission's head office no later than August 31 of each year that an election is held.
27. A nomination for a candidate to be elected as a director
- a) must be made by an eligible producer,
 - b) must be in writing or on a form that is provided by or is satisfactory to the Commission, and
 - c) must be accompanied by or have endorsed on the written nomination the consent of the person being nominated.

Term of office

28. The directors hold office for two (2) years.
29. The term of office of a director
- a) commences on the conclusion of the annual meeting at which the results of the election of directors are announced, and
 - b) expires on the conclusion of the annual meeting that takes place in the year the director's term of office is set to expire and at which the results of the most recent election of directors are announced.

30. For the purposes of determining the number of terms that an individual has served as a director, a portion of a term served by a director shall be considered to be a term served only if the time served exceeds 12 months.

Director Vacancy

31. The office of a director shall be automatically vacated if the director:
 - a) resigns from office by delivering a written resignation to the Commission;
 - b) ceases to be eligible to be a Director;
 - c) is removed from office pursuant to paragraphs 32 or 34; or
 - d) dies while in office.

Removal from office by eligible producers

32. The eligible producers may by ordinary resolution at a special meeting remove any director from office.
33. A vacancy recreated by the removal of a director under paragraph 32 may be filled at the meeting of eligible producers at which the director is removed, or it not so filled, may be filled under paragraph 35.

Removal from office by the Commission

34. The Commission may by special resolution remove a director from office if the director
 - a) is absent from two (2) meetings of the Commission without reasons that the Commission considers adequate,
 - b) has breached any of the director's duties or failed to fulfill any of the director's responsibilities, or
 - c) has failed to comply with any of the Commission's policies or procedures.

Filling vacancies

35. In accordance with the Plan, where a vacancy occurs on the Commission under paragraphs 31, 32 or 34 or 64, the Commission shall, subject to the approval of Council, appoint an individual to fill the position from among the eligible producers who are eligible to be elected to that position.
36. Where a director is appointed under paragraph 35, that person serves until the next annual election at which time the eligible producers shall elect another director to serve for the unexpired portion of the vacated term of office, if any.
37. Notwithstanding paragraph 35, in the event of a vacancy the directors may exercise all the powers of the Commission provided there are four (4) directors remaining in office.

Director meetings

38. The Commission shall hold a director meeting at least three (3) times per year.
39. The Commission shall hold a director meeting on the written request of:
 - a) the chair;
 - b) at least 3 directors; or
 - c) the Council.

Quorum re meetings of directors

40. The quorum necessary for the conduct of business at a meeting of the directors is a majority of the directors holding office.

Form of meeting

41. A director meeting may be held by such method as may be determined by the directors and may be held
 - a) in person,
 - b) by electronic means, or
 - c) a combination thereof.
42. A director attending a meeting by electronic means shall be deemed to be present at the meeting.

Officers

43. Following the annual meeting in each year, the Commission shall elect from among the directors
 - a) a chair of the Commission,
 - b) a vice-chair of the Commission, and
 - c) a finance chair of the Commission.
44. During their term of office, the chair, vice-chair, and finance chair of the Commission serve at the pleasure of the directors.

Part 4 – ANNUAL AND SPECIAL MEETING

Annual meetings

45. The Commission shall hold an annual meeting at least once in each calendar year and not later than 15 months after the previous annual meeting.

46. The purpose of an annual meeting is
- a) to receive a report from the directors concerning the Commission's operations and activities.
 - b) to receive a copy of the auditor's report concerning the Commission's activities for the preceding year and a copy of the budget for the current year.
 - c) to consider such other matters as the Commission or the eligible producers attending the annual meeting may consider advisable, and
 - d) when required, to elect directors.

Special meetings

47. The Commission may direct that a special meeting be held
- a) when requested in writing to do so by the Council,
 - b) when required in writing to do so by not fewer than 10% of the eligible producers, or
 - c) when the Commission determines that a special meeting should be held.

Notice of meetings

48. The Commission shall set the time and date of any annual general meeting or special meeting and whether the meeting will be held in person, by electronic means or by a combination thereof.
49. The Commission shall give notice of a meeting referred to in paragraph 48 by publishing a notice in any manner that the Commission determines will provide notice to all persons entitled to the notice.
50. Notice given under paragraph 49 shall
- a) be published at least 14 days prior to the day on which the meeting is to be held, and
 - b) set out the time, date and purpose of the meeting and location at which the meeting will be held, or the information required for attendees to access the meeting by electronic means, or both, as the case may be.
51. A meeting referred to in paragraph 49 shall not be convened unless notice is given in accordance with paragraph 50.

Quorum

52. The quorum necessary for the conduct of business at an annual meeting or special meeting is 20 eligible producers.

Form of meeting

53. An annual meeting or special meeting may be held by such method as may be determined by the Commission and may be held
- a) in person,
 - b) by electronic means, or
 - c) a combination thereof.
54. A person attending a meeting by electronic means shall be deemed to be present at the meeting.

Voting on motions

55. A person is eligible to vote on any question put to a vote at an annual meeting or special meeting if the person
- a) is an eligible producer; and
 - b) is present at the meeting at which the vote is held.
56. In the case of an annual meeting or special meeting held in whole or in part by electronic means, a person attending the meeting by electronic means who is entitled to vote at the meeting may vote by electronic, telephonic or other method that the Commission has made available for that purpose.
57. A person may vote only once on each matter notwithstanding that the person may manage or operate or own, lease or hold equity in 2 or more operations.
58. If requested by 3 persons in attendance at a meeting, a vote carried out under the Plan and these bylaws at that meeting must be carried out by means of a secret ballot.
59. In the case of an equality of votes, the chair shall not have a casting vote and an equal vote shall defeat the question.

Voting in election of directors

60. A person is eligible to vote in an election for a director if the person
- a) is an eligible producer; and
 - b) is present at the meeting at which the vote is held.
61. Paragraph 60.b) does not apply if a person votes by advance mail-in ballot, electronic ballot or telephonic ballot.
62. The Commission shall determine for each election which one or more of the following voting methods may be used:

- a) mail-in ballot;
 - b) electronic ballot;
 - c) telephonic ballot;
 - d) in person ballot.
63. The election must be conducted in such a manner as to ensure that each person eligible to vote may vote by secret ballot.
64. An election held under this Plan is void and the position for which the election is held is vacant if
- a) the election is held at an annual meeting and there is not in attendance at the meeting a quorum of persons who are eligible to vote at the election, or
 - b) the election is held in advance of an annual meeting by mail-in ballot, electronic ballot or telephonic ballot and less than 20 ballots are cast in that election.
65. Notwithstanding that a position is vacant by virtue of paragraph 64, the term of office of the vacant position is nevertheless deemed to have commenced as if the individual had been elected to the position.
66. If an election will be conducted by mail-in ballot, electronic ballot or telephonic ballot,
- a) the election information must be made available to each eligible producer at least 30 days before the ballot closing date; and
 - b) the ballot closing date must be at least 10 days immediately preceding the annual meeting.
67. Subject to paragraph 68, the candidate receiving the largest number of votes in the election is the person who is elected to the position of director.
68. Where after the ballots are counted it is determined:
- a) that there is a tie for the largest number of votes among 3 or more candidates, the returning officer must conduct further votes in respect of those candidates until such time as
 - (i) one of those candidates receives the largest number of votes and is therefore elected to the position of director; or
 - (ii) there is a tie for the largest number of votes between 2 of those candidates, in which case clause (b) applies to determine the person elected to the position of director;
 - b) that there is a tie for the largest number of votes between 2 candidates, the returning officer must draw from the names of those 2 candidates the name of one of them, and the person whose name is drawn is elected to the position of director.

69. If only one person is nominated for the position of director that is to be filled, that person is deemed to have been elected to the position.

Returning officer

70. The Commission must appoint a returning officer for the purpose of an in connection with any election or vote taken at an annual meeting or special meeting.
71. The returning officer may appoint individuals as deputy returning officers to assist in the conduct of elections and votes under the Plan or these bylaws.
72. The returning officer must
- a) compile and maintain a voters list of persons who are entitled to vote under the Plan and these bylaws;
 - b) ensure that a person does not cast a vote, except in accordance with the Plan and these bylaws; and
 - c) permit scrutiny of that person's actions and those of that person's deputy returning officers by a scrutineer in respect of the conduct of an election or vote taken under the Plan or these bylaws.
73. Unless otherwise directed by the Council, no person shall destroy any records or ballots in respect of a vote or election held under the Plan or bylaws until 90 days has elapsed from the day on which the vote was taken.

Part 5 – ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Auditor

74. The auditor for the Commission must be appointed by from time to time by the Commission.

Remuneration

75. The Commission may, from time to time fix:
- a) the reasonable per diem remuneration of the directors, officers and committee members for preparation and attendances at meetings of the Commission or any committee thereof;
 - b) the travel related expenses to be paid to the directors and officers and committee members; and
 - c) the indemnification the Directors, Officers and committee members may receive for any expenses incurred on behalf of the corporation as a director, officer or committee member.
76. The Commission shall a post on its website a schedule of the per diem remuneration and travel related expenses as fixed by the Commission under section 75.

Indemnities to Directors and Officers

77. Except in respect of an action by or on behalf of the Commission to procure a judgment in its favour, the Commission shall indemnify a director or officer or a former director or officer of the Commission and the director's or officer's heirs and legal representatives, against all costs, charges and expenses, including an amount paid to settle an action or satisfy a judgment, reasonably incurred by the director or officer in respect of any civil, criminal or administrative action or proceeding to which the director or officer is made a party by reason of being or having been a director or officer of the Commission, if
- a) the director or officer acted honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Commission; and
 - b) in the case of a criminal or administrative action or proceeding that is enforced by a monetary penalty, the director or officer had reasonable grounds for believing that the director's or officer's conduct was lawful.
78. The Commission may with the approval of the Court indemnify a person referred to in paragraph 77 in respect of an action by or on behalf of the Commission to procure a judgment in its favour, to which the person is made a party by reason of being or having been a director or officer of the Commission against all costs, charges and expenses reasonably incurred by the person in connection with the action if the person fulfils the conditions set out in clauses (a) and (b) of paragraph 77.
79. The Commission may advance funds to a person in order to defray the costs, charges and expenses of a proceeding referred to in paragraphs 77 or 78, but if the person does not meet the conditions of paragraph 77 he shall repay the funds advanced.
80. The Commission may purchase and maintain insurance for the benefit of any person referred to in paragraph 77 against any liability incurred by the person in the person's capacity as a director or officer of the Commission, except when the liability relates to the person's failure to act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Commission.
81. The Commission may enter into an agreement with its directors and officers with respect to the indemnification provided for in paragraphs 77 to 80.

Part 6 – BYLAWS

Bylaw amendment, repeal or replacement

82. The repeal or amendment or a new bylaw relating to the requirements of the Act and Plan may be initiated by:
- a) a motion of the Commission;
 - b) a petition of eligible producers in accordance with paragraph 83; or
 - c) upon the request of Council.

83. A petition under paragraph 82.b), must:
- a) clearly state the proposed amendment or repeal of the bylaws or the new bylaw and the reasons for the proposed amendment, repeal or new bylaw;
 - b) be signed by at least 20 eligible producers;
 - c) set forth in a legible manner the name, address, phone number, e-mail address and signature of the eligible producers;
 - d) be presented to the Commission
 - (i) within 3 months from the date the first petitioner signed the petition; and
 - (ii) at least 90 days prior to the annual meeting or special meeting.
84. Subject paragraph 85, these bylaws may be amended or repealed by special resolution of the eligible producers at an annual meeting or special meeting.
85. A bylaw, including an amendment or repeal, is not effective until it is approved by Council.
86. Notwithstanding paragraph 85, a bylaw can be changed by the Commission, without materially affecting the bylaw in principle or substance, under the following conditions:
- a) to correct clerical, technical, grammatical or typographical errors in a bylaw;
 - b) to bring out more clearly what is considered to be the meaning of a bylaw; or
 - c) improve the expressing of the law under the Act or associated regulations,
- without requiring approval from producers or Council.
87. The *Regulations Act* does not apply to these bylaws.
88. As soon as the bylaws have been approved by Council, the Commission must provide a copy of these bylaws, including any amendments to these bylaws, to producers, processors, and any person regulated by the Commission, in any manner the Commission considers appropriate.

Conflicts

89. These bylaws form a part of the Plan to the extent that they do not conflict with the Act, the Plan and the Marketing regulation. If there is a conflict between these bylaws, the Act, or a regulation made under the Act, the Act and the regulations prevail.

Review

90. In compliance with the ongoing review cycle of regulations, these bylaws must be reviewed on or before April 30, 2027.

ENACTED by the Commission this _____ day of _____, 2021.

_____, Chair of the Alberta Lamb Producers

DRAFT

Plebiscite

History of *Marketing of Agricultural Products Act* (MAPA) changes with respect to Service Charge Model Refundability

In 2009, MAPA was amended to make all agricultural commissions' service charge models refundable. This change was to ensure that any producer member of a commission could submit a request for a refund of their service charge (full or partial). Prior to this change, four commissions operated with non-refundable service charge models – Alberta Lamb Producers, Alberta Beef Producers, Alberta Pork, and Potato Growers of Alberta.

In April 2017, the Alberta government announced it would support commissions by giving producers more autonomy to choose a service charge model for their industry.

In September 2017, [MAPA](#) was amended to give producers of commissions the ability to choose their preferred service charge model, whether it be refundable or non-refundable.

- Service charges are collected in various ways, for example, when an agricultural product is sold, or it is a base charge to each member of a commission.
- These service charges enable a commission to fund operational activities such as research, promotion, education as well as undertake initiatives that would benefit its industry.

The first step in the process of determining if a service charge model should change from refundable to non-refundable (or vice-versa) is for a commission to request that Marketing Council conduct a plebiscite (a vote of producer membership).

One producer proposed resolution was brought forward at the 2018 ALP AGM.

Resolution: To apply to Marketing Council to start the process for holding a plebiscite regarding refundable check-off.

Producers attending the 2018 AGM strongly (97%) supported the motion to proceed with the plebiscite. In January 2019, the ALP Board of Directors voted unanimously to move forward with the direction given by producers. ALP submitted a formal request to the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council to proceed with the process.

MAPA establishes directive-making authority that can be used to govern plebiscites. Approval from the Minister is required for Marketing Council to proceed with a plebiscite and develop a plebiscite directive with approval of the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry that guides and directs the specific voting procedure.

Following the plebiscite, if the vote is a majority vote to change the service charge model (for example, from refundable to non-refundable), changes to the commissions' Plan and

Marketing/Commission Regulations would be required to put the new service charge model into effect.

ALP Check-Off History

The Alberta Sheep and Wool Commission (ASWC) conducted a producer vote by ballot at their seven annual zone meetings held between October 27 and November 17, 2007 to seek support from the producers for increasing the service charge from \$1.00 to \$1.50 for each sheep. A similar vote conducted in November 2006 to increase the service charge to \$1.30 was defeated. The service charge rate has not increased since July 1, 1982. The service charge is attached to the purchase of identification tags. The additional service charge revenue will enable the Commission to carry out its operational activities as budgeted and approved by the membership. At a board meeting on November 21, 2007, the board of directors approved a motion to amend the regulation to implement the service charge increase effective January 1, 2008.

Check-Off Refund Request Statistics

Fiscal Year	Number of Produces requesting check off refunds	Amount of the refund requests
2020-21	20	\$50,040.00
2019-20	23	\$36,583.50
2018-19	21	\$16,498.33

Alberta Lamb Producers Plebiscite on Service Charge Model Refundability

In September 2021, the Government of Alberta declared a state of public health emergency due to increasing COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations. With new measures to protect the health care system and decrease the spread of the virus, the Alberta Lamb Producers (ALP) decided to move its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on November 20, 2021, from in-person to online (virtual).

A plebiscite on ALP's service charge model refundability was planned for Alberta's lamb industry to occur in conjunction with the AGM on November 20, 2021, with two methods for voting (electronically from November 1-20, 2021, and in-person at the AGM).

Due to concerns with voting in-person and moving to an online AGM, on September 30, 2021, the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council (Marketing Council), in consultation with ALP, decided to shift the voting period for this plebiscite to ALP's 2022 AGM, which is anticipated to be held in November 2022.

Marketing Council and ALP recognize the importance of the plebiscite for Alberta's lamb industry. Collectively, they have determined that this is the best path forward to ensure all eligible lamb producers have an opportunity to vote in the plebiscite.

Further details about the plebiscite for fall 2022 and voting methods will be available to producers in the coming months.

Please direct any questions or concerns regarding this change to ALP at info@ablamb.ca or via phone at 403-948-8533 or Marketing Council at AF.MarketingCouncil@gov.ab.ca.

New 5-year Strategic Plan

ALP's board and Executive Director have also been working diligently on the organizations new, 5-year strategic plan that will be implemented in 2022. This new strategic plan ensures that your board of directors and staff will remain focused on working towards goals that will benefit the industry. Once the strategic plan has been finalized, it will be shared with producers.

Sheep Benchmarking Survey with Seyed Ali Goldansaz, PhD

Sheep Benchmarking Survey to assist creation of a pregnancy and litter size detection tool.

Researchers at Olds and Lakeland Colleges are conducting a survey on reproductive management in sheep farms across the country to collect data for benchmarking purposes. Economic consequences from feeding open ewes that don't contribute income to the flock are serious. Thus, new tools and technology capable of determining ewe pregnancy status are being investigated for use in the industry. This project is being conducted in collaboration with the Alberta Lamb Producers and the Ontario Sheep Farmers and is expected to be launched towards the end of this year.

Canadian sheep producers will be sent a questionnaire about how they manage reproductive performance of their animals, the associated metrics, animal feeding during pregnancy, and some background information. Participation is voluntary, and information collected will be kept confidential. All information will be shared back with the Canadian sheep industry in aggregated form. Sheep producers can complete this survey online and on their own. Data will then be analyzed and presented to the sheep producers to identify gaps, opportunities to improve efficiency and profitability, and develop benchmarks at the national and provincial levels.

ALP Producer Proposed Resolution Structure:

ALP made some changes to how eligible producers can submit Proposed Resolutions that are discussed and voted on by eligible producers at our Annual General meeting. Effective December 2020, eligible Producers were able to submit proposed resolutions year-round for board consideration.

Providing eligible producers with the opportunity to submit year-round submissions allows the board and staff to research and provide information to the proposed resolution(s) in advance of the AGM to help make the discussion more effective at the AGM before the voting period begins.

To submit a resolution for discussion at this year's AGM, eligible Alberta Lamb Producers needed to complete our resolution form and submit it to the ALP office by September 15, 2021. **Proposed resolutions would not be accepted past this deadline or from the floor at the virtual AGM.**

ALP Proposed Resolution(s):

ALP received only two (2), proposed resolutions. Please see the submission below, with details about the proposed resolutions.

Proposed Resolution: Alberta Lamb Producers to approach Canadian Sheep Federation to establish alternate retail outlets for CSIP tags.

Details about proposed resolution: CCWG having such a monopoly on the distribution of CSIP tags is not in the best interest of lamb producers. Tags should be readily accessible to all producers at a local retail level, producers should not have to rely on mail order. It should be modeled after CCIA; a more progressive system. Two examples of outlets are CO-OP and UFA.

Details on the proposed resolution from ALP Board of Directors:

For Producer awareness, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is responsible for Canadian traceability. At the time of implementation, the CFIA chose the Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF) as the representative for the sheep industry for traceability. The CSF contracted the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) as its responsible administrator to meet CFIA requirements. The CSF requested to have tag distribution solely with the Canadian Cooperative Wool Growers (CCWG.) A similar proposed producer resolution was brought forward at the 2020 AGM. However, there was confusion around the context and it has been re-submitted with clarity this year.

Proposed Resolution: ALP to change the distribution of the quarterly N'ewesletter back to printing hard copies of all 4 editions and mailing them out to all eligible Alberta Lamb Producers.

Details about proposed resolution: I fully believe there are Alberta Lamb Producers that do not have a computer or even an email address. So online copies do not even get to them. If myself or anybody use the N'ewesletter to advertise like Ram & Ewe product sales. I want to make sure as producers get that advertisement. Even the ones with no email address or computer. Also, I like to read older copies now and then to see where our industry is going and if we actually got there. Impossible with online only.

Details on proposed resolution from ALP Board of Directors:

At the September 12-13, 2020 board meeting while reviewing and approving ALP's new operating budget for the 2021-21 fiscal year, the ALP Board of Directors made a difficult decision to change the way Alberta Lamb Producers distributes our quarterly n'ewesletters - printing and mailing hard copies of the Spring and Fall N'ewesletters and switching the Winter and Summer editions to soft copy/online only. This change has assisted the organization with a cost savings to enable more check off dollars to funding research and other educational opportunities to benefit Alberta Lamb Producers. While other provincial marketing boards have gone 100% digital, the Board of Directors chose a hybrid approach at this time so that producers would still receive a physical copy twice a year.

In 2016-17, expenses for the 4 printed and mailed copies of the N'ewesletter that was not covered by paid advertising was \$14,237.71, in 2017-18 it was \$14,342.42 in 2018-19 it was \$11,834.47 and in 2019-20 it was \$8,414.16. Over the past 4-5 years, ALP has been working towards a cost neutral amount to produce our quarterly n'ewesletters which would then allow us an organization to invest those extra funds ranging from \$8,500.00 - \$14,500.00 into other areas/ALP initiatives that can bring more benefit and value to our producers. For example, this past fiscal year, the cost savings gave us the opportunity to invest funds into introducing our Producer Education webinar (virtual format due to the covid-19 pandemic limiting in-person events/gatherings), as we know how valuable it is for producers to have access to educational tools and relevant and informative resources.

Moving forward into our new 2021-22 fiscal year, ALP is committed to increasing our research budget, so we can contribute to new, innovative ideas and technology that will positively impact our producers and their operations.

With this being said, we did make the soft copies of the N'ewesletters printable, in a PDF format on our website: <https://ablamb.ca/index.php/news-advertising/n-ewesletter>, so you are able to print your own hard copy of the Winter and Summer editions at your own leisure. We also encourage all Producers to sign up for our e-communication called N'ewesletter E-Advise, as this email communication will notify you when the new, quarterly n'ewesletter has been uploaded to the ALP website for your reading pleasure (all 4 editions get uploaded onto our website).