



Ohio Sheep Improvement  
ASSOCIATION

## OHIO SHEEP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

# 2026 Priorities

### Increase OSIA membership/OSIA Membership Income

- As the Ohio Sheep Improvement Association (OSIA) is the commodity membership organization of the Ohio sheep industry, we should strive to increase membership to new levels by:
  - Developing and implementing a membership campaign awards program, which will incentivize shepherds to apply for OSIA memberships and recruit new and returning members.
  - Increasing involvement and income resulting in increased memberships.
  - Continue to build on the successes of the OSIA LEAD Council as it relates to potential annual growth of OSIA membership

### Ohio Expositions Center/Ohio State Fair

- OSIA will work collaboratively with Ohio's major agricultural organizations to support the Ohio Exposition Center/Ohio State Fair:
  - The primary priority from the major agricultural organizations will be to:
    - "Protect and Invest in the Ohio Expo Center/Ohio State Fair"
  - The primary objectives from the major agricultural organizations are:
    - Keep the Ohio Expositions Center/Ohio State Fair in its current location.
    - Do not give up any more land from the current Ohio Expositions Center/Ohio State Fair site.
    - Make a major investment on the facilities at the Ohio Expo Center/Ohio State Fair

### Continue Growth and Involvement in OSIA Council and Committee Structure

- OSIA will continue to strive to improve the council and committee structure of OSIA, thus allowing more members to become involved in the organization.
- Development of Council and Committee Members for leadership growth opportunities.
- Assure that newer or younger OSIA members become involved in OSIA Councils and Committees as an OSIA Succession Planning Tool.

### Nutrient Management/Water Quality

- OSIA will continue to educate Ohio sheep producers about Ohio's nutrient management and water quality issues, and lead the effort helping to solve the challenge of nutrient runoff and impact harmful algal blooms to Ohio's waters by:
  - Remaining actively involved in H2Ohio funding opportunities

- Financially assisting with OACI programming efforts.
- Creating educational programming geared towards small ruminant and grazing operations for the H2Ohio programs. i.e. – H2Ohio, OACI
- OSIA will continue to work with other agricultural organizations to assure that manure management and water quality regulations are not overburdening farmers.
- OSIA will actively encourage the use of "4R Nutrient Stewardship" (right source, right rate, right time, and right placement) which helps farmers reduce nutrient runoff.

### Sheep Producer Education

- OSIA will continue to provide sheep producer education programs that will improve production efficiencies and profitability of sheep operations in Ohio and the Midwest US.
  - OSIA will continue to offer major educational programs such as Buckeye Shepherd's Symposium, Young Shepherd's Assembly, Buckeye Young Shepherd's Expo, the Sheep Industry Tour and the Educational/Promotional Calendar. An effort will continue by OSIA to request OSWP funding for these educational programs and activities.
  - OSIA will stay engaged in the research, education and management strategies of sheep solar grazing and agrivoltaics so that OSIA members can be on the forefront of knowledge regarding this new potential frontier in sheep production and management.
  - OSIA will support through promotion and advertising the OSU Extension sponsored educational programs such as the Statewide Sheep Shearing School and the OSU Sheep Team website as the base for statewide OSU Extension and OSIA sponsored educational efforts.

### Sheep Industry Growth

- OSIA will implement strategies that will continue to grow the Ohio Sheep Industry wherever possible.
- OSIA will assist in identifying areas that need additional research to improve the Ohio Sheep Industry.
- OSIA will transfer and share ideas and information from the American Sheep Industry (ASI) to ensure Ohio sheep producers are aware that they are members of ASI.

### Industry Strategic Plan

- Continue to implement the OSIA/OSWP Strategic Plan

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