



2026 Buckeye Shepherd's Symposium

Saturday December 5, 2026 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

OARDC Shisler Conference Center – 1680 Madison Avenue, Wooster, OH 44691

CHANGE IN VENUE - For the **SECOND** consecutive year the **MAIN** portion of the Buckeye Shepherd's Symposium program including the Trade Show will be held in the OSU Fisher Auditorium, which is connected to the south side (toward Madison Avenue) of the OARDC Shisler Center.

Speakers and discussions:

• Production Decisions that Hit the Premium Lamb Target

- *Dr. Travis Hoffman, OSU Small Ruminant/Meat Science Field Specialist*
 - Interactive discussion with emphasis on breeds, animal type, production method, and appropriate marketing to generate premium lamb for consumer satisfaction. Build your decisions by beginning with the end in mind to positively impact on carcass quality, lamb yield, quality and value

• Insights into the Lamb Supply Chain

- *Dr. Travis Hoffman, Ohio State University Small Ruminant Field Specialist*
 - Our role as sheep enthusiasts is to strive for improved efficiency in the production of lamb and wool. We will discuss current markets, progress, vision and next steps for a successful Ohio sheep industry.

• Applying Selection Principles to Replacement Female Production

- *Dr. Andrew Weaver, North Carolina State University Small Ruminant Specialist*
 - This session will explore the principles of genetic improvement, economically relevant traits for replacement female production, and how to match selection priorities with selection goals and use the proper tools to achieve a productive ewe flock that is adapted to your environmental conditions.

• Making Bank with Terminal Sires

- *Dr. Andrew Weaver, North Carolina State University Small Ruminant Specialist*
- *Camren Mairle, Ohio Sheep Producer*
 - This session will focus on the opportunity for terminal crossbreeding to improve carcass quality and market lamb value. Focus will be placed on the crossbreeding systems, the benefits of hybrid vigor and breed complementarity, and research that has been done at Virginia Tech and West Virginia University on crossbreeding systems in the eastern U.S.

• Additional Potential Topics at the 2026 Buckeye Shepherd's Symposium

- *OSU Sheep Research Update/OSU Sheep Facility and Production Update by OSU Faculty, Staff and Graduate Students*
- *Sheep and Lamb Marketing*
- *Wool Marketing*

Hotel Block at Hilton Garden Inn, Wooster, OH

Booking Link: group.hiltongardeninn.com/pv7shi

Booking Code for the Buckeye Shepherd's Symposium is: BS26. The code is already implemented in the booking link Or call Hilton Garden Inn at (330) 202-7701

Breakfast will be available during the morning sessions, and a delicious lamb lunch will also be served along with snacks throughout the program day. OSIA will also host their annual OSIA General Scholarship Silent Auction as well as an industry trade show and the 2026 OSIA/OSWP Industry Awards Program.

Saturday December 5, 2026: Young Shepherd's Assembly after the Buckeye Shepherd's Symposium

Shepherd's 18-40 are invited to join their peers for an enjoyable evening. Those attending will meet at the OARDC Shisler Center for an evening social event. Preregistration required.

Saturday December 5, 2026: 8:00 a.m. – 77th OSIA Annual Meeting

Registration

The 2026 symposium will be held in-person. Registration can be done online at <https://ohiosheep.org/osia/2026-buckeye-shepherds-symposium/> or by printing off the registration form and mailing it into the OSIA office, address on registration form. Full program information will also be available on the website. Please register by **November 18**, late fees will be assessed after November 18, 2026.

Scan here to register:



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

