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OPP CONCERNED SHEEP BREEDERS SOCIETY
Newsletter — December 2001

Bill Duffield Joins OPP Society Board

We are happy to report that Bill Duffield (Codan Suffolks), long-time OPP Society member from Ontario, has agreed to serve out the open term which was announced in our last newsletter. A featured speaker at the '99 Wisconsin Sheep Industry Conference, Bill has also addressed OPP Society members at our annual meeting. Additionally, he has contributed to the newsletter, most recently reporting on the Ontario Sheep Health Program in which he and wife, Lynne, were the first to enroll. Sheep-L subscribers are familiar with Bill's pithy words of advice, and readers of *The Shepherd* magazine will recall his series of articles following a '95 trip to Wales and England.

Having raised sheep for nearly 40 years, the Duffields currently run 65 purebred Suffolks — good ones. While North American producers continue to search the globe for new genetics, Bill and Lynne are in the process of *exporting* semen to Australia! (In February of this year a Codan ram was listed as the 2nd placed Suffolk out of the top 150 terminal sires of *all breeds* in Lambplan, Australia's counterpart to NSIP.) This kind of success is due in large part to the existence of the Ontario Suffolk Sire Reference Association (OSSRA), of which Bill was a founding member and first chairman. An early believer in the value of objective carcass measurements, Bill has visited ram test station facilities all over North America and still "keeps track of every test station that will send me data."

Now retired from Esso Chemical Canada, Bill has been a lifelong crusader for the sheep industry — having served in just about every capacity one could imagine. A past member of the Board of Health for Sheep in Ontario, he currently chairs the Ontario ROP (Record of Performance) Advisory Group. Bill has also judged numerous shows; the Duffields exhibited extensively before closing their flock in '89. Bill and Lynne, grandparents to four boys, have a computer guru daughter who works for Bayer and a veterinarian son who is an associate professor at the Ontario Veterinary College in Guelph.

Testing and Control of Ovine Progressive Pneumonia

by Cindy Wolf, DVM, University of Minnesota

(From proceedings of the 2000 annual meeting of the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association)

The small ruminant retroviruses, Ovine Progressive Pneumonia virus (OPPV) and Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis virus (CAEV), have confused producers and practitioners for many years. The nature of these viruses has been the source of this confusion. While these viral infections persist for life, few animals in a flock or herd actually show clinical problems. The subclinical manifestations probably occur with a higher frequency, but in a practical farm setting their effects are difficult to quantify. Literature references exist that document the economic relevance of OPP infection in flocks. 2.4 Most producers who seek veterinary assistance in controlling and even eradicating these viruses do so because they either raise a breed of sheep that has more documented clinical problems with OPPV, or they recognize that both viruses can have significant effects on productivity through reduced levels of milk production or longevity. In both control and eradication programs, producers must be seriously committed to the longterm effort, understand how the virus is spread, and use the test results correctly. These viruses can be costly to control because of semi-annual test related fees, the lost opportunity cost related to premature culling, reduced productivity, and increased cost of replacement breeding stock which includes the cost of artificial rearing. The cost of milk replacer alone to rear a lamb to twenty-five pounds body weight is a minimum of twenty-five dollars. An estimate of all other costs such as creep feed, Clostridial vaccines, labor, and facilities is ten dollars assuming less than 2% mortality.

... Cindy Wolf paper continued on next page

