



March 6, 2012

President Edward Ray  
Oregon State University  
600 Kerr Administration Building  
Corvallis, Oregon 97331

Dear Dr. Ray,

We very much appreciate your removal of the dangerous snares along the OSU Sheep Unit's exterior fence line, but must continue to bring to your and the public's attention that—with or without the snares—your fence remains open to predators and your sheep are still vulnerable.

The Sheep Unit's exterior fence is in disrepair in spots, is nonexistent in others, and the gates are fabricated and hung in such a way that any dog, cat, child or wild animal can easily access the sheep that you are attempting to protect.



The photos here and attached, taken March 3-4, 2012 of the Sheep Unit's exterior fence, demonstrate the problem.

As we mentioned in our last letter, you have indicated that you are leaving your options open to reinstate lethal controls—such as snares, traps and poisons—should you sustain losses during the upcoming lambing season. We remind you that, according to your own website and letters to the public, 12 lambs and ewes were lost in one night last year while the snares were active. This clearly indicates that the presence of the snares did not protect the sheep, and that predators easily traversed your exterior fence.

Your unmaintained fence invites intrusion. Bringing back snares while your fence is in this condition is the equivalent of installing a home alarm system, leaving the front door wide open, and then being indignant when you are robbed.

Because OSU has declined to take simple preventive measures such as repairing the fence line, securing gates and installing hotwires, it is predictable that you will suffer losses. It appears OSU is not making a sincere effort to protect sheep and practice sound basic husbandry. Instead you are poised to point to losses you have allowed to occur in order to justify and legitimize lethal controls.

OSU is a top agricultural school. Please take this opportunity to prove to the community and other institutions that OSU is a leader by implementing the various methods of non-lethal predator control such as shedding, human presence and as mentioned previously, appropriate fencing. This is an excellent opportunity for OSU.

Please be good to your word, and do everything you can to protect the sheep in your care by taking steps to prevent predation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brooks Fahy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brooks Fahy  
Executive Director



*OSU Sheep Unit, exterior fence and gate, March 3-4, 2012*





*OSU Sheep Unit, exterior fence, March 3-4, 2012*



*OSU Sheep Unit, exterior gate, March 3-4, 2012*