

The Messenger



April 20, 2017

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Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency

130 Malcolm Rd

Guelph, ON N1K 1B1

Phone: (519) 836-0043 Fax: (519) 836-2531

www.OntarioSheep.org

Please send all submissions to Heather Hargrave at hhargrave@ontariosheep.org, or call (519) 836-0043 ex. 29 with any questions.

Upcoming events

Have an upcoming event that you would like help promoting? Send an email to hhargrave@ontariosheep.org.

April 21 & 22	Earlton Farm Show http://bit.ly/2osduVp
April 22	District 11 meeting http://bit.ly/2pBMKqi
April 27	District 8 meeting http://bit.ly/2mU6PTh
April 27	OSMA board of directors meeting
April 27	Middlesex Lamb & Sheep Producers annual meeting http://bit.ly/2omSErs
May 27	District 10 Wool Day http://bit.ly/2pBKPPz
June 9	District 5 meeting http://bit.ly/2nJWpa8
June 24	Breakfast on the Farm – Shedden http://bit.ly/2os0bUY
June 30 & July 1	Holstein Agro Expo Sheep Industry Day http://bit.ly/2iG5huX
August 1	District 5 family potluck and AGM http://bit.ly/2nDPRZF
September 26 to 28	Sheep shearing school for beginners http://bit.ly/2jvlnJ
October 26 & 27	Ontario Sheep Convention http://bit.ly/2oCEaa1
October 30 & 31	Advancing Women in Agriculture conference Niagara Falls http://bit.ly/2nXl8HT

Out and about

April 10	Meeting with Deputy Minister, OMAFRA and OASC leaders
April 12 & 13	Farm & Food Care Ontario annual meeting & conference
April 19	Ag Sector Working Group meeting – reduction of phosphorus run of in the Lake Erie basin

Contest: Seeking a name for the growth strategy program

Over the past year, Ontario Sheep has been working on a growth strategy for the industry. The findings have been compiled into a benchmarking document – a road map to increase farmers' profitability by measuring, learning, and progressing, supported by an extensive value chain analysis of Ontario's lamb and wool industry. Similar programs have been developed and employed in the United States, Australia and New Zealand.

OSMA is turning the strategy into an ongoing program and is seeking suggestions for a name for the program.

Suggestions can be submitted using this survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/growthprogramname>. The survey will be available until May 4, 2017.

Those that participate in the contest will be eligible to win a \$50 Tim Hortons gift card.

About the program

The program was created as a result of the goal of achieving an aggressive growth strategy for the Ontario sheep industry.

The document describes how Ontario's sheep industry can capture the significant opportunities that exist by measuring performance and establish a common language required for individual producers to improve performance by ensuring that production, processing and marketing practices are aligned with customer and consumer needs.

Performance and processing benchmarking is essential to improving the performance of individual farms, downstream businesses, and industry as a whole.

CSBA is requesting Ontario members to participate in vote

The CSBA is asking all of its members to participate in a vote to amalgamate with the Canadian Katahdin Sheep Association. Although the constitutional amendments passed, the response rate was too low to allow amalgamation. The votes received were 97% in favour of amalgamation but only 6% of members voted. A minimum response rate of 25% of members is needed.

A new ballot should have been received by members last week. The CSBA is asking eligible members to participate in the vote and return your ballot in the prepaid envelope as soon as possible.

For more information please contact the CSBA at (866) 956-1116 or office@sheepbreeders.ca.

District 10 Wool Day: making connections

District 10 is organizing a Wool Day with the goal of beginning to establish connections between producers of sheep and their wool, and the local fibre users: the spinners, weaves, felters, rug makers, and others.

The day will feature speakers and a panel discussion as well as an exchange and marketplace for purchasing fleeces.

Speakers include

Nicole Klerk - The Ontario Wool Book - marketing the qualities of wool produced in Ontario

Jim McNeely - Wool grading and fleece preparation

Panel discussion - What do buyers want?

Open fleece marketplace - bring clean, skirted fleeces to sell

Sheep producers are encouraged to attend and learn about the different markets for your fleeces to add value to your sheep operation.

Event details

May 27, 2017 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Glengarry Pioneer Museum - 1645 County Rd 30, Dunvegan, ON

For more information

Laurie Maus, District 10 Chair

info@hawkhillfarm.ca

(613) 527-1897

Winter OAHN report now available

The winter Ontario Animal Health Network report is now available. Download the report here:
<http://oahn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/OAHN-Small-Ruminant-Producer-Report-Q4-2016-FINAL-Approved-Apr-6-2017.pdf>.

Included in the report is information on targeted selective treatment with Flukiver to control Hemonchus in sheep flocks.

Seeking nominations for annual awards and scholarships

Ontario Sheep is seeking nominations for our annual Long Service and Outstanding Shepherd awards.

Nominations forms and more information can be found below.

Long service award – <http://www.ontariosheep.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=JWsKxWw4z5w%3d&tabid=169>.

Outstanding Shepherd Award -
<http://www.ontariosheep.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=yzZOu4RbGcA%3d&tabid=169>.

The deadline for nominations to be received at the Ontario Sheep office is September 29, 2017. These awards will be presented at the Ontario Lamb Banquet, during the Ontario Sheep Convention.

Ontario Sheep is also now accepting applications for its 2017 undergraduate scholarship award. For more information about the scholarship application requirements visit:
<http://www.ontariosheep.org/AWARDSPHOTOCONTEST.aspx>.

The award application form is available here:
http://www.ontariosheep.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=b_x8E91USRk%3d&tabid=169.

The application deadline is September 8, 2017.

2017 Ontario Sheep photo contest

We're looking for photographs of what sheep farms look like, sheep farmers, and their flocks for the 2017 Ontario Sheep photo contest. Winners of the contest will be announced in early November, after the Ontario Sheep Convention.

Categories

- Farm scenes - capture the beauty of the scenery on the farm.
- Farm faces - who takes care of the sheep. Photos must contain at least one person with sheep.
- Show me your sheep - photo must contain at least 20 sheep.

All photos submitted must be at least 200 dpi and a minimum of 1MB in file size.

Prizes

A \$100 cash prize will be awarded to the top photos in each of the three categories. An overall grand prize award of \$250 is also available. All photo entries will be eligible to win the fan favourite cash prize of \$100. Entries will be voted on by attendees of the Ontario Sheep Convention in October 2017.

To submit your photo

Send an email to general@ontariosheep.org with 2017 photo contest in the subject line. The deadline for submitting photos is **October 13, 2017**.

Entries should include:

- the title of the photo (optional)
- mailing address, phone number, and email address
- name of the photographer if different than the person submitting the photo
- category you are submitting the photo for

Full contest rules and details are available here:

<http://www.ontariosheep.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=1fyhAhpDBfU%3d&tabid=169>.

Last intake for *Growing Forward 2* cost share funding assistance begins May 12

The last intake for applications for *Growing Forward 2* cost share funding assistance will be from May 12 to June 1, 2017.

Changes to the program were recently announced and a summary can be found here: <http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/oscia-programs/growing-forward-2/>.

Highlights of the changes include:

- There is no limit to the number of active applications a farm business may have open at any given time.
- Producers may submit up to two applications per application intake to any of the project categories.

GF2 funding can also be used for education and professional development purposes. If you are planning on attending an education event or conference in 2017, you should apply for GF2 funding now. The Sheep Shearing School for Beginners (in late September) and the Advancing Women in Agriculture Conference both qualify for producers to receive some reimbursement for costs under the program.

For more information contact the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association by emailing gf2@ontariosoilcrop.org or visit www.ontariosoilcrop.org/oscia-programs/growing-forward-2/.

2017 Grassland Stewardship Program intake now open

Intake two of the 2017 Grassland Stewardship Program (GSP) opens this week, and will accept applications until May 1, 2017. This is the final intake for the 2017 program. The Grassland Stewardship Program is anticipated to return in 2018.

GSP provides funding to implement forage and pasture management Best Management Practices that support the conservation of bobolink and other grassland birds. Eligible activities includes:

Control of encroaching trees and shrubs through mowing;

Pasture rejuvenating;

Incorporating delayed grazing into rotational grazing systems;

Native grassland planting;

Forage harvest management (delayed haying).

The digital application form is accessible from the OSCIA website: <http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/oscia-programs/sarpal/gsp/>.

Paper applications are also available upon request. For full program details, see the GSP 2017 brochure, available here: http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/GSP_brochure.pdf.

Other organizations and reference information

Victoria County Sheep Producers

Third Wednesday every month starting at 7:30 Oakwood Elevators (Taylor Road, Oakwood)
 Membership is \$20 per farm per year. Contact: Peter Craig at pdcraig@outlook.com

Western Ontario Lamb Producers

District 2 and 3, for more information email westernontariolambproducers@gmail.com

Southwestern Ontario Sheep Farmers

Meetings 4th Thursday of the month: January to April
 Coldstream Community Centre; 10227 Ilderton Road, 519-666-2423
 Chair – Wendy McGowan, 519- 657-5197, Secretary – Geraldine Pennings, 519-764-2455

DISTRICT	CONTACT	INFORMATION
1	Dave DeKay at 519-666-0626 or dmdekay@isp.ca	http://osma_district_1.tripod.com/
2	Matt Zehr at 519-363-2029 zehr.matt@gmail.com	
3	Sandi Brock at 519-263-2325 brocksandi@hotmail.com	District 3 Facebook Page
4	Marusha Kostuk at 519-865-6874 or mushie.mk@gmail.com	Meetings tentatively to be held the 3 rd Wed. of the month at 7:30 at Ancaster Fairgrounds (630 Trinity Rd, Ancaster)
5	Lisa de Kleer at 519-994-1499 or dldekleer@gmail.com	Check out the District 5 Facebook Page!
6	John Hemsted at 705-487-2466 or sheep@vanam.com	
7	Jenny Carnaghan at 905-986-5120 or jenny@durhamlamb.ca	
8	Linda Huizenga at 613-477-2314 or fhuzenga@xplornet.ca	Meetings are normally held on the 3 rd Thurs of every month at 7 pm at Napanee High School. District 8 Facebook Page
9	Lyndsey Smith at 204-807-5897 or realloudlyndsey@gmail.com	
10	Christine Power at 613-686-1892 or christine.power@ic.gc.ca	Check out our Facebook page!
11	Amy Oriet at 705-563-8484 or gaoriet@hotmail.com	