

The Messenger



March 23, 2017

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Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency

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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.

March 23	District 8 meeting http://bit.ly/2nMoGQW
March 23	WOLPA meeting http://bit.ly/2nV5fCm
March 29	Relaxing cable restraints workshop - Bloomfield http://bit.ly/2i3IzNI
March 30 & 31	Cultivating the Great Claybelt Agriculture Symposium http://bit.ly/2kJ4uqM
April 8	District 5 car tour http://bit.ly/2mUeSzi
April 12	Relaxing cable restraints workshop – Kemptville http://bit.ly/2mZaB2m
April 13	Farm & Food Care Ontario annual conference and speakers' program http://bit.ly/2mBWD5g
April 27	District 8 meeting http://bit.ly/2mU6PTh
April 27	OSMA board of directors meeting
June 30 & July 1	Holstein Agro Expo Sheep Industry Day http://bit.ly/2iG5huX
September 26 to 28	Sheep shearing school for beginners http://bit.ly/2jvianJ
October 26 & 27	Ontario Sheep Convention

Out and about

March 10	National Sheep Network meeting
March 10	OLPC board meeting
March 11	Mount Forest Co-op Sheep Day
March 13	AgGrowth Coalition conference call
March 14 to 16	Ottawa Valley Farm Show
March 14	Sheep Value Chain Roundtable Social Licence working group conference call
March 16	Sheep Value Chain Roundtable Market Access working group conference call
March 21	Sheep Value Chain Roundtable Health Strategies working group conference call
March 21	Ontario Pork Annual General Meeting banquet
March 22	Canadian Animal Health Coalition meeting
March 23	Sheep Value Chain Roundtable Research working group conference call

OSMA March board meeting notes

The OSMA board of directors met on March 9, 2017.

CFA's Canadian National Collaboration for Primary Agriculture

The meeting began with a discussion on the work that the CFA's **Canadian National Collaboration for Primary Agriculture** steering committee. More specifically, the position this committee has taken on the need for more robust Business Risk Management Program reform at the national level. OSMA has a staff person on this committee who is there on behalf of the National Sheep Network.

Feasibility of a Sheep Finance Program

The board was informed that the federal government has provided OSMA with funding to do an Agri-Risk project looking at the feasibility of a Sheep Finance Program. More specifically, would producers participate and, if so, would they participate in the program as it is currently designed? Four workshops will be held across the province to engage producers in this discussion. If producers are interested in participating, they should contact the OSMA office.

2016 RMP cheques

Quarter 2 calculations for 2016 RMP have been completed and producers should be receiving their cheques by the end of March.

National Sheep Network

The National Sheep Network has approached Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada for funding for a national meeting of producers to develop a roadmap on how to build a sustainable national voice for the Canadian sheep industry.

Queen's Park lobby day

As OSMA wraps up the Growth Strategy project and is gaining political traction the board was asked if it felt it was time to have a Queen's Park lobby day. Various options were discussed ranging from a full on day, complete with a reception and spinners, to something a more subdued day with board members meeting with MPPs.

Provincial antimicrobial use meeting

OSMA had a representative at a provincial antimicrobial use meeting where Ontario's Chief Veterinary Officer spoke about connection between animal health and public health, and how the concern about antimicrobial use and resistance is growing internationally. This is a global call to action. Already in Canada there are 20,000 cases of antimicrobial resistance. If nothing is done to deal with this issue, by the middle of the century there will be more deaths due to antimicrobial resistance than due to cancer.

Foodland Ontario update

Foodland Ontario staff came in to talk to the board about Foodland and the promotional activities they engage in. Foodland has been around since 1977 and works to drive consumer demand and interest in Ontario foods. The work they engage in is supported by the Local Food Act which, amongst other things, increases the use of local food by the public sector. Foodland is a complaint driven process, so they do investigate when complaints come in and have, in the past, issued cease and desist letters.

Currently lamb qualifies for the Foodland brand if it was born, raised and processed in Ontario. There was discussion on this definition given the struggles that the industry can face with a lack of supply.

The next OSMA board of directors meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2017.

Budget 2017 identifies agriculture as a strategic sector for economic growth

From a Canadian Federation of Agriculture news release

OTTAWA, March 22, 2017 -- The 2017 federal budget announced today in Parliament clearly signals the government's recognition that Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector is primed to drive a new era of economic growth that will benefit all Canadians, says the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. Although Budget 2017 doesn't specify details on certain policy targets -- such as the aim of increasing agri-food exports to \$75 billion annually by 2025 -- CFA is pleased with the emphasis on the contributions of agriculture in helping to grow the economy.

"CFA is encouraged that the government envisions an expanded role for farmers and agri-food businesses as part of its innovation agenda. Farmers have been saying for years that agriculture is a strategic sector for Canada, given our vast natural resources, our research and technology, and our skilled labour force," said CFA President Ron Bonnett. "We look forward to talking with elected officials to chart a course toward greater success, and to determining how the government's plans align with our own efforts, such as our call for a National Food Strategy and enhanced market development, both domestically and across the world."

To see the full news release visit <http://www.cfa-fca.ca/2017-articles/budget-2017-identifies-agriculture-as-a-strategic-sector-for-economic-growth/>.

Relaxing cable restraints workshops – new workshop added

The Ontario Fur Managers Federation (OFMF) is offering free workshops on how to properly use relaxing cable restraints (RCRs) - the newly approved tool for predator control in most areas in Ontario.

The workshop will include

- OFMF certified instructors for RCRs providing training for proper use
- Review of regulations for use in Ontario by farmers and trappers
- How a RCR works including responsible use and placement
- Proper components for a legal RCR in Ontario
- Non-entanglement – the key
- The future of cable restraints – it's your call
- Best management practice handout for participants

Workshops will run from 10:00a.m. to 2:00p.m. and will include a light lunch.

Workshop dates and locations

March 29 – Bloomfield Hall (289 Main Street, Bloomfield)

April 12 - Grenville Mutual Insurance (380 Colonnade Drive, Kemptville)

The workshops are free to attend but pre-registration is required.

To register please contact the Ontario Sheep office by calling (519) 836-0043 or email hhargrave@ontariosheep.org, indicating which workshop you are attending.

Funding for this workshop has been provided by MNRF, OFMF and OSMA.

Opportunity for young farmers - step up to succession

Is your family farm in a state of transition? Are you looking to start the succession conversation? Are you a young farmer looking to broaden your farm business skills?

If you answered yes to any of the above, Farm Management Canada's Bridging the Gap: Step Up to Succession program is for you.

The Bridging the Gap: Step up to Succession program seeks to help bridge the gap between generations of farmers to provide Canada's future farmers with the best chance for success.

Young farmers have a chance to apply to be selected to participate in a successor development program. The program allows 10 young farmers to take part in key industry events dedicated to farm business management and more importantly, taking over the farm.

Selected young farmers will attend:

- 21st International Farm Management Congress - July 2-7, 2017 in Edinburgh, Scotland
- Agricultural Excellence Conference - November 21-23, 2017 in Ottawa, ON
- Choice of attending: Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers national event in December 2017 OR the Canadian Young Farmers' Forum in February 2018

Applications are due March 31, 2017 and the winners will be notified by April 14, 2017.

For 2017-2018, applications will be accepted from British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Ontario and Quebec young farmers only.

For more information about the program or to apply visit www.fmc-gac.com/home.

Information on the Canadian Agriculture Loans Act

The Canadian Agriculture Loans Act (CALA) is a federal loan guarantee program administered by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Loans available under CALA are not restricted by the size of the operation.

The government guarantees individual loans to farmers under two categories:

- **CALA loans:** to provide intermediate term credit to farmers for the improvement and development of farming business.
- **Farm Producers Marketing Cooperatives loans:** to provide intermediate term credit to cooperative associations owned by farmers to develop the processing, distribution, or marketing of the products of farming more efficiently.

For more information visit <http://www.ontariosheep.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=56Jwl-ug1O4%3d&tabid=99>.

Updates to *Growing Forward 2* cost share funding assistance program guide for producers

Changes to the *Growing Forward 2* cost share funding assistance program were recently announced by OMAFRA. These changes will be in effect for applications received for the April 4 to 18, 2017 and May 12 to June 1, 2017 intakes.

A summary of the changes to the program can be found at <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.

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/.

Updates to the Agricultural Information Atlas

OMAFRA has updated the Agricultural Information Atlas (AIA).

What is the AIA? It's the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs' (OMAFRA) free, easy-to-use online tool that can help you to:

- Develop nutrient management strategies and plans
- Plan tile drainage for your farm
- Develop a farm sketch for Pest Assessment Reports and Bee Yard Registration and other government programs, including the Great Lakes Agricultural Stewardship Initiative (GLASI)

For more information about the updates visit the ONSheepProduction blog at <http://quartet.aps.uoguelph.ca/ONSHeepProduction/?p=1737>.

Access the AIA at <https://www.gisapplication.lrc.gov.on.ca/AIA/Index.html?viewer=AIA.AIA&locale=en-US>.

Upcoming workshops – biosecurity and traceability

Below is a list of biosecurity and traceability workshops that are being offered by OSCIA.

Biosecurity workshop

April 4 Livestock (Generic) Renfrew

The full times, and location information is available online, as well as the link to register, at <http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/oscia-programs/workshops-webinars/biosecurity-webinar/>

Traceability workshop

March 30/March 31 Emo

For full details or to register: <http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/oscia-programs/workshops-webinars/traceability-webinar/>

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 contacts

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 dldeklee@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 fluizenga@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	