

# The Messenger



**March 8, 2017**

## In this issue

Upcoming events .....	2
Out and about .....	2
Relaxing cable restraints workshops – new workshop added .....	2
GF2 sharing on-farm success – turning ideas into action .....	3
Upcoming genetics webinars .....	3
OSCIA re-launches Ontario Forage Masters competition .....	4
AALP Class 17 application available .....	4
More opportunities to make farm improvements with Growing Forward 2 funding .....	5
Upcoming workshops – biosecurity and traceability .....	5
Celebrate Ontario food and farming with Breakfast on the Farm .....	6
Other organizations and reference information .....	7

### **Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency**

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Please send all submissions to Heather Hargrave at [hhargrave@ontariosheep.org](mailto: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](mailto:hhargrave@ontariosheep.org).

March 9	OSMA board of directors meeting
March 11	North Wellington Co-op Sheep Day - Mount Forest Sports Complex <a href="http://bit.ly/2IOSb33">http://bit.ly/2IOSb33</a>
March 14	District 3 meeting - To ship or not to ship <a href="http://bit.ly/2luwRPm">http://bit.ly/2luwRPm</a>
March 16	District 5 meeting – succession planning <a href="http://bit.ly/2m2VTTG">http://bit.ly/2m2VTTG</a>
March 20	Relaxing cable restraints workshop - Lindsay <a href="http://bit.ly/2I3N3nd">http://bit.ly/2I3N3nd</a>
March 21	Webinar - Research update - CGIL <a href="http://bit.ly/2mp08sl">http://bit.ly/2mp08sl</a>
March 22	Relaxing cable restraints workshop - Rostock <a href="http://bit.ly/2mbyYt5">http://bit.ly/2mbyYt5</a>
March 29	Relaxing cable restraints workshop - Bloomfield <a href="http://bit.ly/2I3IzNI">http://bit.ly/2I3IzNI</a>
March 30 & 31	Cultivating the Great Claybelt Agriculture Symposium <a href="http://bit.ly/2kJ4uqM">http://bit.ly/2kJ4uqM</a>
April 8	District 5 car tour
April 10	Relaxing cable restraints workshop – Kemptville <a href="http://bit.ly/2mZaB2m">http://bit.ly/2mZaB2m</a>
April 13	Farm & Food Care Ontario annual conference and speakers' program <a href="http://bit.ly/2mBWD5g">http://bit.ly/2mBWD5g</a>
June 30 & July 1	Holstein Agro Expo Sheep Industry Day <a href="http://bit.ly/2IG5huX">http://bit.ly/2IG5huX</a>
September 26 to 28	Sheep shearing school for beginners <a href="http://bit.ly/2jvIaJ">http://bit.ly/2jvIaJ</a>
October 26 & 27	Ontario Sheep Convention

## Out and about

February 28 & March 1	LRIC board meeting
March 2	Foodland Ontario marketing meeting
March 3	RMP meeting
March 6	Canadian Animal Health Coalition emergency preparedness workshop
March 6	OASC meeting

## 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 20 – Lindsay OMAFRA office (322 Kent St W, Lindsay)

March 22 – Rostock Hall (4817 Line 46, Rostock (Perth County))

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

**\*\*NEW\*\* April 10 - 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](mailto:hhargrave@ontariosheep.org), indicating which workshop you are attending.

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

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## GF2 sharing on-farm success – turning ideas into action

Through cost-share funding opportunities with Growing Forward 2, farmers are tackling projects to help grow their profits, expand their markets and manage risks. Check out the next video in our series of GF2 Success stories, Michael Sloboda.

Michael Sloboda started his sheep operation near Oxford Mills five years ago. Today his 90-acre farm includes more than 50 ewes. To see how **GF2** funding improved Sloboda's ability to handle his animals and manage his flock's health visit [www.ontariosoilcrop.org/oscia-programs/growing-forward-2/sharing-on-farm-success/](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/oscia-programs/growing-forward-2/sharing-on-farm-success/).

Growing Forward 2 is a five-year federal-provincial-territorial initiative, which encourages innovation, competitiveness and market development in Canada's agri-food and agri-products sector. Growing Forward 2 cost-share funding is administered to producers by the Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association.

Questions? Email OSCIA at [gf2@ontariosoilcrop.org](mailto:gf2@ontariosoilcrop.org).

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## Upcoming genetics webinar

The University of Guelph and OMAFRA are offering a FREE webinar on a genetics topic in March.

March 21, 2017

12 noon to 1:00 p.m.

Research update - CGIL

Find out what research projects are being worked on at the University of Guelph in sheep genetics.

If you are interested in participating in these webinars contact Delma Kennedy, Sheep Specialist with OMAFRA, at [delma.kennedy@ontario.ca](mailto:delma.kennedy@ontario.ca). Upon registering, connection details will be provided.

## OSCIA re-launches Ontario Forage Masters competition

The long-awaited debut of the new Forage Masters Competition took place in February at the annual conference of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA). The previous competition ran successfully for about 30-years, but in recent years was experiencing reduced enrollment and not garnering much attention from new participants. The OSCIA, who is responsible for coordination, chose to close down the competition for 2016 and focused on efforts on developing a fresh new approach.

For those who were familiar with the previous competition, the changes introduced with the new product will be immediately detected.

The Committee assigned the task of engineering the new and improved product was led by Don Oliver, OSCIA Director of the East Central Region. He was assisted by several others on the Board of Directors and staff. Experts willingly stepped up from OMAFRA and from industry to lend their skills and ideas, and the exercise also benefited from advice offered by OSCIA members.

Four goals were central in developing the new design:

- Improve forage management
- Boost the profile of forages
- Increase awareness of the economic and environmental benefits of growing forage, and
- Renew interest in the Forage Masters Competition

"Producers are constantly seeking information on how to refine production practices to optimize profits and safeguard the environment, participating in the new Forage Masters Competition will help them achieve that," says Mack Emiry, OSCIA President. "Improving soil health is a major focus of this organization, and there is no better way to build soil organic carbon than a well-managed perennial crop."

For more information about the competition visit <http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/association/association-membership/ontario-forage-masters/>.

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## AALP Class 17 application available

The Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program (AALP) is currently recruiting for Class 17. AALP, which is delivered by the Rural Ontario Institute (ROI), is one of the longest running and most successful leadership development programs. Established in 1984, the program is an executive development opportunity for men and women who want to shape the future of the agriculture and food industry and make a positive difference in rural communities across Ontario. To date, there are over 450 AALP graduates using their leadership skills in rural, agriculture and agri-food industries – provincially, nationally and internationally.

During the 19-month program, AALP participants learn about leadership and organizational development theories and practices, government and political processes, economics, trade policy, global affairs, sector and industry related issues in Ontario and globally through North American and international study travel components. For more information visit [www.ruralontarioinstitute.ca/aalp](http://www.ruralontarioinstitute.ca/aalp).

Applications are open until March 17, 2017. You can access at <http://www.ruralontarioinstitute.ca/aalp/class-application>.

## More opportunities to make farm improvements with Growing Forward 2 funding

The next intake for applications for Growing Forward 2 is now open until February 23, 2017. To see what types of projects farmers can get cost share funding for, access their program guidelines book: [http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/GF2\\_Costshare\\_Producer\\_Guide\\_August2016.pdf](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/GF2_Costshare_Producer_Guide_August2016.pdf).

**\*\*New\*\*** A new intake period for applications was recently announced – April 4 to 18, 2017. For more information: <http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/blog/2017/02/02/new-intake-added-for-final-year-of-growing-forward-2-program/#more-31719>.

A list of new eligible activities available under the GF2 cost sharing funding assistance program for producers was recently announced. For more information, see OSCIA's press release: <http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/blog/2017/01/18/growing-forward-2-giving-producers-more-opportunities-to-make-farm-improvements/>.

Questions? Contact the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association at [gf2@ontariosoilcrop.org](mailto:gf2@ontariosoilcrop.org) or visit <http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/oscia-programs/growing-forward-2/>.

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## 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 workshops*

March 9/March 10                      Bruce Mines  
March 30/March 31                      Emo

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

## Celebrate Ontario food and farming with Breakfast on the Farm

On June 24, Breakfast on the Farm will be hosted at the Donkers Family Farm near Shedden, ON. This is the first time that the event will be held on an Ontario goat farm.

It will be the seventh Breakfast on the Farm hosted by Farm & Food Care Ontario since 2013; to date almost 12,000 people have been fed, entertained and engaged at the events. Organizers are expecting between 2,500 and 3,000 people to attend the June event.

Breakfast on the Farm provides a unique opportunity for farmers and non-farming Ontarians to have a conversation about food and farming. It gives visitors the chance to visit a real, working farm, provides a showcase for agriculture and gives non-farmers the opportunity to have their questions answered by real farmers.

After being treated to an all-Ontario breakfast featuring eggs, pancakes, sausages and more, visitors will be able to tour the dairy goat farm and meet hundreds of goats. Interactive stops around the farm will include many displays, activities and exhibits that showcase other types of farms in Ontario. There will also be more than 100 Ontario farmers on hand to answer guests' questions about food and farming.

The event will run from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm, with breakfast being served until 11:30 am. The farm tour wraps up by 1:00 pm. It is a free event, though pre-registration is required. The first 2,000 visitors are guaranteed breakfast.

Farm & Food Care Ontario is again looking for those willing to share their time and passion for local food. Approximately 150 volunteers are needed on the day of the event.

To learn more about the event visit [www.FarmFoodCareON.org](http://www.FarmFoodCareON.org) or contact Kelly Daynard at [kelly@farmfoodcare.org](mailto:kelly@farmfoodcare.org).

## 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](mailto:pdcraig@outlook.com)

### Western Ontario Lamb Producers

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