



The Messenger

OSMA and the Industry

November 2016 Part I

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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.

Out and about

October 31	OASC meeting
November 3	ShVCRT Health Strategies working group
November 4	ShVCRT Research working group
November 8	Ontario Forage Council board of directors meeting
November 8 & 9	Premier's Awards for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence awards ceremonies
November 10	Spreading at the right time nutrient application working group meeting
November 10	RMP meeting

October board meeting notes – Ontario Sheep

At the October Board meeting, Rob Scott, Chairman commented on how many District Annual Meetings he was able to attend and how impressed he was with the level of producer engagement. During his Chair's report, he also spoke about the alliance that was being formed between OSMA, the Alberta Lamb Producers and Federation des producteurs d'agneaux et mouton du Quebec and that it has applied for membership to the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

There was a discussion on how OSMA communicates with its producers. There have been comments over the last few weeks into the OSMA office and to Directors which have resulted in concern that the current communication activities are not adequate. Some of the recommendations on how to improve OSMA's communication efforts include ensuring that Board members have copies of the Board Notes and asking District Secretaries to encourage producers to get on the Messenger mailing list.

The Predation Committee has been reviewing the hunting and trapping ban on the Algonquin Wolf and Coyotes. The Committee has concerns about the process of how the animals are designated as endangered. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) has indicated that this is a temporary solution while they work on a longer term solution. It is important that OSMA remain engaged in this discussion and work with MNRF to find a workable solution.

Tracy Hussey, the Executive Director of Farm & Food Care Ontario, and Sandi Brock, a Farm & Food Care Ontario Board member, joined the OSMA Board meeting to discuss the role of their organization. A document was circulated outlining what the membership does for us.

It was noted that Farm & Food Care Ontario did not have enough time to do the final "did we get it right" approval process on some of the IMPACT materials. They are committed to fixing any identified issues with online content. It was noted that addressing issues with printed materials may prove harder to fix.

Farm & Food Care Ontario does have the opportunity to provide producers with certificates to show that they have undergone IMPACT training. The question was asked if they can do this for the Code of Practice training component of the Canadian Verified Sheep Program, or perhaps the entire Canadian Verified Sheep Program. This could help alleviate any confusion producers might have over what program to be trained on.

Farm & Food Care Ontario has applied and been approved for education status, which means that the government would see them equivalent to a university.

In the coming year, Farm & Food Care Ontario will be focusing on truck roll overs, with beef being the pilot. Additionally they are working with McMaster and OMAFRA engineers to develop barn scanners, to scan the barn and send you a text if there is an issue. The goal is to have technology that can help mitigate barn fires that is available to producers for \$250. They will also be working on educating dietitians, especially those who work in stores for companies like Loblaws (who also circulate the Real Dirt on Farming in their stores).

Last year Farm & Food Care's Helpline had eight calls and now they are up to 1 per week. The calls tend to fall within two main categories, the elderly who can no longer care for animals and do not want to give up and mental health issues.

The Board passed motions to form a Traceability Committee and a Programs Committee.

Ontario sheep farmers recognized with Premier's Award for Agri Food Innovation Excellence

The Trillium Lamb Producers of Lindsay and Willowtree Farm from Port Perry were both recognized with Premier's Awards for Agri Food Innovation Excellence at an awards ceremony last week in Uxbridge.

You can read the full press release about their wins here:

<https://news.ontario.ca/omafra/en/2016/11/ontario-celebrates-agri-food-innovators-in-durham-region-and-kawartha-lakes.html>.

Pictures from the event can be accessed here:

http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/premier_award/2016/events/f/index.htm.

Help shape Canada's next agricultural policy framework

It's not too late to provide your feedback on the [Calgary Statement](#) and help shape the direction of the next agricultural policy framework. The second phase of our online consultations will be open until November 30, 2016. [Share your experiences and ideas for the Next Agricultural Policy Framework](#) today—your input and ideas will help ensure our investments support a strong, innovative sector that meets tomorrow's needs.

You can provide your input at this link: <http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/about-us/public-opinion-and-consultations/share-your-experiences-and-ideas-for-the-next-agricultural-policy-framework/?id=1461767905189>. Feedback is being accepted until November 30, 2016.

You can read the [What We've Heard](#) report to learn more about the feedback we've received through the first phase of consultations on our current agricultural framework, [Growing Forward 2](#).

November offers for Ontario sheep farmers from TSC




OSMA MEMBER EXCLUSIVE NOVEMBER OFFER

OFFER VALID NOVEMBER 1 TO 30, 2016 ONLY

25% OFF







ALL SOCKS & GLOVES ONLY AT TSC STORES!*

Incredible News!
 Save 25% off all regular priced socks & gloves as your OSMA Member Exclusive November Offer!
 To enjoy this special offer, simply show your card at the register when you visit TSC Stores before November 30, 2016.

*Offer applies to select in stock, regular priced items only. Excludes sale priced items, clearance priced items, hot buys, & gift cards. Offer not applicable to wholesale purchases. If a product is featured at a lower price in store, the lower price will apply. Card cannot be combined with any other offer or discount. Card is not redeemable for cash and has no cash value. Customer must show their OSMA Member Bonus Card to receive offer.

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2016 Forage Focus

The Ontario Forage Council is hosting its annual Forage Focus conference and trade show. The theme of the event is recognizing the value of forages for profit and the environment. The keynote speaker of the daylong event is Eric Young, an agronomist with the Miner Institute.

November 29 event – Shakespeare Optimist Hall, Shakespeare
November 30 event – Joel Steele Community Centre, Winchester

The cost is \$40 per participant and includes the conference proceedings and a hot lunch.

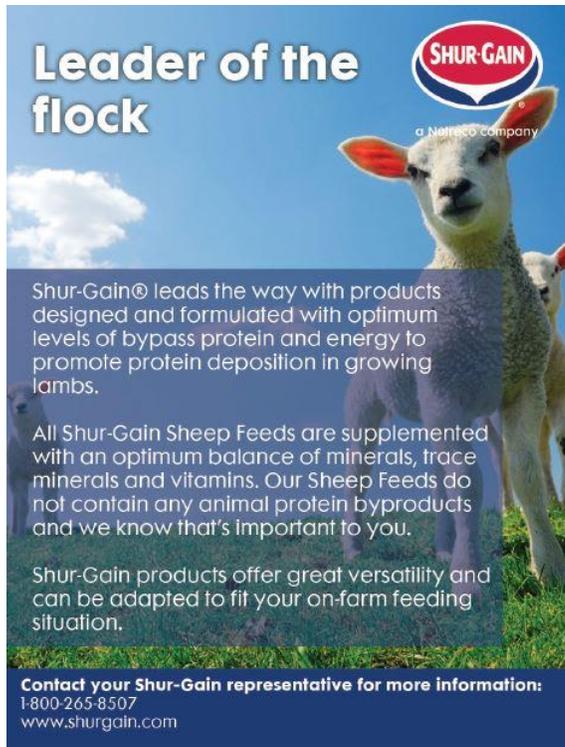
To register, call (877) 892-8663. The registration deadline is November 24 (registrations will be taken the day of but may not include a hot lunch).

For more information visit www.ontarioforagecouncil.com.

Update on GenOvis program

The fall 2016 update on the GenOvis program is now available. You can find the complete update and more information by heading to

<http://www.ontariosheep.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=RmUwGs5AMB0%3d&tabid=64&mid=415>.



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Farmland Health Incentive Program returns

The Farmland Health Incentive Program (FHIP) will return for producers in the Great Lakes Agricultural Stewardship Initiative (GLASI) eligible area this fall. This innovative stewardship program provides financial support for producers to implement select Best Management Practices (BMPs) that improve soil health and water quality. With up to \$50,000 available per farm business over the duration of the three-year (2015 - 2018) program, this is an opportunity to make improvements to benefit your farm's productivity and profitability, as well as the environment.

The 2017 program has been enhanced in a number of areas to provide opportunities to applicants in priority geographies, which have a strong need to support water quality improvements. Cost-share levels and caps have been adjusted to enable more projects to be funded, while the strengthened merit-based application review process now prioritizes projects located in the western and central Lake Erie basin. Enhanced soil health through the implementation of BMPs continues to be a very effective way for producers to have a positive impact on water quality, and the 2017 FHIP strives to support as many BMP implementation projects as possible.

Applications will be accepted during the three-week submission period of November 22 (12:00 noon) to December 13, 2016 (12:00 noon). Complete and eligible project applications will be considered for funding in the order in which they are received by OSCIA, with the priority basin (western and central Lake Erie) projects receiving first consideration for funding. Projects will be approved as funding permits. Applications, accessible through the OSCIA website, will be made available on November 15, 2016 in advance of the November 22nd submission period opening to offer producers additional time to prepare their submissions.

For more detailed information on the Farmland Health Incentive Program, visit our website at www.ontariosoilcrop.org.



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Upcoming International Sheep Veterinary Congress May 2017

The 9th International Sheep Veterinary Congress is being held in 2017 - May 22-26th in Harrogate, Yorkshire England (James Herriot's part of the world).

For more information visit <http://www.sheepvetsoc.org.uk/isvc2017>.

Tax credit for farmers who donate food

Established in 2014, the Food Donation Tax Credit for Farmers gives farmers a tax credit valued at 25 per cent of the fair market value of the agricultural products they donate. Community food programs, like the student nutrition program, also benefit by receiving more fresh local food for distribution to Ontario families.

This credit helps to ensure that more locally grown food ends up on people's plates, and that includes the people who need it most in our communities.

For more information visit <http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/credit/cfpdpc/index.html>.



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Looking for hay or forages? Check out the hay listing service

The Ontario Hay Listing Service, created by the Ontario Forage Council, provides livestock farmers with information on forage availability. The interactive tool provides an easy and effective process by bringing together hay producers and buyers. The service is offered free of charge.

For more information visit www.ontariohaylistings.ca.

Upcoming events

For more information on any upcoming events please visit the OSMA website at www.ontariosheep.org/Events.aspx or contact the OSMA office at (519) 836-0043.

November 15	District 3 Fall meeting http://bit.ly/2dOYPEI
November 17	Western Ontario Lamb Producers Association annual meeting http://bit.ly/2fuSGM2
November 25	District 5 potluck social http://bit.ly/2dNL8T4
November 29	Livestock Environmental Management workshop for livestock producers. Hosted by the Ontario Rural Wastewater Centre http://bit.ly/2dH3cPq
December 2	District 1 Christmas meeting http://bit.ly/2dia8IP

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	Jay Mycroft at 905-957-1114 or jay.mycroft@xplornet.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 lddekleer@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	