

## **New funding for Ontario processing sector welcome news to Ontario Sheep Farmers**

**Guelph, ON [November 5, 2021]** – Ontario Sheep Farmers applaud the announcement of new funding to support the province’s processing sector. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs unveiled up to \$25 million over three years in a new Strategic Agri-Food Processing Fund earmarked to support projects that will enhance processing capacity and food security. The investment will help with the shortage of processing capacity, including a rural/Northern stream with a focus on areas that are underserved or experiencing lower economic growth compared with the rest of the province.

“Ontario Sheep Farmers is very encouraged by the announcement of provincial funding support for Ontario’s livestock processing sector,” says John Hemsted, Chair, Ontario Sheep Farmers. “We have been actively engaged in discussions with the ministry about the critical need for increased processing capacity in Ontario. We know our sheep sector wants to grow and this new support will help make that happen.”

The funding – designed to help Ontario recover from the pandemic by creating jobs and opportunities – is specifically slated to address ongoing processing capacity issues in the province and address the delays many livestock producers have been experiencing. Ontario Sheep Farmers was part of the consultation process with the ministry to find ways to support the sector and improve processing in the province. More information on the funding announcement is available [here](#).

Ontario Sheep Farmers (OSF) is a producer-run organization established in 1985 and represents the province’s 3,000 sheep farmers who contribute over \$530 million to Ontario’s economy. Ontario is home to the country’s largest sheep flock and processes over 50% of the sheep and lambs born in Canada. We believe passionately that sheep farming is an agricultural business sector that is profitable, contributes to the well-being of our communities and our province and offers unique opportunities to develop new markets, provide needed environmental benefits and grow both our domestic and international markets.

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