



## Master Shepherd's Course Participant Application Form

The Master Shepherd's Course (MSC) is a 12-module course offered over a 15-month period, running from September 2022 through to December 2023. This offering of the course will consist of 11 on-line modules, one 2-day in-person module and a 2-day farm tour. Each on-line module will consist of 8 x 1.75-hour sessions. A second, optional 2-day farm tour will be offered, conditional on minimum registration of 25 attendees.

It is expected that participants in this course have at least three years' experience with sheep production, either as a sheep business owner/operator or as an employee working on a sheep farm. *Other livestock experience may be considered for applicants with less than three years' sheep experience, please include details in Section B.*

For more information, including the current schedule of program dates, please visit [www.OntarioSheep.org/master-shepherds-course](http://www.OntarioSheep.org/master-shepherds-course).

### Section A Contact information

Farm, business, or company name		
Name of applicant		
Address		
City	Province	Postal code
Phone	Email	
OSF District	Age of applicant	

### Section B Business/organization profile

Owner/producer applicants			
Number of years of experience in sheep industry		OSF Producer Number	
Number of employees	<i>Full time</i>	<i>Part time</i>	<i>Seasonal</i>
List other farm enterprises:			
Farm worker applicants			
Number of years of experience in sheep industry			
Number of hours worked/week			
Description of other livestock experience that is transferrable to sheep production			



**Section C Farm description**

*(If you are a farm employee applicant, answer these questions based on the farm where you work.)*

<b>Number of acres farmed</b>	<b>Number of breeding ewes in flock</b>
<b>Lamb feedlot: Barn capacity</b>	<b>Number of feeder lambs produced in a year</b>
<b>Type of production system (check all that apply)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Annual lambing <input type="checkbox"/> Accelerated lambing <input type="checkbox"/> Feedlot <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pasture based system <input type="checkbox"/> Confinement system <input type="checkbox"/> Combination	
<b>Primary focus of your production</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Market lambs <input type="checkbox"/> Breeding stock <input type="checkbox"/> Dairy	
<b>How do you currently market your product? Check all that apply.</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Public auction <input type="checkbox"/> Farmer’s markets <input type="checkbox"/> Private sales <input type="checkbox"/> Direct to packer <input type="checkbox"/> To other sheep farmers	
<b>What records to you currently keep on your farm? Check all that apply.</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Financial – tax purposes <input type="checkbox"/> Financial – business analysis <input type="checkbox"/> Flock production <input type="checkbox"/> Flock health	
<b>Business relationships with agricultural support professionals off farm. Check all that apply.</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Veterinarian <input type="checkbox"/> Feed nutritionist <input type="checkbox"/> Ultrasound pregnancy scanner <input type="checkbox"/> Accountant <input type="checkbox"/> Crop advisor <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)	
<b>Describe your farm and any unique features, assets, or opportunities that you may have.</b>   	
<b>Describe your greatest challenges as a sheep farmer.</b>   	
<b>What do you hope to learn or experience by taking this course?</b>   	



**Are you willing to actively participate in class discussions and share your farm successes and failures for the benefit of all class participants?**

Yes    No

**If no, please explain your reasons.**

**Previous education specific to sheep production.**

**Please list all courses, seminars, and workshops that you have attended in an effort to learn more about sheep farming. Include approximate dates.**

**What major factors influenced your decision to get started in the sheep industry?**

**Do you have the capacity to expand your farming operation and increase lamb production in any of the following areas?  Yes    No   If yes, check all that apply.**

Financial    Land base    Buildings    # of ewes    # of lambs marketed    # of employees

**What new technologies or management practices regarding animal health, production, or nutrition do you currently use on your farm?**

**What new technologies or management practices would you like to learn more about?**



**Section D Business plan**

If your farm has a mission and vision statement, please include both here.

<b>Mission statement</b>
<b>Vision statement</b>

List your top three short term goals – things you would like your farm/flock to accomplish in the next three years.

<b>Short term goal #1</b>
<b>Short term goal #2</b>
<b>Short term goal #3</b>

List your top three long term goals – things you would like your farm/flock to accomplish in the next five to 10 years.

<b>Long term goal #1</b>
<b>Long term goal #2</b>
<b>Long term goal #3</b>



## Section E General information

The information you supply on the application form is being collected by Ontario Sheep Farmers (OSF) and will be used **ONLY** for the purpose of administering the Master Shepherd's Course. This includes processing your application, confirming your program eligibility, and contacting you if you are selected to be a participant in this course.

Questions about the collection of personal information on this form can be directed to the Executive Director, Ontario Sheep Farmers, 130 Malcolm Road Guelph, Ontario, N1K 1B1, by email to [admin@ontariosheep.org](mailto:admin@ontariosheep.org), or by phone at 519.836.0043 x323.

The topic of the 12<sup>th</sup> module will be decided upon based on the specific needs and requests of the program participants who have signed up for the full program. The final presentations of business plans will only be open to program participants who complete **ALL OF** the previous modules.

I am applying for the full program (Eleven on-line modules, one 2-day in-person module (Module 4) and one 2-day farm tour).

- Industry dynamics and governance
- Lambing and lamb rearing
- Flock Productivity and Reproduction
- Financial and Business planning
- Infrastructure and feeding systems
- Ewe Flock Nutrition
- Genetics
- Lamb feedlots and dairy sheep
- Effective flock health management
- Predation and pasture management
- Marketing and wool
- Business Plan presentations

**Full course enrollment fee \$2,240 (HST included)** Deposit of \$500 is required to secure your enrollment.

I wish to also register for the optional 2-day farm tour at an additional cost of \$450.

Payment schedule: Balance owing can be paid in 3 installments due 2, 4, and 11 months after your entry into the course, or you may select the pay-as-you-go option in Section F Payment Information.

**Individual module fee \$245(HST included) per person per module.** Registration for single modules is done through the THINKIFIC platform <https://learning-ontariosheep.thinkific.com>. Spots are limited and are on a first-come-first-served basis.

Questions regarding the application and the Master Shepherd's Course can be directed to **Anita O'Brien, MSC Coordinator** at [mastershepherd@ontariosheep.org](mailto:mastershepherd@ontariosheep.org) or 519-836-0043 extension 322.

For the most up-to-date schedule of modules visit [www.OntarioSheep.org/master-shepherds-course](http://www.OntarioSheep.org/master-shepherds-course).

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## Section F Payment information

### Fees payable

Full course fee	\$2,240
Optional Second 2-day Farm Tour (\$450) <sup>1</sup>	
Less \$500 deposit (required with application)	\$500
<b>Total owing<sup>2</sup></b>	

<sup>1</sup>Second Farm Tour is conditional on a minimum of 25 registered attendees. <sup>2</sup>Balance owing is payable in three installments on 2, 4, and 11 months after your entry into the course, unless you have selected the pay-as-you-go option below.

Bank e-transfer to [finance@ontariosheep.org](mailto:finance@ontariosheep.org) (Put your name and phone number in the memo field)

cheque enclosed (payable to **Ontario Sheep Farmers**)

Mastercard or Visa (call the OSF office 519-836-0043 with your credit card details)

I wish to “pay-as-I-go” (\$245 per module) by registering for each module through THINKIFIC platform <https://learning-ontariosheep.thinkific.com>.

## Part G Certification

I, the undersigned, acknowledge and understand for this Master Shepherd’s Course the curriculum is subject to change and this course is not intended to be a complete and all-encompassing manual on sheep production. Ontario Sheep Farmers and the program guest speakers will strive to give complete and up to date information, but I recognize that not everything may be applicable to my specific situation. I understand that there will be homework assignments and supplementary course reading material, and research requirements.

I certify that the information provided on all parts of this application is true, complete to the best of my knowledge.

<b>Name of applicant</b>
<b>Signature of applicant</b>
<b>Date</b>

### Submit your completed application

#### by mail

Ontario Sheep Farmers  
130 Malcolm Rd  
Guelph, ON N1K 1B1

#### by email

[mastershepherd@ontariosheep.org](mailto:mastershepherd@ontariosheep.org)

#### by fax

519.231.0445

