

The Messenger



May 8, 2017

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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.

May 8	District 4 meeting http://bit.ly/2pCmDP1
May 16	Canada-Ontario Draft Lake Erie Action Plan public meeting – Dunnville http://bit.ly/2pY5Rsn
May 18	Canada-Ontario Draft Lake Erie Action Plan public meeting – Chatham http://bit.ly/2pcZkNp
May 27	District 10 Wool Day http://bit.ly/2pBKPPz
June 1	OSMA board of directors meeting
June 1	District 2 meeting http://bit.ly/2pCs5S9
June 8	District 2 twilight farm tour http://bit.ly/2pcxPPH
June 9	District 5 meeting http://bit.ly/2nJWpa8
June 24	Breakfast on the Farm – Shedden http://bit.ly/2os0bUY
June 30 & July 1	Holstein Agro Expo Sheep Industry Day http://bit.ly/2iG5huX
August 1	District 5 family potluck and AGM http://bit.ly/2nDPRZF
September 26 to 28	Sheep shearing school for beginners http://bit.ly/2jvlanJ
October 26 & 27	Ontario Sheep Convention http://bit.ly/2oCEaa1
October 30 & 31	Advancing Women in Agriculture conference – Niagara Falls http://bit.ly/2nXI8HT
November 21 to 23	Agricultural Excellence Conference – Ottawa http://bit.ly/2qDp6qY

Out and about

April 21	OLPC member meeting
April 25	Draft Plant and Animal Health strategy webinar
April 26	Ontario Wildlife Damages Compensation Program meeting
April 27	OSMA board of directors meeting
April 27	Ontario Agricultural Commodity Climate Change Working Group meeting
April 28	Agriculture Wildlife Conflict Working Group meeting
April 28	RMP Joint Reference Committee meeting
May 1	OASC meeting
May 3	Canadian Verified Sheep Program trainer workshop
May 4	OASC breakfast with MPP Lou Rinaldi
May 4	GenOvis program conference call
May 4	2016 Census of Agriculture webinar
May 4	FPT consult briefing with Minister Leal
May 5	National Sheep Network conference call

April board meeting notes

The April OSMA board meeting opened with Rob Scott updating the board on the connections he has been making within the provincial and federal government. He has been asked by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture to be their representative on the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC). NFACC is an organization that brings together animal welfare groups, enforcement, government, and farmers under a collective decision-making model for advancing farm animal welfare (www.nfacc.ca). Of additional note is the ongoing communication that is occurring between the OSMA chair and the president of the American Sheep Industry.

The National Sheep Network has been working with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to arrange for a national meeting to bring producers from across Canada together to discuss what they need and what the industry can afford when it comes to a national voice. It is hoped that further details of the meeting (date, location etc) will be released shortly.

Farm & Food Care's Breakfast on the Farm is on a dairy goat farm in Shedden Ontario on June 24. OSMA board members will be there to help with the OSMA booth.

The board has instructed staff to start work on a sheep lobby day at Queen's Park. With the legislature rising on June 2, the fall was set as the target time to have one.

The Finance Committee presented to the board their review of board compensation rates, and AGM and education day registration rates for other Ontario agricultural organizations. OSMA rates are well within the range of other organizations and deemed to be reasonable.

The Programs Committee reported back on their first meeting which focused on the potential to integrate the Canadian Verified Sheep Program with the Ontario Sheep Health Program. While this may be a long-term goal, it is currently not recommended. There was also some discussion on GenOvis, more specifically, the measurements for loin eye depth and how programs could better align with the needs of the commercial industry.

Lake Erie Domestic Action Plan

Chris Attema, OSMA's Water Quality Specialist, presented the proposed Lake Erie Domestic Action Plan that was released by the Ontario government on March 10, 2017. Comments are due on May 15, 2017. Some of the comments that OSMA will be providing include:

No mention of policies or programs that could benefit and encourage forage based livestock agriculture in the policy or program sections;

There are livestock favourable trends in the data provided for example, livestock watersheds account for 3 of the 6 subwatersheds classified as less than 30 ug/L P;

No mention that based on the published data the average load/acre is lower from Canadian tributaries;

Ontario monitoring strategy appears to be a continuation of the current monitoring programs and data analysis;

The consideration of further regulatory restrictions on the land application of manure on frozen and snow covered ground is out of proportion with the facts and scientific reality.

OAFB Opportunity

The Ontario Association of Food Banks is launching an Every Plate Full – Canada's Largest Food Drive campaign to run from May 23 – June 9, 2017. The purpose of the campaign is to raise "meals" through peer-to-peer fundraising. For every dollar donated, 3 meals are raised. The board agreed to have OSMA participate in this.

OSMA name change

The board agreed with a proposal by staff to undergo a rebranding activity to coincide with OSMA's name change and do an official launch of both the new name and logo at the AGM.

The next OSMA board of directors meeting is scheduled for June 1, 2017.

Canada-Ontario Draft Lake Erie Action Plan public meetings

Notice of Public Meetings

Canada-Ontario Draft Lake Erie Action Plan to Reduce Phosphorus and Algae

Lake Erie is exhibiting symptoms of extreme stress resulting in harmful and nuisance algal blooms and zones of low oxygen that threaten drinking water quality, fish populations, beach quality, coastal recreation, the overall ecological health of the lake, and the Canadian economy. The cause of these algal blooms has been linked to excess phosphorus entering the lake. A tremendous amount of work has already been completed to reduce phosphorus loads, however much more needs to be done.

The Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario have developed a draft action plan that identifies actions to reduce phosphorus and algal growth in Lake Erie. To tackle these issues, actions from all levels of government, First Nations and Métis communities, as well as sector groups, conservation authorities, and the public is needed.

Public meetings will be held on:

- May 16, 2017 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Dunnville Community Lifespan Center, 275 Ramsey Drive, Dunnville, ON
- May 18, 2017 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Chatham-Kent John D. Bradley Convention Centre, Meeting Room 1A, 565 Richmond St., Chatham, ON

For both meetings, free parking is available on site. The doors will open at 6:30 pm. There will be a formal presentation between 7:00 pm and 7:30 pm which will provide an overview of the issues and highlight actions proposed in the draft plan.

Following the presentation, there will be opportunity for the public to ask questions about the draft action plan and provide comments and feedback on actions that can be taken to reduce phosphorus. Coffee and light refreshments will be provided.

Please RSVP to Jody.McKenna@canada.ca.

The draft of the Lake Erie Action Plan is available through the following links at LetsTalkLakeErie.ca or www.ontario.ca/EBR (registry number: 012-9971).

Price predictability tool available for sheep farmers

OSMA has developed an online tool to help predict lamb prices in two weight categories – 65 to 79 pounds and 95 to 109 pounds. The tool was developed in partnership with the University of Guelph and OMAFRA.

The tool uses current and historical market data and statistical modelling to predict the price of lamb from one to four weeks out. The model is updated weekly, as market information is made available.

The tool can be accessed here: <http://fare.uoguelph.ca/forecast/>,

If you have used the tool and have suggestions for how it could be improved, contact the OSMA office at general@ontariosheep.org or (519) 836-0043.

National online catalogue of sheep industry experts and farm management tools available

The Sheep Value Chain Roundtable Profitability Working Group has developed a national catalogue of sheep industry experts and available farm management tools.

The catalogue can be accessed here: http://cansheep.ca/cms/en/en/Resource_Catalogue.aspx.

About the Sheep Value Chain Roundtable

The Roundtable brings together key industry and government members to discuss market challenges and opportunities facing the sheep industry as well as develop and implement action plans designed to improve the industry's competitive position. Visit the Roundtable website (<http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/industry-markets-and-trade/value-chain-roundtables/sheep/?id=1385758986961>) for more information, including the record of discussion from November 21 & 22, 2016 meeting.

Small ruminant adult mortality project launched

The Animal Health Laboratory (AHL), the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC), and OMAFRA are conducting a study investigating small ruminant mortalities on-farm.

Adult sheep and goat mortalities are rarely sent to a laboratory for a complete post-mortem and veterinarians infrequently perform post-mortems on-farm. However, there is value in knowing why an animal died (chronic wasting diseases, metabolic/nutritional diseases, neurological disorders, parasite problems), so that changes can be implemented to help prevent on-going disease.

This project seeks to improve the practice of on-farm post-mortems, and improve information flow among producers, veterinarians, and pathologists. **The cost of laboratory testing and the post-mortem fee will be covered by the project.** In order to learn the most from this project, **the project will be requiring a Premises Identification (PID) number on all submissions.**

Only veterinarians licensed to practice in Ontario and who provide veterinary services to Ontario sheep and goat farms are eligible to enroll in the project. The farming operation **must** be raising animals for meat, milk or fibre, i.e. pets and hobby farms are not eligible. **Please contact your veterinarian for more details and to ensure that they have requested a project account.**

For more information visit <https://www.uoguelph.ca/smort/>.

Agricultural Excellence Conference



Plan to attend



**FARMING FOR OUR FUTURE:
CANADA'S 150TH**
November 21 – 23 2017
Ottawa, Ontario

For More Info:
Visit www.fmc-gac.com
Email info@fmc-gac.com
Call 1-888-232-3262

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OSMA District 10 Wool Day

**OSMA District 10 Wool Day:
Making Connections**

**May 27, 2017 1pm to 4pm
Glengarry Pioneer Museum
1645 County Road 30
Dunvegan, ON**

Nicole Klerk - The Ontario Wool Book—marketing the qualities of wool produced in Ontario.

Jim McNeely - Wool grading and fleece preparation

Panel discussion - What do buyers want?

Open fleece marketplace - bring clean, skirted fleeces to sell

For more information contact Laurie Maus info@hawkhillfarm.ca 613-527-1897



Last intake for *Growing Forward 2* cost share funding assistance begins May 12

The last intake for applications for *Growing Forward 2* cost share funding assistance will be from May 12 to June 1, 2017.

Changes to the program were recently announced and a summary can be found here: <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.

GF2 funding can also be used for education and professional development purposes. If you are planning on attending an education event or conference in 2017, you should apply for *GF2* funding now. The Sheep Shearing School for Beginners (in late September) and the Advancing Women in Agriculture Conference both qualify for producers to receive some reimbursement for costs under the program.

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/.

Upcoming *GF2* information webinars, biosecurity and environmental farm plan workshop

With the last application intake deadline for *GF2* funding for producers quickly approaching, OSCIA is hosting two *GF2* information webinars.

May 8 7:00pm

May 15 7:00pm

This webinar will answer general program questions, show producers where to find resources on the OSCIA website, and walk through a sample application using the online system.

In order to participate, you'll need an internet connection and phone line. Participants need to register with OSCIA to participate and the sessions are capped at 30 people. To register visit:

<http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/oscia-programs/growing-forward-2/>.

Two more generic biosecurity workshops - geared towards beef, sheep, and goat producers - that are a requirement to apply for any of the *GF2* project categories under D. Animal and Plant Health have been scheduled.

May 9 St. Thomas 6:00pm to 9:30pm

May 16 Kemptville 10:00am to 3:00pm

Environmental farm plan workshops have also been scheduled.

May 8 Timmins

May 9 Azilda

To register for the workshops visit: <http://www.ontarioprograms.net/>.

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	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 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	