



The Messenger

OSMA and the Industry

October 2016 Part II

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Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency

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www.ontariosheep.org

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 17	ShVRCT Social License working group meeting
October 19	GenOvis Index discussion
October 19	Engage training session
October 21	Ag Wildlife Conflict working group meeting
October 21	ShVCRT Health Strategies working group meeting
October 24 to 26	Canadian Federation of Agriculture board meeting, lobby day and reception
October 26	Canadian Animal Health Coalition conference call
October 27 & 28	Ontario Sheep Convention

Ontario Sheep Convention a success

Last week's Ontario Sheep Convention had over 300 attendees over the two days participating in a lamb survival workshop, an industry tradeshow, a lenders' seminar, the OSMA AGM and the annual Ontario Lamb Banquet. Pictures of the event are now up on the Ontario Sheep Facebook page.

The organizing team wishes to thank all of the event sponsors and tradeshow exhibitors for their participation and support of the event.

If you have any feedback on the event please contact Ontario Sheep by calling our office at (519) 836-0043 or send an email to admin@ontariosheep.org.

Ontario Sheep selects Long Service, Outstanding Shepherd and annual scholarship award winners

Two long time sheep farmers were recognized by their peers for their leadership and contributions to the Ontario sheep industry at the annual Ontario Lamb Banquet last Thursday evening.

Bill and Lynne Duffield of Wyoming were awarded the Long Service Award, in recognition of their significant contributions and achievements in Ontario's sheep industry. They are avid promoters of healthy sheep, and continue to contribute to the growth and betterment of the industry through the use of superior genetics. Bill and Lynne are also admired for their willingness to share their wealth of information with both seasoned and new sheep farmers.



The late Robert (Bob) Fleguel and his wife Erin Roughan are the recipients of the 2016 Outstanding Shepherd Award. Using a pasture based system in Prince Edward County, they have established one of the largest flocks of sheep in Ontario with about 2,000 ewes. Bob and Erin are viewed as leaders in the industry – for both their innovative management practices and Bob's involvement as a founding director of the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency and as a founding member of the St. Lawrence Lamb Cooperative.



The 2016 Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency (OSMA) Scholarship was awarded to Anna Lennox of Ayton. Lennox is a 4-H member, having completed both sheep and life skills clubs. She is currently attending the

University of Waterloo, working towards an Honours Arts and Business degree.

“Both Bill and Lynne and Bob and Erin are leaders in our industry,” says Rob Scott, Chair of OSMA. “Their leadership and willingness to share their knowledge and expertise with both experienced and up-and-coming shepherds is helping make the Ontario sheep industry stronger.”

The banquet was a part of the 2016 Ontario Sheep Convention, which also featured an education workshop, a lenders’ seminar and the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency’s annual general meeting.

Officers elected for the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency

The Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency (OSMA) elected its officers for 2016/2017 at its annual general meeting, recently held in Alliston.

Robert Scott, Director for District 4, has been elected as Chair for a second term. Scott and his family own and operate Bridged Creek Farm, a commercial ewe flock and lamb feedlot, near Brantford.

Marc Carere, Director for District 7, has been re-elected as Vice Chair. Carere and his wife Helen operate Ballinahistle Farms, a large commercial ewe flock and lamb feedlot.

Jay Lewis, from Holstein, also joins the OSMA board as a director for District 2. Jay is a business partner of Lewis Land and Stock alongside his father Don and his brother Anson. They have a diverse farming operation consisting of a lamb feedlot, a cash crop operation, a dairy barn and beef cows. He is taking over for Dennis Fischer, who retired from the OSMA board after serving for nine years, including four years as chair.

The remainder of the OSMA board is as follows:

Fraser Hodgson, District 1

Ron Follings, District 3

Heather Little, District 5

Josephine Martensson-Hemsted, District 6

Gary Fox, District 8

David Bentley, District 9

Sally Jorgensen, District 10

Colleen Alloj, District 11.

“I am looking forward to working with this group of passionate and dedicated sheep farmers in the next year and beyond,” said Rob Scott. “I would also like to thank Dennis for his dedication and leadership to the Ontario sheep industry for the past nine years as a provincial director on OSMA.”

Ontario sheep farmers awarded 2016 GenOvis performance awards

The winners of the annual GenOvis performance awards were recognized last Thursday evening at the Ontario Lamb Banquet, hosted by the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency (OSMA).

In the Dorset category, the top growth ram lamb and the top maternal growth ram lamb for 2016 were awarded to Jim and Wendy Driscoll. The top growth Rideau ram lamb was awarded to Shelagh Finn, Lamb Lady Farm and the top maternal growth Rideau ram lamb went to Ted and Joanne Skinner, Cedar Creek Charollais.

In the Suffolk category, both the top growth ram lamb and the top maternal growth ram lamb went to William MacTaggart, MacTaggart Suffolks. In the Any Other Breeds Category, both the top growth ram lamb and the top maternal growth ram lamb were awarded to John and Eadie Steele, Shepherd's Choice.

GenOvis is a genetic improvement program designed to assist Ontario purebred and commercial sheep farmers in the evaluation of potential breeding stock and provides a measure of the comparative productivity of ewes in the flock. The program provides information that farmers can use to improve the genetic merit of their flock and monitor performance. The program maintains a large database of the performance records of tested sheep breeds in the province and the rest of Canada.

Carlton County farmer receives Ontario Pasture Award

Chris Moore of Shady Creek Lamb Company in West Carleton Township is the recipient of the 2016 Ontario Sheep Pasture Award. The award, sponsored by MAPLESEED, the Ontario Forage Council, and the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency (OSMA), was presented today at OSMA's annual Ontario Lamb banquet. For his environmental and pasture improvements and management, Moore will receive \$500 and a bag of forage seed.

Chris shepherds a flock of up to 300 sheep on his 160-acre mixed farm at Kinburn, near Ottawa. Although some of the ewes lamb throughout the year, at least one group of lambs is born on pasture during the spring.

Moore says "the majority of the farm is in pasture. I have some steep and rocky places on the farm, and have practiced frost seeding of those areas to improve them. The sheep can graze these areas, where machinery cannot function, which saves on fuel. Being able to graze most every acre has proven beneficial from many perspectives. I am able to maximize the use of every acre, and at the same time, it appears to have improved hoof health by letting the sheep climb the steep or rocky terrain, where machinery just can't go." In recent years, Chris has also been planting more annual forages for summer and fall grazing.

Chris uses a combination of permanent and temporary fencing to establish pasture paddocks, adding flexibility to adapt to growing season conditions, volume of pasture on the paddock, and stocking density. Water is provided in each paddock through a combination of permanent and temporary watering stations.

Having all but market lambs out on pasture wouldn't be possible without livestock guardian animals. Chris has three female dogs who stay with the sheep at all times and has minimized coyote losses to less than three a year since bringing the dogs into the flock.

Lawrence Leveque, District Sales Manager (Western Ontario) with MAPLESEED said "Chris Moore is an ideal candidate for the 2016 award because of the continuous improvements he has shown in his farming operation and his willingness to share ideas for the benefit to agriculture and the industry in general."

"This year's Ontario Sheep Pasture Award winner has demonstrated excellent environmental protection practices and at the same time has been able to make the maximum use of every acre," said Ray Robertson, Manager of the Ontario Forage Council.

The deadline for applications for the 2017 Ontario Sheep Pasture Award is October 1, 2017. For details call the Ontario Forage Council at 1-877-892-8663 or visit either the Ontario Forage Council's website at www.ontarioforagecouncil.com or the Ontario Sheep Management Agency's website at www.OntarioSheep.org.

CCWG Update for fall 2016

The fall 2016 update from the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers is available on the Ontario Sheep website. To access it go to <http://www.ontariosheep.org/home/news.aspx>.

OMAFRA guidelines on permitted uses in Ontario's prime agricultural areas

OMAFRA would like to advise decision-makers, planners, economic developers and farmers that the final Guidelines on Permitted Uses in Ontario's Prime Agricultural Areas have been posted on [OMAFRA's website](#).

You can order a free printed copy of the Guidelines on Permitted Uses in Ontario's Prime Agricultural Areas, Publication 851, through ServiceOntario:

- Online: [ServiceOntario Publications](#)
- By phone:
Monday to Friday, 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM
416-326-5300
416-325-3408 (TTY)
1-800-668-9938 toll-free across Canada
1-800-268-7095 TTY toll-free across Ontario

Next *Growing Forward 2* application intake

The next intake for *Growing Forward 2* application deadline is this Thursday, November 3.

There is funding available in different categories, including animal welfare and traceability. For more information about the program visit <http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/oscia-programs/growing-forward-2/>.

Questions? Email gf2@ontariosoilcrop.org.

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/cfpdct/index.html>.

Updated selection indexes for GenOvis coming this November

The needs of the sheep industry have evolved in recent years, so genetic selection guidelines had to be reviewed. Therefore, in November of this year, the genetic evaluation program, GenOvis, will update its selection indexes. The planned adjustments will serve to broaden genetic advancement and will specifically target breeding characteristics that carry an economic impact. These new indexes will also meet the needs recently expressed by purebred and commercial producers. For more information, visit <http://ontariosheep.org/home/news.aspx>.

Free webinar – updated GenOvis indexes November 10, 2016

DATE change! **WEBINAR GenOvis**

Updated indexes : Improved genetic selection!

Thursday, November 10, 2016
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Eastern Time
By : Frédéric Fortin, agr., M.Sc

***** REQUIRES HIGH SPEED INTERNET**

FREE for Producers
\$ 30 + taxes Non-producer

LIMITED AVAILABILITY ! SIGN UP NOW BY PHONE
418 856-1200, EXT. 225

OR ONLINE
WWW.GENOVIS.CA

SELECTION INDEXES : WHY USE THEM?

WHAT ARE THE 6 UPDATED INDEXES?

WHY WERE THEY UPDATED?

OTHER PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS : WHAT TO KNOW?

Please note that the registration fee is non-refundable.

A minimum of 40 participants are required to hold the webinar.

GenOvis

CEPOQ
1642, rue de la Ferme
Ste-Anne-de-la-Pocatière
www.cepoq.com

Cultivons l'avenir 2
Canada Québec

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 producer biosecurity workshops

In these free, one-day commodity-specific workshops, an experienced veterinarian or certified crop advisor will show you the benefits of having an on-farm biosecurity program, and identify key practices, which will help you improve biosecurity on your farm.

The workshops are open to new and established producers, and is a requirement to apply to the Animal and Plant Health Focus Area, under the Growing Forward 2 cost-share program for producers. Note the next intake for Growing Forward 2 funding is October 14 to November 3, 2016.

November 1, 2016 Mount Forest, ON 10:00am -3:00pm	November 2, 2016 Earlton, ON 10:00am - 3:00pm
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For more details and register for a workshop, [click here](#).

Real Dirt on Farming Speakers' Bureau returns to Ontario

For farmers and agribusiness people alike, the Speakers' Bureau series of workshops is designed to encourage those involved in agriculture to tell their stories – what they do and why they do it – to non-farming audiences.

Farm & Food Care has scheduled three training sessions

- November 29 in Listowel
- December 1 in Guelph
- December 7 in Bradford

The cost of the workshop is \$75 per participant and includes lunch and the workshop materials. The course cost can be claimed on your income tax return as an educational tax credit. For more information contact info@farmfoodcare.org or call (519) 837-1326.

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 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/2dH3cPg
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	Dianne Orr at 519-928-5302 or orrfamilyfarm@gmail.com	Check out the District 5 Facebook Page!
6	Karen Harvey at 905-729-3196 or pkharvey@zing-net.ca	
7	Judy Dening at 705-324-3453 or theshepherdsgate@xplornet.com	
8	Michelle Voskamp at 613-848-8972 or secretary@osmadistrict8.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	Tyler Armstrong at 613-433-8255 or pinnaclehaven@gmail.com	
10	Christine Power at 613-686-1892 or christine.power@ic.gc.ca	Check out our Facebook page!
11	Debra Garner at 705-563-2761 or bill.debgarner@gmail.com	