



The Messenger

OSMA and the Industry

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Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency

130 Malcolm Rd

Guelph, ON N1K 1B1

Phone: (519) 836-0043 Fax: (519) 836-2531

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

September 19	meeting with Deputy Minister re RMP
September 19	President's Council meeting
September 19	Liberal caucus reception
September 21	Canadian Animal Health Coalition meeting
September 26	Euthanasia training workshop
September 26	One Welfare meeting
September 28	Sheep Finance Program meeting
September 29	Predation meeting with OMAFRA
September 29	Farm & Food Care Farm Animal Care Advisory Council meeting
September 30	Foodland Ontario marketing meeting

Register today for the first Ontario Sheep Convention

The first annual Ontario Sheep Convention will take place on October 27 and 28 at the Nottawasaga Inn in Alliston, ON. On October 27, a workshop focusing on improving lamb survival is taking place, featuring a wide variety of speakers. The feature speaker of the workshop is Dr. Cathy Dwyer, Team Leader and Professor of Animal Welfare and Behaviour, Scotland's Rural College.

An industry tradeshow, the Ontario Lamb Banquet, a Lenders' Seminar and the OSMA AGM are also taking place over the two days.

Interested sheep farmers can now register online or by calling the OSMA office. For more information and to register, [click here](#) or visit www.OntarioSheep.org.

First euthanasia training workshop held

The first of a series of euthanasia training workshops for sheep and goat farmers was held at the University of Guelph this past week for 20 sheep farmers.

Workshop participants discussed the different aspects of euthanasia – the decision making process and what options are available to humanely euthanize an animal. Information was presented in both a lecture style and hands on learning and application using a penetrating captive bolt. At the end of the workshop participants received a captive bolt for their use.

Workshop participants found both the information and the hands on component valuable. One workshop participant said the course provided "the most tools ever from any course I have taken in the last couple of years."

Future workshops are being planned for sheep and goat farmers, and are limited to 20 participants each. The courses are held at the University of Guelph and there is a fee to participate. If you are interested in taking part in the training, email general@ontariosheep.org. Interested farmers will be asked to complete a short application before their participation is confirmed.

This project was funded in part through *Growing Forward 2 (GF2)*, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. The Agricultural Adaptation Council assists in the delivery of GF2 in Ontario.

Last call for nominations for awards

OSMA is seeking nominations for two awards that will be presented at the upcoming Annual General Meeting in October.

Long Service Award

This award recognizes significant contributions to the advancement of the Ontario Sheep Industry over many years of service. It is given in acknowledgement and appreciation of long standing contribution to the Ontario Sheep Industry. Recipients of this award have demonstrated outstanding dedication, leadership and innovative spirit.

Outstanding Shepherd Award

This award recognizes significant contributions to the advancement of the Ontario Sheep Industry. It is presented to an Ontario Shepherd who exemplifies the values of leadership and responsible sheep husbandry.

Guidelines for Long Service and Outstanding Shepherd Awards:

1. Nominations must be received at the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency office no later than October 3, 2016.
 2. Only members of the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency will be considered as candidates.
 3. Individuals or couples are eligible for nomination.
 4. Candidates must have made a significant contribution to the Ontario Sheep Industry. Candidates will be selected for the award based on demonstrated achievements within the Ontario Sheep Industry.
 5. The awards will be presented at the OSMA Annual General Meeting in October.
 6. Please include 2-5 letters of support from associations or individuals with your nomination.
 7. Submissions that do not follow these guidelines may be returned to the nominator or not considered for the award.
- If you know someone who deserves to be recognized through one of these awards, please nominate them by October 3, 2016. Application forms can be found on the OSMA website at www.ontariosheep.org under Awards & Photo Contest or by calling the OSMA office at 519-836-0043 or email jmactavish@ontariosheep.org.

The Mapleseed Pasture Award

The Mapleseed Pasture Award recognizes individual producers who are doing an outstanding job of pasture management and to encourage producers to implement pasture management strategies that maximize production per acre.

The deadline for applications is October 1, 2016. To download an application [click here](#).

OSMA photo contest 2016

Calling all sheep photographers! Enter OSMA's 2016 photo contest for your chance to win a grand prize of \$250, two top prizes of \$100 each or a crowd favourite prize of \$100. This contest is open to all Ontario residents. You do not have to be involved in the sheep, lamb or wool industries to participate.

Flock Shots - show off the best shots of your flock - working, resting, eating, whatever they might be doing. Flock shots must show at least 20 sheep.

The Faces of Ontario Sheep Farmers - we want to see who's running the show. Photos must show a producer(s) and their sheep.

Crowd Favourite - All sheep photos that don't quite fit a category. AGM attendees will have the chance to vote for their favourite.

Contest Rules:

1. Photographs will not be returned and all entries become property of OSMA to be used or reproduced at the discretion of OSMA (whenever possible, credit will be given to the photographer).
2. Entries must be submitted in the name of the person who took the photograph.
3. Only two (2) entries per photographer, per category will be accepted.
4. The judges' decision is final.

Submission guidelines:

Include the following information with each of your submissions:

- Title of photo
- Approximate location and date the photo was taken
- Photographer's name, mailing address, phone number and email address

****All photos must be submitted in a high-res format (at least 200 dpi)****

Please submit entries by mail or email to:

Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency
Attn: photo contest
130 Malcolm Rd
Guelph, ON N1K 1B1

general@ontariosheep.org with the subject line "Photo Contest 2016"

Deadline: Friday, October 7, 2016

An open letter to Ontario sheep farmers

Open Letter to the Sheep Farmers of Ontario,

Livestock guardian dogs can be a valuable asset for sheep producers. Their protective instincts serve well to keep their flocks safe from predators. However, these same traits can make them extremely unfit as pets, especially if the puppies are not well-socialized, or are sold to inexperienced people.

Unfortunately, dogs are not livestock. They cannot just be put on trucks and sent to market. Unwanted dogs end up in the hands of rescue groups or humane societies who have to spend scarce resources on attempting to rehome or, sadly, euthanizing aggressive dogs.

How this can be avoided:

1. Spay and neuter your livestock guardian dogs. Neutered dogs will be better focused on looking after their flocks. Bitches in season can attract predators rather than deter them, and intact males are prone to roaming.
2. If you must breed your dogs:
 - Socialization is critical and cannot be emphasized enough. Puppies must be handled constantly and by many different people from a very young age, and have no negative experiences.
 - Be honest about the dog's genetics. A crossbred dog is not a Great Pyrenees. The Livestock Pedigree Act is clear that a purebred animal is registered or registrable and this act does apply to dogs.
 - Temperament is important. An overly protective dog does not make a good house pet and is a liability.

- Be prepared to take dogs back. If you breed your dogs, it is your responsibility to ensure they go to appropriate homes. It should not be anyone else's job to pick up the pieces of irresponsible breeding.

C. Graham

President of the Great Pyrenees Rescue of Southern Ontario

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.

News release: FMC launching bridging the gap: step up to succession program to support farm families in transition

September 27, 2016 - Ottawa, ON - Farm Management Canada (FMC) has launched an enhanced version of its former Step Up mentorship program to help bridge the gap between generations of farmers to provide Canada's future farmers with the best chance for success.

Succession planning - also called transition planning, ensures farm business continuity: it is the only process that links one generation to future generations involved in the farm business, and addresses how the vision, goals and dreams of a farm will carry on.

"According to the recent study, **Making Dollars and Sense**, less than 1/3 of Canada's farmers have a succession plan, while close to 40% are in the succession stage of their farm business," says Heather Watson, Executive Director of Farm Management Canada. She goes on to note, "this signals not only a significant risk to the Canadian agricultural sector, but also an immense opportunity to promote and provide the information, tools and resources for farmers to improve their succession planning practices."

The Bridging the Gap: Step Up to Succession program is comprised of a series of Succession & Transition Planning workshops for farm families coupled with a Successor Development program, exclusively for young farmers.

FMC will be working with renowned farm family coach Elaine Froese and business management consultant Cedric MacLeod to help lead the program and coach participants throughout their journey.

In the true spirit of collaboration and partnership, Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers' Program, the Canadian Young Farmers' Forum and 4-H Canada are partnering with FMC to help ensure the program is a complete success.

For more information on the program, please visit Farm Management Canada's website.

About Farm Management Canada

A national umbrella for Canadian farm business management activity, Farm Management Canada is the only organization devoted exclusively to the development and delivery of advanced business management information, tools and resources to position Canada's farmers for success. FMC's programs and activities are made possible through support from generous sponsors and supporters.

For more information contact:**Heather Watson, Executive Director**

Farm Management Canada

300-250 City Centre Ave. Ottawa, (Ontario) K1R 6K7

Telephone: 1-888-232-3262 Fax: 1-800-270-8301

Email: heather.watson@fmc-gac.comwww.FMC-GAC.com

Celebrate Ontario Agriculture Week October 3 to 9

Ontario Agriculture Week starts next week and runs through Thanksgiving weekend. The purpose of this week is to celebrate Ontario farm families and the bounty of Ontario products that are available.

There are several ways to participate in this celebration:

- Add the hashtag #loveontfood to your social media posts (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram)
- Participate in the #loveontfood Twitter party – October 3 at 8pm. RSVP at www.loveontfood.ca
- Have conversations with people that may not know a lot about Ontario food. This could be in the grocery store, at the hockey arena or even while you're standing in line for coffee.
- Insert your idea here.

For more information, including access to graphics and resources, visit www.loveontfood.ca.

Farmers are invited to mark Ontario Agriculture Week with Soil Health and Conservation Strategy contribution

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs is in the process of generating an Agricultural Soil Health and Conservation Strategy in collaboration with partner organizations, and has invited the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association to contribute. The first step is the discussion paper called "Sustaining Ontario's Agricultural Soils: Towards a Shared Vision" [now available for comment](#).

The strategy takes aim at the apparent increasing risk of soil degradation in Ontario and the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association is encouraging farmers to mark Ontario Agriculture Week (October 3-9) in a positive way by contributing commentary on behalf of the farming community.

To see the full release [click here](#).

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.

October 4, 2016 Brighton, ON 6:30pm - 9:30pm	October 6, 2016 Powassan, ON 10:00am - 3:00pm
October 7, 2016 Verner, ON 10:00am - 3:00pm	October 13, 2016 * FRENCH Casselton, ON 10:00am - 3:00pm
November 1, 2016 Mount Forest, ON 10:00am - 3:00pm	November 2, 2016 Earlton, ON 10:00am - 3:00pm

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.

October 3 & 4	Advancing Women's Conference – Toronto. For more information visit www.advancingwomenconference.ca .
October 27 & 28	Ontario Sheep Convention – Nottawasaga Inn Resort and Conference Centre. For more information click here .
December 2	District 1 Christmas meeting 6:30pm Amy's Restaurant 285378 Centre Rd, Strathroy

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	