



The Messenger

OSMA and the Industry

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Deadline to submit material is the 20th of the month before. Please send all submissions to Meggy at mchan@ontariosheep.org, or call 519-836-0043 ex. 29 with any questions.

Out and About: February Recap

Wonder what OSMA gets up to in a month? Here are the highlights of where we were representing you!

Feb 1 – Ontario Agricultural Sustainability Coalition meeting

Feb 2 – Ontario AgriFood Challenge meeting

Feb 4 – Ontario Federation of Agriculture meeting

Feb 8 – Ontario Agricultural Commodity Council meeting

Feb 17 – Meeting with Ontario Farm Products

Feb 18 – Ontario Agricultural Sustainability Coalition RMP Lobby Day

Feb 19 – Ontario Livestock and Poultry Council members meeting

Feb 22 – Federation des Producteurs d'Agneaux et Moutons du Quebec meeting

Feb 23-25 – Canadian Federation of Agriculture AGM, President's Reception and Board meeting

Feb 25 – Pollinator Health meeting

Promote Local Food at “Taste of Woolwich”

Join us April 18th from 5-8pm at Woodside Bible Fellowship (200 Barnswallow Dr., Elmira) for Woolwich Healthy Communities', 10th annual, **“Taste of Woolwich”** - a family based event created to promote local farmers and develop local food partnerships. It includes workshops and food demonstrations. This popular event is a unique opportunity to promote your business to people who are interested in buying local food. We also encourage you to explore partnerships with our local farmers.

You are invited to showcase your food business by donating local food samples or setting up a display **free of charge**. You may sell plants, fresh produce, or food prepared in a **Public Health certified kitchen only**. This year, “A Taste of Woolwich” will not take place in a Public Health certified facility. If you need a facility to prepare your food in – let Carol or Barb know. Please fill in both the registration form and the special event form as indicated below. Return both forms in the prepaid envelope or by e-mail to cpopovic@regionofwaterloo.ca. Electricity will only be available to people requiring it to heat food already prepared at a Public Health certified site.

For more information see the flyer [here](#) or call Carol 519-575-4400 ext. 5336 or Barb 519-669-3961

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OSMA Member Exclusive Offer at TSC Stores – March ONLY!




OSMA MEMBER EXCLUSIVE MARCH OFFER

OFFER VALID MARCH 1 TO 31, 2016 ONLY

30% OFF

ALL RUBBER BOOTS

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Incredible News!
 Save 30% off all regular priced rubber boots as your OSMA Member Exclusive March Offer!
 To enjoy this special offer, simply show your card at the register when you visit TSC Stores before March 31, 2016.
*Offer applies to select in stock, regular priced items only. Excludes sale priced items, clearance priced items, hot buys, & gift cards. Offer not applicable to wholesale purchases. If a product is featured at a lower price in store, the lower price will apply. Card cannot be combined with any other offer or discount. Card is not redeemable for cash and has no cash value. Customer must show their OSMA Member Bonus Card to receive offer.

REMEMBER TO USE YOUR EXCLUSIVE OSMA MEMBER BONUS CARD AT TSC STORES EVERYDAY!

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SELECT REGULAR PRICED ITEMS AT TSC STORES* WHEN YOU SHOW YOUR OSMA MEMBER BONUS CARD!





TSC Country JOIN NOW! VISIT WWW.TSCSTORES.COM FOR DETAILS.

Help Restore Your Watershed with the Ontario Community Environment Fund

Ontario uses penalties collected from environmental violations to fund community projects that restore and protect the environment.

Not-for-profit organizations, First Nations and Métis communities, municipalities, schools, colleges, universities, and conservation authorities can get [government grants](#) for local projects in their watersheds.

This year, \$325,000 from the Ontario Community Environment Fund (OCEF) will be shared among 19 watersheds across the province where environmental penalties were collected.

Past projects have successfully restored riverbanks by planting native trees and plants, helped protect the Great Lakes from invasive species, improved fish and wildlife habitat, and helped improve air quality and fight climate change in communities across Ontario.

The deadline to submit an application is March 31, 2016.

For more information about an OCEF grant in your community, please email ocef@ontario.ca or call the Public Information Centre:

1-416-325-4000

1-800-565-4923

1-416-326-9236

1-800-515-2759

Localize: A New Way for You to Promote Your Ontario Product in Grocery Stores

Localize was born from one simple question: Where does our food come from?

Since 2011, Localize has been helping producers tell the story behind their food. We gather geographic and socially-relevant data (e.g. location of ownership, production, and origin of ingredients) about producers, like yourself, and share it with shoppers on interactive shelf labels. Our shelf labels highlight your products as local, helping your products stand out from other brands.

Our mission is to help local producers get noticed in retailers. Through the Localize program, we allow you to tell your story to shoppers who want to support their local community. Using a smartphone, shoppers can scan our shelf labels and access the online profile you have created about your business. Localize labels also provide a competitive advantage for your products as they are proven to increase sales by nearly 10 per cent.



As a food producer, getting involved is easy!

1. Sign up for a free Localize profile at: <http://www.localizeyourfood.com/food-producers>
2. Enter information about your business and products.
3. We will print your shelf labels at participating grocery stores.

Localize is partnered with over 300 grocery stores across Canada and we have some big partnerships on the way in Ontario. If you are not selling to retailers we currently work with, no problem! Through our Sourcing Portal, your products will be showcased to grocers looking to carry more local products. The Sourcing Portal allows grocers to contact you directly. Join Localize and help increase access to local food throughout Ontario!

OASC Hosts Another Successful MPP Reception and RMP Lobby Day at Queen’s Park

On Feb 18, OSMA representatives, as well as representatives from fellow Ontario Agriculture Sustainability Coalition member organizations, gathered at Queen’s Park in Toronto to host a luncheon and lobby day for Ontario MPPs to advocate for increased contributions from the Ontario Government to the Risk Management Program (RMP). Throughout the day, OASC representatives had meetings with MPPs from all parties to discuss the importance of RMP. A special luncheon was also served for the MPPs, which showcased products from the various commodity groups.

In recognition of their support for Ontario’s Agriculture sector, MPPs who participated in the summer farm tours in 2015 were each presented with a certificate. OASC is lobbying the Ontario

Government, on behalf of farmers, to begin raising its maximum potential contribution in the RMP from \$100 million to \$175 million over the next three years, with the first \$25 million increase coming in the 2016 Budget. OASC has submitted a formal request and has also made a presentation to the Finance Committee in order to strengthen the message to the Government. The Ontario Budget is set to be released by Minister Sousa on Feb 25, 2016.



From L-R: Rob Scott (OSMA), Erin MacDuff (VFO), Amy Cronin (ON Pork), MPP Marie-France Lalonde, Marcus Haerle (GFO), Jenn MacTavish (OSMA), Ken Ovington (ON Pork)

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OSMA Partnering with Culinary Schools to Host 1st Ontario Lamb Recipe Challenge

Over the last few months, OSMA has been working with the Culinary Programs at Conestoga, Durham and Fleming Colleges to host the first ever Ontario Lamb Recipe Challenge. The goal of the challenge is for each student to create an original recipe featuring Ontario Lamb that can be prepped and cooked in 40 minutes or less, using only tools that would be found in an everyday kitchen. OSMA supplied each school with two fresh lamb carcasses for the students to work with for recipe development and to gain practical experience in butchery. Each school submitted their top 3 recipes, and OSMA staff and board members will have the task of choosing the 3 finalists by Friday March 4th. The final cook-off will be held Saturday March 19th at Conestoga College in Kitchener from 11am – 3pm.

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.

- Feb 25 **Western Ontario Lamb Producers Meeting:** Mentoring Fellow Lamb Producers – Sandi Brock will be the guest speaker. The meeting will be at 7:30pm at the Bluevale Community Hall in Bluevale, ON.
- Mar 1 **Let's Shoot the Bull on Farming:** Join the Haliburton County Farmers Association for an evening of sharing and learning about all things farming. There will be 15 minute talks by guest speakers followed by a chance to chat with them one-one-one. OMAFRA specialists will also be at the event. Tuesday Mar 1, 7 pm at SG Nesbitt Community Centre, Minden.
- Mar 2 **District 4 Meeting:** Sheep Poop and Parasites - 7:00 pm at Mohawk College. Dr. Sherry Smith will be teaching participants to examine and identify sheep parasites using a microscope. Attendance will be limited to 25 participants. Details to follow.
- Mar 2-3 **East Central Farm Show:** Wednesday Mar 2, 9:30am -9pm, Thursday Mar 3, 9:30am-4pm. Commonwell Exhibition Building, Lindsay Fairgrounds, 354 Angeline St., Lindsay, ON.
- Mar 3 **OSMA Board Meeting**
- Mar 3-4 **Central Ontario Ag Conference:** Thurs – Livestock Day, Fri – Crops/Farm Fresh/Organic/Equine Day. Automotive Building, Georgian College, Barrie Campus. For more information contact Connie Brown at 705-726-9300 ext. 1224 or at connie@simcoecountyfa.org <http://www.centralontarioagconference.ca/>
- Mar 5 **District 1 Breakfast Connections:** Come out for an OSMA supported DVD titled “Don’t Judge a Book by its Cover” and meet fellow sheep producers. Meeting will be held Saturday Mar 5, 9:30am-11:30am at the St. Thomas Public Library, Carnegie Room. Coffee and muffins will be provided. For more information contact Dave DeKay at 519-666-0626.
- Mar 5 **District 10 Sheep Day:** 9:30 am registration, \$30 includes lunch. Knights of Columbus Hall, 5 rue Forget, Embrun, ON. For more details contact info@hawkhillfarm.ca 613-527-1897 <http://goo.gl/tqsysG>
- Mar 8 **District 3 Meeting: Lambing 101** – Guest speaker will be Dr. Charlotte Winder. Meeting will be at 7 pm at Tavistock Grace United Church
- Mar 12 **District 7 Car Tour:** We will be visiting two large flock operators using confinement systems in the Port Perry and Blackstock area. For biosecurity reasons, please wear clean clothes and shoes. For more information contact Kevin Hutchings at 905-955-2388 or see event details at www.ontariosheep.org
- Mar 12 **North Wellington Co-op Sheep Day:** North Wellington Co-op is hosting their annual sheep day at the Mount Forest and District Sports Complex. Please RSVP by March 7th by phone at 519-323-1271 or by email at mountforest@northwellington.ca For full event details check out the calendar at www.ontariosheep.org
- Mar 22 **District 5 and 2 Joint Meeting:** This meeting will feature an Account Manager from TD to discuss Finances on the Sheep Farm. 7pm at the Holstein Optimist Hall. For more details contact Romy Schill at 519-669-4146 or Don Lewis at 519-323-7765

- Mar 24 **District 8 Meeting:** Join fellow sheep producers from District 8 for an evening learning about sheep health from Dr. John Hancock. Meeting will be 7pm at the Napanee District Secondary School, Rm A1. For more information, contact Michelle Voskamp at 613-848-8972 or secretary@osmadistrict8.ca
- April 2 **District 1 Breakfast Connections:** The meeting is to be held on Saturday April 2, between 9.30-11.30am @ the Lambton OPP board room. The address is 4224 Oil Heritage Rd., Petrolia. Come for a DVD presentation on “Improving your Management Skills”. We will supply coffee and muffins. This meeting is limited to 15 producers. Please reserve your spot by calling (519 666 0626) or e-mailing (dmdekay@isp.ca) Dave DeKay.
- April 9 **District 5 Car Tour:** Save the date, more details to come!
- April 12 **District 3 Meeting:** The meeting will be held at 7 pm at Brown’s School in Medina and will cover Pasture and Predation. Stay tuned for more details!
- April 15 **District 2 Lamb Banquet:** Save the date, more details to come!
- April 21 **OSMA Board Meeting**

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 area

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

Grey Bruce Sheep Management Club

Location: Grey Gables in Markdale

Ontario Suffolk Sheep Association

www.facebook.com/ontariosuffolk

DISTRICT	CONTACT	INFORMATION
Dist 1	Dave DeKay at 519-666-0626 or dmdekay@isp.ca	http://osma_district_1.tripod.com/
Dist 2	Matt Zehr at 519-363-2029 zehr.matt@gmail.com	
Dist 3	Sandi Brock at 519-263-2325 brocksandi@hotmail.com	

Dist 4	Jay Mycroft at jay.mycroft@xplornet.com or 905-957-1114	District 4 Meeting District 4 meetings tentatively to be held the 3 rd Wed. of the month at 7:30 at the Ancaster Fairgrounds (630 Trinity Road, Ancaster).
Dist 5	Dianne Orr at 519-928-5302 or orr7@sympatico.ca	Check out the District 5 Facebook Page!
Dist 6	Karen Harvey at 905-729-3196 or pkharvey@zing-net.ca	
Dist 7	Judy Dening at 705-324-3453 or theshepherds gate@xplornet.com	
Dist 8	Michelle Voskamp at 613-848-8972 or secretary@osmadistrict8.ca	Our monthly meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of every month at 7 pm at Napanee High School, Napanee. For more information visit: www.osmadistrict8.ca/
Dist 9	Tyler Armstrong at 613-433-8255 or pinnaclehaven@gmail.com	
Dist 10	Christine Power at 613-686-1892 or christine.power@ic.gc.ca	Check out our Facebook website page: https://www.facebook.com/OSMAD10
Dist 11	Debra Garner at 705-563-2761 or bill.debgarner@gmail.com	