

The Messenger

OSMA and the Industry

Contents

Out and About: July Recap	. 2
5 th Annual Canadian Eastern Sheep Shearing Competition	
Western ON Lamb Producers Fall Bus Tour	
APHIS Proposes New Rules for the Importation of Sheep and Goats	. 4
Grassland Stewardship Program – Intake 2 Now Open	. 4
Livestock Grazing Workshops with Sarah Flack for Ontario Farmers	
District AGM Dates	. 5
Upcoming Events	. 6
Other Organizations and Reference Information	

Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency

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Please send all submissions to Meggy at mchan@ontariosheep.org, or call 519-836-0043 ex. 29 with any questions.

Out and About: July Recap

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

July 19 – Parasite project meeting

July 20-22 – Canadian Federation of Agriculture meeting

July 21 – Sheep Value Chain Round Table Executive Steering Committee meeting

5th Annual Canadian Eastern Sheep Shearing Competition

Shearers from all parts of the world sharpened their blades to compete in the 5th Annual Canadian Eastern Sheep Shearing Competition held at the Holstein Rodeo. Holstein Rodeo Expo, now privately owned by A Bar K Ranch and Lewis Land and Stock, was an exciting place to be July 1-3, 2016.

The competition has now become international, attracting competitors from Australia, United States, United Kingdom, Quebec and Ontario. On Friday at the shearing clinic, world class shearing champions, Don Metheral, from Creemore, Ontario and Mike Pora from Australia, offered instruction to novice shearers. Many enthusiastic shearers entered the Speed Shearing event on Friday evening. Local shearer,



Competitors at the Canadian Eastern Shearing Competition

Alan Capel won the Intermediate Division with Alex Moser from United States taking first place in the Open Pro Division. On Saturday, visitors packed the tent to watch a total of twenty shearers, 10 in the Intermediate Division and 10 in the Open Pro Class, compete for a purse of over \$7000.00. Intermediate Finals sheared eight sheep each; Paul Astin topped the score with a time of 12:13 minutes, Jean-Michael Popik came second with a time of 12:55 minutes and William Rousseau took third with a time of 13:26 minutes. Pro Finals sheared 12 sheep each with Alex Moser (USA), taking the lead score with a time of 11:32 minutes, Don Metheral (ON, Canada) with a time of 12:26 minutes and Mike Pora from Australia with a time of 13:20 minutes.

The top four shearers of the Intermediate Division: Paul Austin, Jean-Michael Popik, William Rousseau and Alan Capel, were each presented with sets of shearer blades, compliments of our sponsor Heiniger.

We salute Australian Mike Pora who went on to become the Grand Champion at the Calgary Stampede winning, \$2500.00.

We thank our many sponsors and welcome new sponsors as we look forward to the 6^{th} Canadian Eastern Sheep Shearing Competition in 2017.

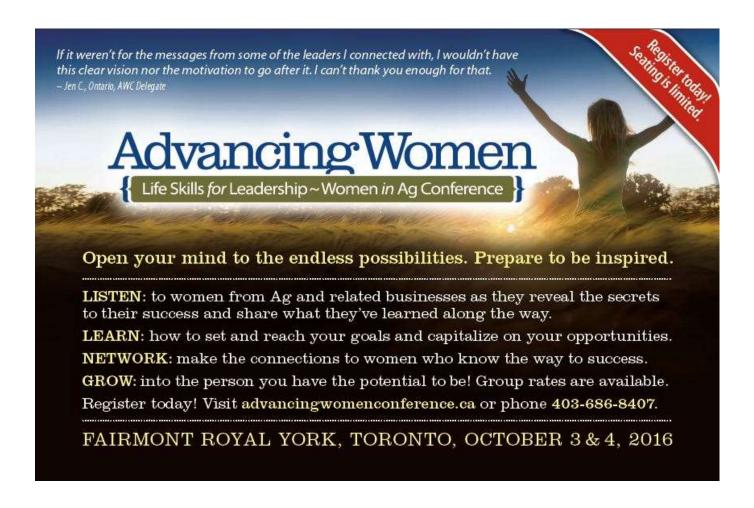
Western ON Lamb Producers Fall Bus Tour

Western Ontario Lamb Producers Association has a trip planned to Quebec Sept 9 -11, 2016.

We have space available for 6 more couples to join our group.

This is an exciting tour visiting the farms of Jeff DeJong, Sylvain Blanchette and Ferme Ovimax, and Colleen Acres. Our big visit is to see the CEPOQ in La Pocetiere, Quebec to visit the research and semen collection station there.

We have an extension from the hotel to book rooms, email <u>l.sernewein@wightman.ca</u> if you are interested in joining us or for more information!



APHIS Proposes New Rules for the Importation of Sheep and

Goats

The US Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) publishes proposed rule changes for the importation of sheep, goats, and certain other ruminants into the US from Canada.

"The US Border has been closed to (small ruminant) breeding stock for over a decade" says Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF) Chairman Phil Kolodychuk, "and this proposed rule marks the first steps in reestablishing access to the US market".

The proposed rule does not completely alleviate import restrictions however, but does recommend:

• "the importer would have to provide documentation showing that the animals have reached and maintained certified status in a scrapie flock certification program that has been evaluated and approved by the Administrator".

Where Certified Status is defined as:

• "a flock that has met the requirements equivalent to the Export Certified status of the U.S. Scrapie Flock Certification Program while participating in a program under the supervision of the national veterinary authority of the region of origin".

The Canadian Sheep Federation, in consultation with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, maintains the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program (VSFCP) for Canadian producers. By definition and design, the VSFCP allows producers to achieve APHIS's definition of Certified Status. The CSF has worked tirelessly at keeping the VSFCP in place for producers knowing that one day it would deliver on the market access capabilities that it was built for.

For a more detailed look at the proposed rule, visit the US Federal Registrar at https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/07/18/2016-16816/importation-of-sheep-goats-andcertain-other-ruminants#h-8

The closing date for comments on the proposed rule is September 16, 2016.

Grassland Stewardship Program - Intake 2 Now Open

The Grassland Stewardship Program (GSP), a new cost-share program launched this summer for Ontario farmers, is accepting applications to its second intake from now until August 15th, 2016. The Grassland Stewardship Program offers financial support for farmers who wish to implement select best management practices to improve grassland habitat — hayfield and pasture — and benefit bobolink and other grassland birds on their farm. Supported best management practices include:

- Control of encroaching trees and shrubs through mowing
- Pasture rejuvenation
- Incorporation of delayed grazing into rotational grazing systems
- Native grassland restoration
- Forage harvest management (delayed having) No longer available in 2016, anticipated for 2017.

A new aspect of this program is Conservation Agreements between funded producers and Environment and Climate Change Canada, signed for up to three years. These agreements aim to provide habitat protection for sensitive grassland birds while providing producers a funding guarantee for multi-year projects.

For more information or to apply, visit the OSCIA website at www.ontariosoilcrop.org/oscia-programs/sarpal/gsp or contact Laura Van Vliet at (226) 706-8668 or SARPAL@ontariosoilcrop.org.

Funding for GSP is provided through Species at Risk Partnerships on Agricultural Lands (SARPAL), an Environment and Climate Change Canada initiative.

Livestock Grazing Workshops with Sarah Flack for Ontario Farmers

Vermont grazing expert Sarah Flack to host workshops for Ontario farmers in Dundalk and Kingston

From August 1st to August 4th 2016, grazing specialist Sarah Flack from Vermont will host workshops at Ventry Hill Farm in Dundalk and at Doublejay Farms in Gananoque, for farmers who graze livestock. Sarah Flack is an internationally-known grazing consultant, providing practical information on grass-based livestock production to farmers. She specializes in cattle (dairy and beef) as well as other ruminants.

These events are a collaboration between the Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario and four local chapters of the National Farmers Union Ontario (NFU): Local 316 - Frontenac, Lennox-Addington; Local 340 - Wellington, Waterloo; Local 344 - Grey; and Local 347 - Simcoe, Dufferin. Flack will host two workshops in Dundalk on August 1st and 2nd, one workshop in Kingston on August 3rd, and a final full-day workshop on Howe Island in Gananaque on August 4th. These workshops are open to the public. Registration is available at: https://efao.ca/upcoming-events/?id=163

Ali English, Executive Director of the Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario, says that "pasturing livestock has so many benefits - for animals, farmers, consumers, and the environment. We're thrilled to help bring Sarah Flack to Ontario with the hope that her workshops will help farmers as they continue to explore how best to pasture livestock. This is especially important in a drought year, when so many pastures are struggling."

From troubleshooting common pasture management pitfalls to multi-species grazing and full-day grazing schools, the workshops Flack is offering will be broad in scope, offering ideas and perspectives for any farmer who pastures livestock. Through her work, Flack tries to empower farmers to create their own individualized management systems that can work successfully for them, their farm and their family goals.

District AGM Dates

District 1: Sept. 1, 2016 – 7:30 pm, Amy's Restaurant 28537 Centre Rd, Strathroy, ON N7G 3H6 http://goo.gl/kzkKe5

District 2: Sept. 15, 2016 – time and location to be determined.

District 3: Sept. 6, 2016 – time and location to be determined.

District 4: TBD

District 5: Sept. 2, 2016 – 7 pm, OMAFRA Boardroom, 6484 Wellington Rd 7, Unit 10, Elora, ON N0B 1S0 http://goo.gl/3nlP6x

District 6: TBD

District 7: TBD

District 8: TBD

District 9: TBD

District 10: September 7, 2016 – 7:30 pm, Grenville Mutual Boardroom, Kemptville, ON

http://goo.gl/WipTDM

District 11: TBD

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.

- July 30 **Parasite Workshop:** District 9 is hosting a course led by Laurie Maus on how to do fecal testing and scoring to determine parasite load. This is a free session and a great learning opportunity! Saturday July 30th, 1 pm. Pinnacle Haven Farm 865 Garden of Eden Rd. Renfrew, ON. RSVP to <u>pinnaclehaven@gmail.com</u> or 613-433-8255.
- Aug 10-14**Canadian National Sheepdog Championships:** to be held in Woodville, ON. For more information visit http://www.ontariobordercollieclub.com/obcc-home
- Aug 13 Rideau Focus 2016: Hosted at Breezy Ridge Farm, Georgina, ON. http://goo.gl/Hwt7gx
- Aug 17 **OSMA Summer Board Meeting:** hosted by Districts 2 & 5
- Sept 9-11 **WOLPA Fall Bus Tour:** for info or to register, contact Lisa at lisernewein@wightman.ca or 519-392-8624 http://goo.gl/Zh6MTz
- Sept 13-15 Canada's Outdoor Farm Show: http://www.outdoorfarmshow.com/
- Sept 27-19 **Shearing School for Beginners**: for info or to register, contact Peter Kudelka at peter_kudelka@sympatico.ca or 519-348-4266 http://goo.gl/1cvVMS

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 pdc-raig@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
Dist 1	Dave DeKay at 519-666-0626 or	http://osma_district_1.tripod.com/
	dmdekay@isp.ca	
Dist 2	Matt Zehr at 519-363-2029	
	zehr.matt@gmail.com	
Dist 3	Sandi Brock at 519-263-2325	<u>District 3 Facebook Page</u>
	brocksandi@hotmail.com	
Dist 4	Jay Mycroft at 905-957-1114 or	Meetings tentatively to be held the 3 rd Wed. of the month at
	jay.mycroft@xplornet.com	7:30 at Ancaster Fairgrounds (630 Trinity Rd, 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	
	theshepherdsgate@xplornet.com	
Dist 8	Michelle Voskamp at 613-848-8972 or	Meetings are normally held on the 3 rd Thurs of every month
	secretary@osmadistrict8.ca	at 7 pm at Napanee High School. <u>District 8 Facebook Page</u>
Dist 9	Tyler Armstrong at 613-433-8255 or	
	pinnaclehaven@gmail.com	
Dist 10	Christine Power at 613-686-1892 or	Check out our Facebook page!
	christine.power@ic.gc.ca	
Dist 11	Debra Garner at 705-563-2761 or	
	bill.debgarner@gmail.com	