

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

For immediate release

October 31, 2016 (Guelph, ON) – 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.

The Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency (OSMA) is a producer organization representing all aspects of the sheep industry in Ontario. Established in 1985 under the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Act, OSMA's mission is to enhance producer returns and provide consumers with premium lamb and sheep products by encouraging Ontario sheep producers to provide quality, year-round product through advocacy, industry capacity, research and market development. For more information visit www.OntarioSheep.org.

-30-

For more information:

Heather Hargrave, Communications Coordinator

Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency

Office: (519) 836-0043 x29

hhargrave@ontariosheep.org