



Budget Provides For Producer Support

OSMA is very pleased to see that the Ontario Budget announced yesterday by Finance Minister Dwight Duncan contains provision for support for farmers producing food in commodities with a business risk management plan.

“For the past fifteen months OSMA has worked with seven other organizations to unite for the common good to design plans and to seek government support and yesterday’s budget made the effort worth all the work. It should give producers in industries with depressed returns hope for a more stable and profitable future.” Those are the words of Markus Wand, Past OSMA Chair and leader of OSMA’s team working with its Ontario Agriculture Sustainability Coalition partners.

“Our appreciation goes to the Premier, Minister of Agriculture and Food, Minister of Finance as well as the Cabinet for the plans announced yesterday in the budget for supporting Risk Management Programs. It is hoped that the next Parliament of Canada will add its support so that Ontario farmers can have a fully funded plan within the next year” commented OSMA Chair Chris Kennedy.

OSMA, the commodity organization representing the Ontario sheep industry, will be working over the next few months with its OASC partners and the Ontario Government to put in place the details for these much needed programs. The OSMA Board priorities at this time include implementing programs and service so producers, many newly into sheep farming, can obtain the profit margins necessary to grow the volume of high quality lamb coming to market in Ontario.

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