

**Golden Ontario Products Found Guilty
At Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency Hearing**

For immediate release

March 9, 2015 (Guelph, Ontario) – In a Hearing convened by the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency (OSMA), Golden Ontario Products, located at 7392 Hwy 89, Mount Forest, Ontario, was convicted of Failing to Assess and Remit Required Licence Fees in the amount of \$9,235 (including interest) since March 2013. After receiving notice on February 5, 2015, the defendant failed to appear at the hearing. Golden Ontario Products was ordered to pay outstanding Licence Fees. The failure of Golden Ontario Products to meet the terms set out by the Hearing for payment of the outstanding Licence Fees, will result in the suspension of its OSMA Sheep Slaughter Licence.

“While the vast majority of fees are collected with the full co-operation of those responsible for remitting licence fees, any non-compliance cannot be tolerated. OSMA has the responsibility to make sure that licence fees are being fully and fairly collected and remitted on behalf of producers to support market place integrity,” said Dennis Fischer, Chairman of OSMA, went on to add that OSMA’s authority to hold such hearings comes the Farm Products Marketing Act, which the organization is regulated under.

The Hearing was conducted under the authority of the Farm Products Marketing Act which permits the Board of Directors of OSMA to sit as a hearing committee to hear cases of non-compliance with the Farm Products Marketing Act, or of a Regulation, Direction or Order of the Agency. The hearing was convened under the provisions of the Statutory Powers Procedures Act (R.S.O. 1990) and Chapter S.22. Section 7 of the Act provides that it may proceed if there is a failure to appear.

Golden Ontario Products failed to pay Licence Fees owed by them for the fees required to be collected on the private purchase, or slaughter of sheep or lamb in their premises since March 2013. They are required by legislation to collect said fees from persons selling or having their product custom-slaughtered, and to remit the Fees to the OSMA within specified time limits.

Licence fees are collected to fund the Agency, whose mandate is to enhance producer returns and provide consumers with safe, premium lamb and related products.