

# *The Monthly Messenger*

*October 2013*

Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency, 130 Malcolm Road, Guelph, ON, N1K 1B1

www.ontariosheep.org Tel: 519-836-0043

## **Contents**

Advanced Farm Management Program Expanding for 2013/14 .....	2
Water's Edge Transformation Program (WET) Released to Lake Simcoe Watershed Farmers .....	3
Farmers Encouraged To Proactively Reduce Known Risk To Pollinators Using Integrated Pest Management ...	4
More Funding Available for Species at Risk Farm Incentive Program (SARFIP) Species at Risk Benefit from Farmer's Improvements to Agricultural Land .....	4
Harvesting Corn Silage at the Right Moisture .....	6
Frost Damaged Corn Silage .....	8
Sheep Shearing School 2013 .....	11
Upcoming Events.....	12
Open House at University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus .....	12
November 2013 Sheep Seminars .....	13
Dairy Sheep Symposium.....	14
2014 Classic - Save the Date .....	14
General Interest.....	14
New Sheep Nutrition Training Course .....	14
Resources .....	14
Growing Forward 2.....	14
GF 2 Workshops - Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) .....	15
National Sheep On-Farm Biosecurity Standards .....	15
Controlled Grazing Guidelines .....	15
Agribusiness E Campus .....	15
Farm Credit Canada .....	15
OMAF/MRA Resource Library .....	15
Predation and Wildlife Damage.....	15
AGPAL .....	16
Register for a Premises Identification Number.....	16
District Information .....	16
OSMA Reaching Out.....	18
OSMA Market App.....	18
Email or Address Changes:.....	18
Pass On The Messenger:.....	18
OSMA Programs.....	19
Maedi Visna .....	19
Ontario Sheep Health Program .....	19

## Advanced Farm Management Program Expanding for 2013/14

For Immediate Release

Program to be offered at three Ontario locations beginning late November. Deadline for farmer applications is November 1.

GUELPH, September 26, 2013 - The Advanced Farm Management Program (AFMP) will kick off its second year in late November at three locations across Ontario.

AFMP provides a unique combination of advanced farm business management training and a practical approach that farmers can apply immediately to their farm. In its first year, 34 Ontario farmers completed the program, which includes six intensive one-day training sessions over a five-month period. For the upcoming year, the sessions are scheduled to run from November 2013 to March 2014.

"The program is a good, quick, easy way to polish your management skills," says Listowel, Ontario farmer Brent Royce who participated in the first year of AFMP. "The program really gives us a chance to pull in different ideas and perspectives and you learn as much from the other people there as you do from the instructors and the course itself."

"Year One was well received and we're really excited to be able to expand the program to three sessions for 2013/14," says Ryan Koeslag, executive director of the Agricultural Management Institute, which will again work with its program recruitment partner Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA).

For 2013/14, AFMP participants can attend the program at one of three different locations across the province - Chatham, Guelph and North Gower in eastern Ontario.

"The AFMP is designed to help you think strategically about your business, build a strong Management Action Plan, and provide practical knowledge and insights needed to improve the everyday management of your operation," says Rob Hannam, president of Synthesis Agri-Food Network and program facilitator. Hannam and Michael Bossy, president and founder of Bossy Nagy Geoffrey Group chartered accountants, will facilitate AFMP sessions.

More information on AFMP locations, session dates and curriculum can be found at [www.advancedfarmmanagement.ca](http://www.advancedfarmmanagement.ca).

Farmers who have completed the Growing Your Farm Profits (GYFP) program, or those who have accumulated management experience are encouraged to enroll. AFMP tuition is \$2,400 and farmers may be eligible for a cost share rebate of 50 percent of the tuition under Growing Forward 2.

Deadline for application is November 1, 2013. Application forms can be downloaded at [www.advancedfarmmanagement.ca](http://www.advancedfarmmanagement.ca). Further questions on registration can be directed to John Laidlaw of OSCIA at 519-826-4218 or [jlaidlaw@ontariosoilcrop.org](mailto:jlaidlaw@ontariosoilcrop.org).

For more information:

Ryan Koeslag  
Agricultural Management Institute  
120 Research Lane, Suite 200  
Guelph, Ontario N1G 0B4  
Office: 519-822-6618  
Fax: 519-821-7361  
[ryan@takeanewapproach.ca](mailto:ryan@takeanewapproach.ca)

The Agricultural Management Institute is funded by Growing Forward 2, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

## Water's Edge Transformation Program (WET) Released to Lake Simcoe

### Watershed Farmers

Media Release, September 20 2013

Prepared by Katie Duncan for the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association

The Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) is pleased to announce the Water's Edge Transformation Program (WET), funded by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food (OMAF). This two-year program, extending into the 2014 cropping season, is available to farm businesses in the Lake Simcoe watershed interested in adopting Best Management Practices (BMPs) in riparian areas that reduce nutrient risks to freshwater resources.

Many land use activities can impact Lake Simcoe's delicate ecosystem. The Lake Simcoe Protection Plan was developed to coordinate efforts focused on protecting the lake and has helped to bring attention to the issues and launch initiatives that local landowners, business and governments across the watershed can rally behind. Agriculture has an essential role to play in helping to strengthen the health of this vital lake.

"Through WET farm businesses are encouraged to address vulnerabilities on the farm that will reduce threats to water quality while supporting and enhancing existing farm activities," Christine Schmalz, OSCIA's Senior Environmental Program Coordinator says.

WET offers cost-share funding for a number of key BMPs that aim to bolster watershed health. At the request of the farmer and through an arrangement struck between OSCIA and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA), a technical specialist will visit the farm property and provide ideas and recommendations for improved performance of the riparian area. Eligible BMPs include installing eaves troughs on barns to divert clean water away from livestock areas, fencing off watercourses to prevent livestock access, planting trees and shrubs to form a riparian buffer, and many more.

WET is not a first come, first serve program and the application process is entirely online. Once the chosen BMPs are identified through consultation with LSRCA, the farmer determines the level of funding necessary to complete their project. This competitive-bid structure allows for allocation of funds based on the project's environmental impact, and gives farm businesses the opportunity to tell OSCIA how much funding they need to reasonably complete the proposed activity.

“Incentive programs like WET are important for farmers,” Henry Denotter, President of OSCIA, says. “They help ease the financial burden of adopting stewardship practices on private landscapes, which offer benefits for the broader community. The interest in programs available through OSCIA over the past several years shows the willingness of Ontario farmers to invest in these activities.”

To be eligible for the program, the farm business must be located alongside a watercourse, pond, lake, or wetland in the Lake Simcoe Watershed, have a valid Farm Business Registration Number (FBRN) and have completed a current Third or Fourth Edition Environmental Farm Plan.

For more information, interested farm businesses are encouraged to visit the OSCIA website at [www.ontariosoilcrop.org/en/programs/wet.htm](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/en/programs/wet.htm) to download a brochure and learn about the application process or call 519-824-4214. For further resources about the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, please visit: [www.ene.gov.on.ca/environment/en/resources/STD01\\_076301.html](http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/environment/en/resources/STD01_076301.html)

## Farmers Encouraged To Proactively Reduce Known Risk To Pollinators Using Integrated Pest Management

October 7, 2013

Non-Insecticide Treated Corn And Soybean Seed Available

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Grain Farmers of Ontario and the Canadian Seed Trade Association are encouraging farmers to take proactive steps to protect pollinators during the 2014 planting season. Seed treatments that include neonicotinoids are an important tool for protecting seedlings, but as with other inputs, we encourage farmers to use these only when needed.

The Canadian Seed Trade Association and Grain Farmers of Ontario have worked together to encourage seed companies to offer non-insecticide treated seed for a wider range of corn and soybean varieties to producers as the next planting season approaches. Seed dealers can support farmers in making appropriate seed treatment decisions based on farmers’ risk factors. With the deadline for ordering non-insecticide treated seed fast approaching, farmers are encouraged to: understand their insect risk before ordering seed; where the insect risk is minimal, consider using seed treated with fungicide only; be aware of post-emergent treatment options for pests in case treatment for insect control is necessary; ask their seed dealer for help in determining seed treatment options; visit [www.ontario.ca/bihl](http://www.ontario.ca/bihl) for Best Management Practices, and for more information to minimize the potential risk to bees.

Pollinators play an important role in maintaining a healthy and productive agri-food sector. Bee health is complex, with many variables affecting bee and pollinator well-being including pests, diseases, nutrition, climate and pesticides.

One step farmers can take to reduce the risk to pollinators during the 2014 planting season is to consider integrated pest management options and order non-insecticide treated seed when insect risk is minimal.

## More Funding Available for Species at Risk Farm Incentive Program (SARFIP) Species at Risk Benefit from Farmer’s Improvements to Agricultural Land

For immediate release

July 31, 2013

Guelph, ON -- The Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) is happy to announce that the Species at Risk Farm Incentive Program (SARFIP) is back for 2013 with renewed funding from Environment Canada and the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Farmers will be able to access cost-share funding for on-farm projects that benefit Ontario's species at risk. Delivered by OSCIA, the program aims to help farmers adopt Best Management Practices (BMP) to enhance the farm operation, while supporting local species at risk, improving croplands, wetlands, woodlands and riparian areas.

To be eligible to participate in SARFIP, Ontario farm businesses must have a completed Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) and have filed a Growing Forward 2 program enrolment form with OSCIA. Candidates can then select eligible BMP categories from the SARFIP list that relate to an action identified in their farm's EFP Action Plan.

“SARFIP is about seeing the EFP in action and knowing that it's about more than just having a plan, but putting the wheels in motion to see that plan through,” Harold Rudy, Executive Director of OSCIA says. “The level of interest SARFIP has received from the farming community in previous years speaks to farm businesses' interests in improving their operations and strengthening wildlife habitat, including addressing the needs of species at risk. Farmers participating in these stewardship programs are contributing significant dollars from their own pocket to support these efforts.”

This year SARFIP offers three different levels of cost-share. Level one is for general habitat conservation, and is available to all eligible farmers, province wide. Level two asks farmers to think about species at risk a little more, and do some investigation to find out if their operation is located in an area that's critical to various species at risk, but accessing federal or provincial species recovery plans. Level three goes one step further, requiring farmers to identify and support a species at risk on their property in order to receive cost-share at this level. In addition, a support letter and verification is required by a qualified third party. Cost-share funding of 80% up to \$15,000 is available at this level, demonstrating the program's clear interest in supporting farmers across the board, but providing additional value for those that are directly enhancing species at risk.

“The unique approach of offering three levels of funding depending on how much focus is placed on species at risk really allows farm businesses to tailor their goals and level of interest in SAR within their application. As a result, this program offers a little something for everyone.” says Henry Denotter (OSCIA President).

The eligible invoice date for participants in SARFIP 2013 is April 1, 2013, and the claim submission deadline is January 15, 2014.

For more information, interested participants are encouraged to visit the OSCIA website at [www.ontariosoilcrop.org](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org) or contact OSCIA directly at 1-800-265-9751 or email [programhelp@ontariosoilcrop.org](mailto:programhelp@ontariosoilcrop.org).

## Harvesting Corn Silage at the Right Moisture

by [Delma Kennedy](#)

This article was originally posted on Field Crop News (<http://fieldcropnews.com/2013/09/harvesting-corn-silage-at-the-right-moisture-2/#sthash.idcpRXiM.dpuf>) Written by [Joel Bagg](#).



Corn Silage Days – Moisture testing corn silage by chopping a sample and using a Koster. The importance of harvest moisture and maturity to corn silage quality and animal performance is often underestimated. Not only is it important to minimize fermentation dry matter and spoilage losses, it is difficult to compensate for poor forage quality in ration balancing and animal performance. Don't get caught harvesting corn silage outside the range of optimum moisture and maturity. In areas that are extremely dry, optimum moisture may occur before optimum maturity. Focus on harvesting at the correct moisture.

### Importance of Correct Moisture

Ensiling at the correct whole plant moisture and optimum stage of maturity is critical. Corn maturity is very dynamic. As corn matures from dent to black layer, yield increases, starch increases, starch digestibility decreases, and fibre and fibre digestibility decrease.

### Too Wet

Harvesting at moisture levels above 70% will not only yield less but will result in seepage and a very undesirable clostridia fermentation. Clostridia bacteria are very inefficient and convert forage sugars and organic acids into butyric acid, carbon dioxide and ammonia. This silage will have high levels of foul-smelling butyric acid, with a higher pH, high dry matter losses, and poor feed quality, palatability and intake potential. Laboratory fermentation profile analysis is available to determine pH and relative amounts of lactic, acetic, butyric and propionic acids, all of which affect quality. (“Silage Fermentation Problems” <http://fieldcropnews.com/?p=5592>) Seepage results in a loss of nutrients and can be harmful to the environment. Very wet or frozen silage can be difficult to unload in the winter.

### Too Dry

Harvesting at moistures that are too low will result in poor packing, inadequate air exclusion, poor fermentation and heating. This will mean higher dry matter losses, greater spoilage and poor bunk life. Low-moisture corn silage that is not harvested using a kernel processor can be lower in starch digestibility. Kernels that are too dry will become hard and pass through the cow undigested. Kernel processors can be used to increase starch digestibility. Fibre digestibility has been found to decrease by over 10% as moisture decreases from 70% to 58%.

### “New Silage” Slump

Nutritionists have described the “new corn silage slump” where cows do not milk according to ration balancing when being fed newly fermented corn silage in the fall. This is attributed to the reduced starch digestibility of hard-textured, dry kernels in newly fermented, unprocessed corn silage. This can be very frustrating for milk



producers trying to fill fall quota. This problem is usually reduced after 3 months when the kernels have a chance to absorb silage moisture, become softer and fracture more easily.

### Correct Moisture & Silo Type

The best livestock performance and silage fermentation usually occurs when whole plant moisture is 65%-70%. This corresponds well to horizontal and bag silos, but silage may have to be a bit drier in tall tower silos to prevent seepage. Variability between fields and within fields can make this even more complex. Recommended moisture contents for corn silage are as follows:

Horizontal bunker silos	65 – 70%
Bag silos	60 – 68%
Tower silos	62 – 67%

### Silking Date

Silking date can be used as an indicator to give you an estimate of timing for corn silage harvest. This usually occurs 42-47 days after silking. Of course, this will be affected by crop heat units (CHUs) during that period and may come earlier or later, depending on temperatures. It can be useful to predict which fields are ahead of others.

### Kernel Milk Line

The kernel milk line has often used to determine when to harvest corn silage. This is done by breaking a cob in half and looking at the kernels. After denting (0% milk line), a whitish line can be seen on the kernels. This line is where the solid and liquid parts of the kernel are separated while maturing and drying. This line will progress from the outer edge of the kernel towards the cob. When this milk line reaches the cob (100% milk line), a black layer will occur. The traditional recommendation has been to harvest when the milk line is between one-half and two-thirds.

There is considerable variation in the percent kernel milk line and the moisture percent of the whole plant. University of Wisconsin data over many years show a range in whole plant moisture at one-half milk line of 52 - 72%, with an average of 63%. This will be too wet for some and much too dry for others. The two most significant causes of the variation are weather and hybrid differences.

### Weather

It has generally been found that when the weather is relatively dry between silking and harvest, the whole plant moisture will be lower than expected at any given milk line position. The typical milk line guidelines can overestimate whole plant moisture by 2 – 3% or more during dry weather. Abnormal plant development due to extended dry conditions may result in kernel milk line being very misleading in estimating percent moisture.

### Hybrid

Hybrid differences also affect the accuracy of using kernel milk line. Corn hybrids have varying degrees of “stay-green” characteristic. More stay-green means there is faster grain dry-down relative to stover dry-down. This is desired in a grain hybrid because as the grain dries, the stalk stays green and healthy, and is less likely to have broken stalks and lodge in late season. Some hybrids are designed only for use in silage and have less stay-green, so that the grain will have higher moisture relative to the whole plant. In other words, hybrids with higher stay-green ratings will have milk lines that are more advanced relative to whole plant moistures. Silage-only hybrids that have less stay-green characteristic will likely be ready to harvest at less advanced milk line. Check with your seed company representative for historic milk line recommendations for a given hybrid.

### Moisture Testing

The most accurate method for determining when to harvest is to measure the moisture content. This takes a little more effort but is well worth it when you consider the impact correct moisture will have on your animal performance for the whole year.

Sample at least 10 plants from the field, avoiding the headlands. Watch for moisture variability within fields. Field edges tends to be higher moisture than the middle of a field. If there is a delay between sampling and moisture determination, results can be 1 – 2% drier than the field because of drying of stalks. Chop a sample using a harvester or yard chipper. Use a Koster Tester™, microwave or laboratory to determine percent dry matter. Be aware that samples have residual moisture that is not removed when dried with a Koster Tester or microwave, but will be removed in laboratory ovens. The most accurate option is to send a sample by overnight delivery to a forage laboratory for oven drying. Results can be e-mailed immediately.

Miner Institute has estimated that Koster Testers and microwaves underestimate moisture by about 3%. A 68% moisture sample reading is actually about 71%. In a typical year, that 3% is equivalent to almost a week in harvest time. If using a Koster Tester or microwave, taking the time to carefully dry the sample is important. The finer the sample is chopped, the easier it will be to dry, and the more accurate the result.

### Milk Line Triggers

Because of the variation between milk line and whole plant percent moisture, the current recommendation is to determine a whole plant moisture shortly after denting when the milk line is about 20%. This can be done by sampling, chopping, drying and measuring as described above. Experience shows that in a typical year, corn silage at this stage dries approximately 0.5% per day. Therefore, if the sample was 70% moisture, and 65% moisture is the target, harvest should be done about 10 days after the corn was sampled. In dry years, the drying rate will be more rapid. During wetter years, the drying rate will be slower. Moistures can be checked again closer to harvest.

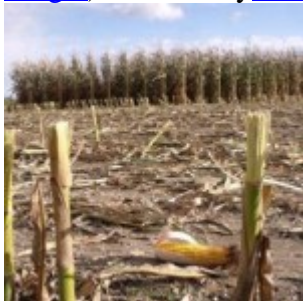
It is important to recognize the importance of harvesting corn silage at the correct moisture. Don't let the harvest window sneak up on you. Walk your fields, monitor whole plant moistures, and be ready to fill silo.

- See more at: <http://fieldcropnews.com/2013/09/harvesting-corn-silage-at-the-right-moisture-2/#sthash.idcpRXiM.dpuf>

## Frost Damaged Corn Silage

by [Delma Kennedy](#)

This article was originally posted on Field Crop News (<http://fieldcropnews.com/2013/09/frost-damaged-corn-silage/>) Written by [Joel Bagg](#).



Late planting dates, low Crop Heat Unit (CHU) accumulations, and early frost may result in situations where corn is killed by frost before it reaches the normal stage of maturity and moisture for silage. Some fields planted



for grain may not mature adequately for optimum yield, moisture and quality. Farmers may be looking at salvaging these crops by harvesting or selling some of those fields for silage. The key to making the most of frost-damaged corn silage is to harvest it at the correct moisture.

### Nutrient Quality

Slightly immature, frost damaged corn that has dented can make good silage. Energy is partitioned differently in immature silage than in normal corn silage. Immature corn has lower levels of kernel starch, but there are higher levels of sugars that have not yet been translocated from the stalk. Kernel texture will be softer and starch more digestible than it would be with unprocessed, mature plants. With immature corn silage, the fibre content will be higher, but it will be less lignified and more digestible than in more mature silage. In general, slightly immature corn silage will have slightly higher fibre and crude protein levels and slightly lower energy levels than normal corn silage.

For high quality silage, corn should be past the “late-dough” or “early-dent” stage of development. Very immature corn at the milk or early-dough stages will have lower starch and higher fibre. Research shows that corn silage at the “dough” stage may be 3 percentage points lower in digestibility and 8 percentage points higher in Neutral Detergent Fibre (NDF) than normal. Research indicates that harvesting silage before the late-dough or early-dent stage results in less “Milk Per Ton”. Very immature corn silage with less than ideal quality can be fed to animals with lower nutrient requirements. Storage of poorer quality silage in a separate silo, such as a bag silo, is also a consideration. Immature corn can be expected to yield less silage, so more acres will likely be required to fill the silo and meet forage requirements. Dough stage corn has about 65 to 85% of normal silage yield.

### Laboratory Nutrient Analysis

Accurate laboratory analysis of corn silage is important to successfully predict energy values and balance rations. Wet chemistry, rather than Near Infrared Spectroscopy (NIRS) analysis is recommended for frost-damaged or immature corn silage because it is so different than the NIRS calibrations. Digestible energy of corn silage is primarily determined by the relative amounts of starch and fibre (NDF) and their digestibilities. Immature corn silage has less starch but more fermentable plant sugars. In the past, ADF was used to estimate energy, and NDF was used to estimate intake, but these measures alone do not consider digestibility. Newer methods more accurately estimate corn silage digestible energy using crude protein, NDF, fibre digestibility (NDFD), starch, ash and fat. Starch digestibility can also be estimated using moisture, kernel processing scores and other laboratory starch digestibility tests.

### Whole Plant Moisture Critical

Harvesting at the proper whole-plant moisture is critical for producing high quality corn silage. It is difficult to know when to harvest frost-damaged corn because we cannot use the “kernel milk-line” guidelines. Harvesting frost damaged corn silage too wet is the most serious problem. Refer to “Harvesting Corn Silage At the Right Moisture” <http://fieldcropnews.com/?p=7953> . At moisture greater than 70%, clostridial fermentations produce butyric acid. Butyric acid results in high fermentation losses and gives the silage a “fishy”, rancid odour. Silage containing butyric acid results in lower intake, ketosis and poor cow performance. A fermentation analysis can be used as a diagnostic tool when there are suspected fermentation and feeding issues. Refer to “Silage Fermentation Problems” <http://fieldcropnews.com/?p=5592> . Seepage results in a loss of highly digestible nutrients and is harmful to the environment. Very wet, frozen silage can be difficult to unload in the winter.

### Dry Down After Frost

Although dead, frosted leaves give the appearance of rapid dry down, most of the moisture is still in the stalk and grain. Frosted corn often appears to be drier than it really is, and harvesting at a moisture level that is too high is a common mistake.

Immature, frozen corn often does not dry down significantly faster than unfrozen corn (typically about 0.5% per day), and may require many days of drying to reach the correct moisture content. When this is happening, dead plants will drop leaves and sugars leach from frosted leaves. Yield losses and moulds will increase with time. However, producers need to balance these losses against fermentation and butyric acid problems associated with silage that is too wet. What typically occurs is that a few days following a killing frost, everyone wants to harvest at the same time.

If you are in doubt about the whole-plant moisture, chop a sample to determine percent dry matter. Watch for moisture variability within fields. Keep in mind that Koster Testers and microwaves tend to under-estimate moistures by about 3% because it is so difficult to remove the residual. A 68% moisture sample reading is actually about 71%. In a typical year, that 3% is equivalent to almost a week in harvest time. If using a Koster Tester or microwave, taking the time to carefully dry the sample is important. The finer the sample is chopped, the easier it will be to dry, and the more accurate the result. A more accurate alternative is to courier a sample overnight to a forage laboratory for a moisture determined by oven drying.

### Use A Corn Silage Inoculant

Frost may kill some of the naturally occurring silage fermentation bacteria found on the corn plants. Using a research proven corn silage inoculant after a killing frost should ensure an efficient bacterial fermentation. Refer to “Silage Inoculants” <http://fieldcropnews.com/?p=7159> .

### Cutting Height – Nitrates & Moisture

After a frost, if the leaf material is dead but stalks and roots are alive, nitrates can accumulate in the lower stalk. This increases the risks of nitrate toxicity and silo gas. Increasing cutting height by 30 cm (12 inches) will increase quality slightly because the lower stalk has the lowest digestibility and the highest nitrate levels, but it can also reduce yield by about 15% . Increasing the cutting height can lower the moisture of the silage by about 3%. Do not add non-protein nitrogen (NPN) to very immature corn silage, as seepage will concentrate NPN in the lower portion of the silo. Refer to “Potential Nitrate Poisoning & Silo Gas In Corn Silage” <http://fieldcropnews.com/?p=4976>.

- See more at: <http://fieldcropnews.com/2013/09/frost-damaged-corn-silage/#sthash.DrHFPBOB.dpuf>

## Sheep Shearing School 2013



A sheep shearing school was held 24–26th of September at the farm of Ellen & Dean Cottrell near Everett, Ontario. Seven students were put through the programme under the watchful eyes of the Instructors: Peter Kudelka, Doug Kennedy & Randy Coulas.

Tuesday night we sat around the table and after the introductions we talked about equipment, sheep handling, wool handling, CCWG, Ontario Sheep and staying healthy. Wednesday & Thursday were spent hands-on shearing 85 sheep. The equipment used was flex shaft machines and Ovina combs, which kept the cuts to a minimum. We also used the DVD by Fiona Nettleton on sheep shearing as a resource.

Participants were Sheri-Lee Byce, Westmeath ON; William McIntosh, Kirkfield ON; Scott Donald, Mount Forest ON; Matt Scott, Brantford ON; Malcolm Duffie, Carters Point NB; Ray Ford, Powasson ON & Tyler Armstrong, Renfrew ON. Two were left-handers who decided to stay as left-handed shearers. It was a very successful school that improved the abilities of all who attended.

"PDK Hoof Trimming"

"PDK Shearing & Supplies"

Peter & Thelma Kudelka

Box 39, Mitchell, Ontario, N0K 1N0

1-519-348-4266

1-519-274-2050

<[peter\\_kudelka@sympatico.ca](mailto:peter_kudelka@sympatico.ca)>

## Upcoming Events

For more information on any upcoming events please visit the OSMA website at:

[www.ontariosheep.org/Events.aspx](http://www.ontariosheep.org/Events.aspx)

- Oct 22 Open house at Univ. of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus; visit the campus to see their current lamb trial
- Oct 23 SheepBytes Ration Formulation Training, Hampton Inn, Guelph; To register call 519-537-6621
- Oct 25-26 OSMA Annual General Meeting, Guelph, ON
- Nov 7-9 Dairy Sheep Symposium, Cambridge, ON; For more information go to [www.dsana.org](http://www.dsana.org) or to register contact the OSMA office at 519-836-0043 ext 27 or email [admin@ontariosheep.org](mailto:admin@ontariosheep.org)
- Nov 1-10 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, Toronto, ON [www.royalfair.org/](http://www.royalfair.org/)
- Nov 12 November Sheep Seminar, Elma Memorial Community Centre, Attwood
- Nov 14 November Sheep Seminar, Napanee Lions Community Hall, Napanee
- Jan 8-14/14 Grey Bruce Farmers Week – Sheep Day January 11 – Elmwood Community Centre, 38 Queen St., W. Elmwood For more information visit the website [greyagservices.ca/grey-bruce-farmers-week.html](http://greyagservices.ca/grey-bruce-farmers-week.html)
- July 9-12/14 2014 Classic at the new Ancaster Fair Grounds and will include workshops, seminars, a tradeshow and the show and sale. For more information contact James Grove at 519-752-8552. Interested in a tradeshow booth contact Jennifer MacTavish at OSMA – 519-836-0043
- Sept. /14 Sheep Shearing School – Last Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday of Sept., 2014

### Open House at University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus

On Tuesday, October 22, 2013 we are inviting anyone interested to come visit our campus to see our current lamb trial and meet the students involved. We will be meeting at the sheep barn at 7 pm. The lambs are housed at the Ridgetown Campus in the Beef Research Facility. It would be helpful to RSVP at [pluimes@uoguelph.ca](mailto:pluimes@uoguelph.ca) if you plan to come so we can be sure there are enough refreshments. If you need directions, please indicate so in your RSVP.

Paul Luimes, Ph.D. College Professor; University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus  
120 Main St. E. ; Ridgetown, ON N0P 2C0  
p (519) 674-1500 x63550 f (519) 674-1555

### SheepBytes Ration Formulation Training

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Hampton Inn - 725 Imperial Road North, Guelph

9:30 am to 4:00 pm

9:30 am coffee, registration and laptop set-up, 10:00 am Program Start

Registration

\$125.00 + 13% HST = \$141.25 for Early Registration to 4:00 pm, Thursday, October 17

\$163.85 = Late Registration starting thereafter

Walk-in: \$197.75

SheepBytes (<http://www.sheepbytes.ca>) is a new, web-based sheep ration formulation program. It integrates aspects of the new (NRC, 2007) requirements and Canadian production realities, including Ontario production and feed ingredient data. It also has a portal for commercial (feed mill) and own-use (farmers).

Dale Engstrom from Alberta and the lead trainer for SheepBytes will lead training on the program for participants including feed industry and commercial sheep producers on Wednesday, October 23 in Guelph. The SheepBytes Workshop provides ample time for participants to work on screen on their own laptops through a variety of exercises at each learning step. Participants will be given a temporary password and be logged directly on to the SheepBytes website - actually working in SheepBytes! Participants can save rations and feed analysis for future use should they SheepBytes following the workshop.

#### Outline of the SheepBytes Workshop

1. Background to Ration Formulation Software Development
2. Getting Started
3. Selecting Animal Requirements
4. Selecting Feeds
5. Modifying Nutrient Content of Feeds
6. Saving Rations
7. Managing the Feeding Program - Feeding Information
8. Selecting and Printing Reports
9. Using the Water Analysis Function
10. Creating Feed Mixes
11. Creating Batch Scale Sheets
12. The Ration Summary Report
13. Using the Ratios Option
14. Adding Your Own Feed Analysis Data
15. Creating Specifications for a custom premix/mineral
16. Checking an Existing TMR
17. Future Problems or Concerns
18. On Your Own – time to enter your own feeds and balance specific rations under supervision including the opportunity to ask questions of the instructor and supporting staff

Please contact Janet McLean, OMAF & MRA (cc'd) to register:

1-519-537-6621

Email: [janet.mclean@ontario.ca](mailto:janet.mclean@ontario.ca) <<mailto:janet.mclean@ontario.ca>>

Fax: 519-539-5351

#### November 2013 Sheep Seminars

Ewe got a Plan B? Building resilience into sheep farms

November 12, 2013 (Elma Memorial Community Centre, 251 Main Street, Atwood)

Webex sessions available at: Powassan, Manitoulin, Thunder Bay, Emo and New Liskeard.

November 14, 2013 (Napanee Lions Community Hall, 57 County Rd. #8, Napanee)

8:45 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Surviving low prices and higher costs; Tools for managing risk and thriving; Building resilience into your flock and production system; Flexible feeding system choices; Managing cash flow

Early Registration (up to Nov. 5) \$45.20 (includes 13% HST, lunch and proceedings)

Late Registration (after Nov. 5) \$62.15

Walk-in \$75.00



\*\*\*\*\*

Please contact the AICC to register:

1-877-424-1300

Email: [ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca](mailto:ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca)

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/sheep/facts/sheepseminars.htm>

### **Dairy Sheep Symposium**

November 7 – 9, 2013, Cambridge ON

The 19th Annual Dairy Sheep Symposium of the Dairy Sheep Association of North America is coming to Ontario. The dairy sheep event on this continent. Anyone involved, or thinking of getting involved in sheep milking should see it as a must to attend.

It will be held at the Cambridge Hotel and Conference Centre, Cambridge Ontario. The program will follow the usual pattern of two days of lectures and one day of farm and/or processing plant tours. One of the keynote speakers will be John Ryrie who will be speaking about his 1000 head flock of dairy sheep in Southern England. Attendance at this event is a must if you are interested in exploring the world of sheep dairying. Please go to [www.dsana.org](http://www.dsana.org) for more information. To register contact the OSMA office at 519-836-0043 ext 27 or email [admin@ontariosheep.org](mailto:admin@ontariosheep.org)

### **2014 Classic - Save the Date**

July 9 – 12, 2014, Ancaster ON

The 2014 Classic is coming to Ontario and will be held at the brand new Ancaster Fair Grounds. It will include workshops, seminars, a tradeshow and the show and sale. The Purebred Sheep Breeders of Ontario are the official host in collaboration with the Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association. OSMA will be putting on a "Focus On This Ontario Industry" two day exhibit as well. Planning is well underway and if you would like more information, please contact Event Chairman James Grove at 519-752-8552. If you are interested in a tradeshow booth please contact Jennifer MacTavish at the OSMA office at 519-836-0043.

## **General Interest**

### **New Sheep Nutrition Training Course**

A new online course, "Improve Your Sheep Nutrition Management Skills" has been developed by D. Paul Luimes, researcher at the University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus. Topics covered in the course include: Feed Types; Nutrients; Digestive Physiology; Nutrient Requirements; Ration Formulation; Feed Management. This is an ongoing course that people can sign up for at anytime.

For more information or to register online visit [www.ridgetownc.com/bdt/ce\\_sheep.cfm](http://www.ridgetownc.com/bdt/ce_sheep.cfm)

Further information please contact Dezarae Kemp at 519-674-1500 ext 63295 or email [dmalott@uoguelph.ca](mailto:dmalott@uoguelph.ca)

## **Resources**

### **Growing Forward 2**

[New Growing Forward 2 Programming Kicks Off in Ontario](#) Canada and Ontario Supporting Innovation and Success in Ontario's Agri-Food Sector. The governments of Canada and Ontario are working to help Ontario's agri-food industry grow profits, expand markets and manage risk with the launch of Growing Forward 2 programming. Interested producers, processors, organizations and collaborations can now apply for funding to



support activities that will help them prepare their Growing Forward 2 project applications. Implementation funding for projects is currently available to organizations and collaborations and will be accessible to producers and processors beginning in the fall. Providing the right climate to attract investment, create jobs and build a strong economy is a key priority for the governments of Canada and Ontario.

The federal government's programs under Growing Forward 2 are [AgriInnovation](#), [AgriMarketing](#) and [AgriCompetitiveness](#).

Learn More

[Growing Forward 2](#)

[Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Growing Forward 2 Programs.](#)  
[ontario.ca/agriculture-news](http://ontario.ca/agriculture-news)

### **GF 2 Workshops - Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)**

Environmental Farm Plans (EFP) are assessments voluntarily prepared by farm families to increase their environmental awareness. The EFP workbook consists of 23 risk assessment modules relating to farm activities in three general areas: the farmstead, farming practices and natural areas.

### **National Sheep On-Farm Biosecurity Standards**

New voluntary biosecurity standards have been introduced. The new standards will help sheep and goat producers improve the health of their flocks and strengthen their on-farm biosecurity activities. The National Sheep On-Farm Biosecurity Standard is available at [Canadian Food Inspection Agency](#).

To order an electronic copy of the Standard or to learn more about biosecurity, visit the CFIA's website at [www.inspection.gc.ca/biosecurity](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/biosecurity)

### **Controlled Grazing Guidelines**

Jack Kyle, Grazing Specialist, OMAF and MRA

The success of any grazing program or system is very much dependent on how the pasture is managed throughout the year. To read the complete article, visit:

[omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/field/news/croptalk/2013/ct-0313a5.htm](http://omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/field/news/croptalk/2013/ct-0313a5.htm)

### **Agribusiness E Campus**

Brought to you by University of Guelph Kemptville campus. The ABeCampus is an online farm extension service to provide farmers and producers with direct access to business management information, tools, training and networking. [agribusinesscampus.com](http://agribusinesscampus.com)

### **Farm Credit Canada**

Producer Financing – [www.fcc-fac.ca](http://www.fcc-fac.ca)

### **OMAF/MRA Resource Library**

[omafra.gov.on.ca/english/products/index.html](http://omafra.gov.on.ca/english/products/index.html)

### **Predation and Wildlife Damage**

For more information on Predation and Wildlife Damage and the program application form visit the OMAFRA website at: [omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/predation.htm](http://omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/predation.htm)

**AGPAL**

An On-line Information Source for Government Programs and Services

AgPal is part of Growing Forward, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. AgPal can be accessed directly at [agpal.ca/](http://agpal.ca/)

**Register for a Premises Identification Number**

In the event of an emergency that affects Ontario's agriculture and food industries, it is critical to be able to identify and contact agri-food business locations and facilities as rapidly as possible. Ontario's Provincial Premises Registry (PPR) is a premises registry that provides this rapid identification and contact capability. All Ontario agri-food business owners and operators can register their premises, at no cost, and receive a unique Premises Identification Number (Premises ID). You can register online at [www.ontarioppr.com](http://www.ontarioppr.com) or call toll free at 1-855-697-7743 to speak with a representative. PPR is an OMAF and MRA initiative. If you already have a Premises ID, please remember to update your premises information any time there is a change related to your premises (e.g. contact information, activities etc.).

**District Information**

Note: For further information and details about your District please contact your District Secretary

DISTRICT	CONTACT	INFORMATION
Dist 1	Marlene Raymond at (519) 683-6635	Please contact your District secretary for date and location of your next District meeting <a href="http://osma_district_1.tripod.com/">http://osma_district_1.tripod.com/</a>
Dist 2	Kyle Harrison at 519-334-3928	Meetings: Nov 7 – Markdale Ag Services Dec 5 – Sprucedale, Hanover Feb 6 – Holstein-location TDB Mar 6 – Markdale Ag Services Apr 3 – Sprucedale, Hanover May 1 - Holstein – location TDB June – Possible Farm Tour Aug 7 – Summer social Sept 18 – District AGM – Sprucedale, Hanover Meetings usually held the 1st Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm
Dist 3	Neil Mesman at 519-504-3089 or <a href="mailto:neil.mesman@me.com">neil.mesman@me.com</a>	
Dist 4	Sharon Petheram at 519-443-5844 or <a href="mailto:petherdale@gmail.com">petherdale@gmail.com</a>	Last Saturday of every month breakfast: It is a busy time of year so the monthly producer breakfast is temporarily on hold. Notice will be issued when the breakfasts begin again.
Dist 5	Dawn VanKampen at 519-940-2202	Meetings are usually last Wed. of every month, Location TBA
Dist 6	Karen Harvey, <a href="mailto:pkharvey@zing-net.ca">pkharvey@zing-net.ca</a>	

Dist 7	Judy Dening, <a href="mailto:theshephersgate@xplornet.com">theshephersgate@xplornet.com</a>	
Dist 8	Matt Fleguel, <a href="mailto:mfleguel@gmail.com">mfleguel@gmail.com</a>	Meetings: November – Napanee Sheep Seminar Dec – Christmas Pot Luck at Huizenga's Feb 6 March 6 May
Dist 9	Melissa Ferguson-Renaud at <a href="mailto:melissaruth16@hotmail.com">melissaruth16@hotmail.com</a> or at 613-257-8748	
Dist 10	Gary Lapier at 613-989-2792	<a href="http://www.osmadistrict10.ca/">www.osmadistrict10.ca/</a>
Dist 11	Debra Garner at 705-563-2761 or <a href="mailto:bill.debgarner@gmail.com">bill.debgarner@gmail.com</a>	

#### Other Organizations and Reference Information

##### **Victoria County Sheep Producers.**

Third Wednesday every month starting at 7:30 Sunderland Co-op Boardroom at Oakwood Location  
Membership is \$20 per farm per year. Contact: Jillian Craig at [jillian\\_stoneybrookfarm@hotmail.com](mailto:jillian_stoneybrookfarm@hotmail.com)

##### **Southwestern Ontario Sheep Farmers**

Formerly known as Middlesex Sheep & Lamb Producers  
Meetings 4th Thursday of the month: September to November and 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

##### **Western Ontario Lamb Producers**

District 2 and 3 area

##### **Ontario Suffolk Sheep Association**

<https://www.facebook.com/ontariosuffolk>

**OSMA Reaching Out**

OSMA WEBSITE – [www.ontariosheep.org](http://www.ontariosheep.org)

The following are just a few things you will find on the OSMA website.

- [About Ontario Sheep](#) - [Messenger](#)
- [Programs, Services](#) - [OSN](#)
- [Market Information](#) - [Locators](#) – Lamb, Guardian Animals, and Breed
- [Sheep Production Information](#) - [Lamb Nutrition and Recipes](#)
- [Current Initiatives](#) - [Virtual Farm Tour](#)
- [Research Projects](#) - [Links and Videos](#)
- [News](#) - [Kids Corner](#)
- [Events](#)

Weekly market reports and Religious & Ethnic Holidays:

<http://ontariosheep.org/MARKETINFORMATION/MarketReports.aspx>

**OSMA Market App**

Get the latest market information directly to your smart phone. The app lets farmers make marketing decisions on the go.

See the September 2012 issue of Ontario Sheep News for instructions to download the app to your Smartphone.

Visit the following websites to download the app.

- Blackberry [www.OntarioSheep.org/BlackBerry.php](http://www.OntarioSheep.org/BlackBerry.php)  
Apple [www.OntarioSheep.org/Apple.php](http://www.OntarioSheep.org/Apple.php)  
Android [www.OntarioSheep.org/Android.php](http://www.OntarioSheep.org/Android.php)

**OSMA FACEBOOK PAGE**

‘Like us on Facebook’ visit [www.facebook.com/ontariosheep](http://www.facebook.com/ontariosheep)

**OSMA TWITTER ACCOUNT**

OSMA has a new twitter account that you should visit.

<https://twitter.com/OntarioSheep>

<https://twitter.com/OntarioLamb>

**Email or Address Changes:**

Let us know when you have a change in your email or mailing address so that we can update our records to make sure that you receive current information. Send your new information along with your producer registration number, if you know it, to Jennifer Johanson at [admin@ontariosheep.org](mailto:admin@ontariosheep.org) or phone 519-836-0043

**Pass On The Messenger:**

If you know of someone who doesn't currently receive the Messenger, and you think would be interested in receiving it, please pass it along to them. Ask them to forward their information to Jennifer Johanson at [admin@ontariosheep.org](mailto:admin@ontariosheep.org) or phone 519-836-0043 to have their name added to the distribution list.

## OSMA Programs

### Maedi Visna

Maedi-visna is a debilitating viral disease that can undermine the economic viability of a sheep flock. The name Maedi-Visna is an Icelandic description of the two major forms of the disease (Maedi=progressive pneumonia and Visna=wasting). Although it is ultimately fatal, most of the economic loss attributed to this disease is due to decreased milk production; lowered weaning weights; increased incidence of severe arthritis and wasting; higher than average number of respiratory infections; and decreased ewe fertility. In one study, it was found that 66% of healthy appearing, Maedi-Visna positive ewes had udder lesions and their lambs had lower than average weaning weights. The disease is common in many sheep producing countries, and 70% of flocks tested in Ontario in the late 1980's had at least one positive animal. There is no cure or treatment for the disease, however, there is a reliable blood test that can identify infected animals.

For more information about Maedi Visna visit [www.ontariosheep.org](http://www.ontariosheep.org)

For more information about OSMA's and University of Guelph's Maedi Visna program call Jennifer Johanson at 519-836-0043 or email at [admin@ontariosheep.org](mailto:admin@ontariosheep.org)

### Ontario Sheep Health Program

The Ontario Sheep Health program is a sheep flock health program developed by University of Guelph researchers at the [Ontario Veterinary College](#), and administered by the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency. The forms are prepared annually between the producer and his veterinarian. The program is aimed at helping the producer and his veterinarian to identify the health of the flock and any areas that need improvement.

The program is comprised of 3 parts to be completed annually:

[Evaluation of Flock Health Management](#)

[Evaluation of Biosecurity](#)

[Evaluation of Productivity and Goal Setting](#)