



The Messenger

OSMA and the Industry

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Deadline to submit material is the 20th of the month before. Please send all submissions to Meggy at mchan@ontariosheep.org, or call 519-836-0043 ex. 29 with any questions.

Out and About: January Recap

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

Jan 4 – Ontario Agricultural Sustainability Coalition meeting

Jan 9 – Grey-Bruce Farmer's Week Sheep Day

Jan 11 – Sheep RMP premiums meeting

Jan 20 – OSMA board meeting

Jan 21 – Presentation to Farm Products

Jan 28 – Livestock Sustainability working group meeting

January Board Notes

As part of OSMA's work on Organizational Capacity, the Governance Committee reviews its policy manual to ensure that the link between OSMA's vision and its day-to-date operations are aligned. At the January Board meeting, the Governance Committee presented the three most recently reviewed policies: Banking Resolutions and Investment Policy; the Financial and Internal Controls policy and; the Dress Code Policy.

Representatives from the Royal Winter Fair attended the meeting for a discussion on what OSMA's plans are for the coming year and what role it wants to play in enforcement of the Codes of Practice. There was discussion on what is happening in other provinces (e.g., Agribition in Saskatchewan and sheep shows in Nova Scotia). Additionally OSMA indicated that letters had gone to 4H Ontario and the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies requesting that they help to educate members on the Code of Practice and include a statement in their rulebooks indicating that if the Code requirements are not met, the animal will not be permitted to show. There was recognition that OSMA does not have ownership of the show, but it will choose not to support shows that are not in line with the Codes. Colleen Acres and Ted Skinner gave a presentation to the Board on the Canadian Sheep Breeder's Association (CSBA) role and function. They both have been elected by Ontario purebred sheep producers to represent Ontario purebred sheep producers at the CSBA Board.

In 2000 Purebred Sheep Breeders of Ontario (PSBO) made a request that the directors for the CSBA be elected and nominated through their organization. It was put to vote to all producers who registered sheep in Ontario. The result was that producers wished to have delegates chosen for the CSBA through OSMA and this is why CSBA Ontario AGM is held at OSMA AGM.

Business plan and find out more by visiting www.sheepbreeders.ca

A request was made that OSMA have a formalized structure for input and consultation with the purebred industry such as a Purebred Affairs Committee, a Breeding Stock Committee or a Health and GenOvis Advisory Group.

There was also some discussion on trade, and talks will be starting on negotiating the cross transit of sheep through the United States to Mexico. Producers are encouraged to get their counterparts in the United States to start lobbying to make this happen as well. OSMA will put together a package for Canadian producers to help lobby efforts on both sides of the border.

OSMA Staff Changes

Morgan Radford, OSMA's On Farm Program Lead since 2014, is leaving her position here to pursue an opportunity with another company. From the staff and the Board members, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to Morgan for her time and dedication. She'll be missed, but we wish her all the best in her future endeavors! Coming in to take over Morgan's position, OSMA has hired Anita O'Brien who will be working part time from her home near Kingston. Anita has a wealth of knowledge and experience, and we are looking forward to working with her!

Ontario Shepherds Named Innovative Farmers of the Year

Congratulations to Vince and Heather Stutzki of ElmCrest Farms, who have recently been named the Innovative Farmers of the Year for 2015! The Stutzkis run 200 acres and 850 sheep near Paisley and they've been on the same farm since 1988. In order to supply lamb to the market year-round, the Stutzkis have an intensive management system which allows them to lamb five times a year and ship market lambs every two weeks. Because of the hilly landscape of their Bruce County farm, the Stutzkis have had to employ many innovative techniques to manage and maintain pastures and crop land at a high quality. They've implemented techniques like rotational grazing, pasture remediation, manure and compost application, minimal tillage and also double cropping. Vince and Heather were involved early on in livestock traceability programs and they have implemented a three bin composting system to manage deadstock, as there are no deadstock services available for sheep. The Stutzkis are always trying to learn more about new technologies and how other people are managing their farms in a profitable manner; throughout the years, they've travelled across Ontario, Quebec, Michigan, Scotland and they are even planning to go to New Zealand looking for new and innovative ideas to bring back to their own operation. Once again, congratulations to Vince, Heather and family on behalf of OSMA!

Farms at Work Launches Sheep Farming Mentorship Year Three

The Farms at Work Sheep Farming Mentorship offers new shepherds an opportunity to work and learn alongside well-respected mentors. In 2016, the program will run from April to August, and will once again be led by long-time shepherds, Bob and Gail Irvine of Rocky Lane Farm. Participants attend five field days on the mentor's farm, featuring curriculum-based learning in a small-group setting and hands-on practical projects. Mentees will also have access to several hours of one-on-one mentor support between field days.

If you are a new shepherd looking to learn under an experienced farming mentor and to integrate into the established community of sheep producers in the region, Farms at Work's Sheep Farming Mentorship may be for you. Applications for the 2016 season are now available. For more information please visit www.farmsatwork.ca/mentorship-programs, or contact our office (705-743-7671 | info@farmsatwork.ca).

2015 Sheep RMP Deadline

Jan 31st!

A reminder to all producers that are enrolled in the 2015 Sheep RMP that **January 31, 2016** is the deadline for reporting your [Q4 Sales Reports](#) and for paying your second [premium](#) installment. All premiums and Q4 Sales Reports must be submitted (even if reporting zero or no sales) in order to maintain your program eligibility. For more information, producers should contact Agricorp at 1-888-247-4999 or at contact@agricorp.com.

UW–Madison to End Dairy Sheep Research Program

By Karen Herzog of the Journal Sentinel
The University of Wisconsin-Madison will close its dairy sheep research program and disperse the flock of about 300 ewes in the fall, as the university rethinks how it serves the state's broad agricultural sectors in light of state budget cuts. With pending retirements and reduced resources, the Department of Animal Sciences will no longer be able to support faculty members specializing in all aspects of all species, said Richard Straub, senior associate dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. The university already does not have a swine specialist or a beef specialist, Straub said. The Department of Animal Sciences will continue to address problems of animal agriculture in the state, but will focus more broadly across species in areas such as nutrition and animal health, Straub said. The dairy sheep research program and flock are housed at the Spooner Agricultural Research Station in Washburn County in northwestern Wisconsin. A faculty member who started the research program about 20 years ago is planning to retire.

Click here for the full article:

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/education/uw-madison-to-end-dairy-sheep-research-program-disperse-herd-of-ewes-b99647063z1-364417931.html>

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Cache Valley Virus in Ontario Sheep Flocks

During the latter half of December 2015 and the start of 2016, the Animal Health Laboratory (AHL) received several submissions of stillborn and aborted lambs with unusual and severe birth defects. Other similar cases were also reported to OVC and OMAFRA veterinarians. The most likely cause of these birth defects is Cache Valley virus (CVV). Blood and tissue samples from fetuses, as well as blood samples from ewes, were tested for the virus and/or antibodies to CVV. On January 14, 2016, test results came back positive for CVV. CVV was previously diagnosed in Ontario flocks in 2011, 2012 and 2013.

CVV is a mosquito-borne virus. It is transmitted to sheep by infected mosquitos that previously fed on infected white tail deer, or that are offspring of infected mosquitos. Late summer and early autumn are the months when the highest amount of virus is present in the mosquito population. CVV is considered endemic in most parts of the United States, Mexico and Canada and infects a wide range of domestic and wild animals, as well as humans. Clinical disease, in the form of birth of deformed lambs is most often reported in sheep. The virus is spread by several species of mosquitos. The Schmallenberg virus that has affected ruminants in many European countries also belongs to the same family of viruses.

Click [here](#) to read the full article.

How to Build Your Own Lamb Warming Box

Thank you to Ontario Goat for permission to reprint the January 2016 edition of the Goat Gazette. For more info go to: <http://www.ontariogoat.ca/goat-gazette>

This article is written targeting goats, but all the same principles apply when dealing with sheep, it's worth checking out!

In times of cold weather or when a housing facility is too drafty, newborn kids are more susceptible to becoming chilled and hypothermic. One way to help prevent or treat chilling is through the use of a warming box. Small or wet kids, or kids in a cold or drafty environment are susceptible to becoming chilled. If a kid is shivering or has a temperature below 39°C, it needs to be warmed.

It is important to note that if the kid already has hypothermia and is over five hours old, they may also be hypoglycemic and you must provide an energy source (feeding via stomach tube or abdominal cavity injection) before it is rewarmed to ensure wellbeing and survival of the kid. If the proper procedures for hypothermia are not followed, the kid may convulse and die during rewarming. For more information on identifying and treating hypothermia please refer to Ontario Goat's "*Hypothermia and hypoglycemia in kids*" poster at www.ontariogoat.ca/hypothermia-poster and consult with your herd veterinarian.

Warming boxes should be kept at a temperature of 37 to 40°C (98.6 to 104°F). A household air thermometer can be added to your warming box to allow you to monitor the temperature. You will also need a rectal thermometer to identify chilled kids and to track the kid's temperature during rewarming. Monitor the kid during rewarming to ensure they are warmed evenly and do not overheat, taking their temperature every 30 minutes. Once the kid is warm (>39°C or 102.2°F) remove the kid from the box and clean and disinfect or dispose of the box.

There are a wide variety of ways to construct a warming box. These are only two of the many designs available. Ensure all materials are easily sanitized or disposable so they do not pose a disease risk to newborn kids. Boxes must be big enough for the kid to comfortably lie down.

For the rest of the article on how to build your own warming box:

<http://www.ontariogoat.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/OG-Gazette-2.1-Warming-boxes-FINAL-2016.01.19.pdf>

Farm & Food Care First Responder Factsheets

Farm & Food Care is dedicated to providing current information on farm animal care. They have recently updated the content and look of five first responder fact sheets related to barn fires and accidents involving farm animals.

[Accident Prevention Factsheet](#)

[Barn Fires Involving Farm Animals Factsheet](#)

[Dealing with the Aftermath of a Barn Fire Factsheet](#)

For more emergency response resources: <http://www.livestockwelfare.com/emergency-response/>

Agriculture Institute of Canada Conference 2016

AIC 2016: Disseminating Agricultural Research is taking place April 13-14, 2016 in Ottawa! The conference brings together stakeholders involved in or who make use of agricultural research to help further inform the [national agricultural research policy](#), developed by the Agricultural Institute of Canada in Sept. 2015. *AIC 2016* promises to engage participants and stimulate lively debate, with opportunities to learn from industry experts and contribute input on important policy issues including research dissemination strategies, extension and technology transfer, social licence, and the challenges and opportunities of intellectual property rights.

Don't miss your opportunity to participate in this important discourse with key agricultural research stakeholders. Have your say in a robust agricultural research dissemination agenda that can help set Canada on the path to becoming a global leader in agriculture. Visit www.aic.ca

Farm & Food Care Soil Health Roadshow

Farm & Food Care Ontario is hosting a series of soil health workshops in Southwestern Ontario. These workshops are free and focus on improving soil and nutrient management in the Great Lakes region.

March 1st: Elmwood

March 2nd: Brodhagen

March 3rd: Delhi

March 8th: Parkhill

March 9th: Thamesville

March 10th: Leamington

Further details are available here ~ [Soil Health Roadshow PDF](#)

Farms at Work 4th Annual Farm Stewardship Workshop

Saturday February 6, 2016 at Westdale United Church in Peterborough. Doors open at 9:30 AM, program starts at 10:00 AM.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear knowledgeable speakers on current topics!

Highlights for this full-day workshop include:

- **Changing Climate** and Agriculture: Featuring OFA president Don McCabe, and U of Guelph Professor and Loblaw Chair in Sustainable Food Production Ralph Martin
- Priority **invasive plants** impacting farms in the Kawarthas
- Local **Source Water Protection** updates
- Stewardship **funding** sources and technical support for on-farm projects

Tickets are \$25 and include a hot lunch. Satellite farm maps will be available on request at no charge.

Register online at www.kawarthafarmstewardship.org, or contact Farms at Work at info@farmsatwork.ca or at (705) 743-7671 for more information.

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.

- Jan 28 **D1/Southwestern Ontario Sheep Farmers Meeting:** 7:30 pm, Arno Janssen's farm (4133 Ergremont Drive, Hwy 22, Strathroy). Guest speaker Andrew from Zuidervaart Agri Imports Ltd. will speak about distribution for Venio stabling and barn design. New members welcome!
- Western Ontario Lamb Producers (WOLPA) Meeting:** 7:30pm, Bluevale Community Hall, Bluevale, ON. Focus for the meeting is a roundtable discussion on producing lamb. Fellow lamb producers will participate in the evening by sharing best practices on a variety of lamb rearing strategies. Practical and easy to implement strategies will be discussed.
- Feb 2 **District 3 Meeting:** Jamie O'Shea from Grand Valley Fortifiers will be discussing the topic of "Feeding Ewe For Profit". 7 pm, Morenz Rm at the Mitchell Arena (185 Wellington St., Mitchell, ON N0K 1N0)
- Feb 3 **District 10 Meeting:** Open session for all producers to socialize and receive an update from our Provincial Director. Enjoy ½ price fajita night. 7 pm at Country Kitchen, Hwy 31, Winchester, ON.
- Feb 5 **District 2 Meeting:** Join District 2 for their monthly meeting Friday Feb. 5th, 7:30pm at the Sprucedale Agromart. Murray Calder, former MP will be speaking on "What Farmers Need to Say to MPs to Get Their Attention"

- Feb 6 **4th Annual Farm Stewardship Workshop:** Register online at www.kawarthafarmstewardship.org, or contact Farms at Work at info@farmsatwork.ca or at (705) 743-7671 for more information.
- Feb 8 **Source It Here! Local Food Networking Event and B2B Marketplace:** 11 am – 4pm, Loyola House, Ignatius Jesuit Centre, Guelph. More information at: <http://www.tastereal.com/events-2/source-it-here-b2b-networking/>
- Feb 9 **BIO Annual General Meeting:** 10am – 12pm, Mallot Creek Boardroom. 294 Mill St. E., Elora, ON N0B 1S0
- Feb 18 **District 8 Meeting:** Christoph Wand of OMAFRA will be joining us to speak about agricultural sustainability as it relates to the sheep industry. 7pm at Napanee District Secondary School, Room A1.
- Mar 2 **District 4 Meeting:** Sheep Poop and Parasites - 7:00 pm at Mohawk College. Dr. Sherry Smith will be teaching participants to examine and identify sheep parasites using a microscope. Attendance will be limited to 25 participants. Details to follow.
- Mar 3 **OSMA Board Meeting**
- Mar 3-4 **Central Ontario Ag Conference:** Thurs – Livestock Day, Fri – Crops/Farm Fresh/Organic/Equine Day. Automotive Building, Georgian College, Barrie Campus. For more information contact Connie Brown at 705-726-9300 ext. 1224 or at connie@simcoecountyfa.org <http://www.centralontarioagconference.ca/>
- Mar 5 **District 10 Sheep Day:** 9:30 am registration, \$30 includes lunch. Knights of Columbus Hall, 5 rue Forget, Embrun, ON. For more details contact info@hawkhillfarm.ca 613-527-1897 <http://goo.gl/tqsysG>
- Mar 8 **District 3 Meeting: Lambing 101** – Guest speaker will be Dr. Charlotte Winder. Meeting will be at 7 pm at Tavistock Grace United Church
- Mar 12 **District 7 Car Tour:** We will be visiting two large flock operators using confinement systems in the Port Perry and Blackstock area. More details to follow.
- Mar 22 **District 5 and 2 Joint Meeting:** This meeting will feature an Account Manager from TD to discuss Finances on the Sheep Farm. 7pm at the Holstein Optimist Hall.

DISTRICT	CONTACT	INFORMATION
Dist 1	Dave DeKay at 519-666-0626 or dmdekay@isp.ca	http://osma_district_1.tripod.com/
Dist 2	Matt Zehr at 519-363-2029 zehr.matt@gmail.com	
Dist 3	Sandi Brock at 519-263-2325 brocksandi@hotmail.com	
Dist 4	Jay Mycroft at jay.mycroft@xplornet.com or 905-957-1114	District 4 Meeting District 4 meetings tentatively to be held the 3 rd Wed. of the month at 7:30 at the Ancaster Fairgrounds (630 Trinity Road, 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 theshepherds gate@xplornet.com	
Dist 8	Michelle Voskamp at 613-848-8972 or secretary@osmadistrict8.ca	Our monthly meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of every month at 7 pm at Napanee High School, Napanee. For more information visit: www.osmadistrict8.ca/
Dist 9	Tyler Armstrong at 613-433-8255 or pinnaclehaven@gmail.com	
Dist 10	Christine Power at 613-686-1892 or christine.power@ic.gc.ca	Check out our Facebook website page: https://www.facebook.com/OSMAD10
Dist 11	Debra Garner at 705-563-2761 or bill.debgarner@gmail.com	

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 pdcraig@outlook.com

Western Ontario Lamb Producers

District 2 and 3 area

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

Grey Bruce Sheep Management Club

Location: Grey Gables in Markdale

Ontario Suffolk Sheep Association

www.facebook.com/ontariosuffolk