

Ontario sheep farmers awarded 2016 GenOvis performance awards

For immediate release

October 31, 2016 (Guelph, ON) – The winners of the annual GenOvis performance awards were recognized last Thursday evening at the Ontario Lamb Banquet, hosted by the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency (OSMA).

In the Dorset category, the top growth ram lamb and the top maternal growth ram lamb for 2016 were awarded to Jim and Wendy Driscoll. The top growth Rideau ram lamb was awarded to Shelagh Finn, Lamb Lady Farm and the top maternal growth Rideau ram lamb went to Ted and Joanne Skinner, Cedar Creek Charollais.

In the Suffolk category, both the top growth ram lamb and the top maternal growth ram lamb went to William MacTaggart, MacTaggart Suffolks. In the Any Other Breeds Category, both the top growth ram lamb and the top maternal growth ram lamb were awarded to John and Eadie Steele, Shepherd's Choice.

GenOvis is a genetic improvement program designed to assist Ontario purebred and commercial sheep farmers in the evaluation of potential breeding stock and provides a measure of the comparative productivity of ewes in the flock. The program provides information that farmers can use to improve the genetic merit of their flock and monitor performance. The program maintains a large database of the performance records of tested sheep breeds in the province and the rest of Canada.

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.

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