

The Monthly Messenger



August 2014

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Board Notes

Highlights from the July, 2014 Board Meeting

The OSMA summer Board meeting was held in Ancaster this year, in conjunction with the All Canadian Classic. The Board would like to congratulate both the Purebred Sheep Breeders of Ontario and the Canadian Sheep Breeders Association on a great show. OSMA would also like to thank those who participated in the trade show for your continued support of the sheep industry.



A large portion of the Board meeting was spent preparing for the Strategic Plan review which will be done at the August meeting. This included reviewing the priority setting document. The OSMA Board has a priority document entitled *Building Industry Capacity* which highlights the top 4 priority areas: Animal Health; Financial Stability of the industry; Red Tape Reduction and Traceability. This document is invaluable when staff and Board are asked for the organization's top priorities as it provides not just the priorities but some text around why they are priorities.

The Board also walked through some questions about issues that it has been addressing this past year and how they might fit into the 2015 Strategic Plan; issues such as environmental sustainability and animal welfare.

Animal welfare is a growing work area for OSMA. We continue to work with the Ontario SPCA and the Board received an update on the training of industry representatives that occurred in June.

A draft 2014-15 budget was reviewed by the Board. In light of some changes that were made to compensation rates for the Chair and Vice-Chair, a revised budget will be ready for the August Board meeting.

Concern had been raised about OSMA no longer posting its minutes on its website. Producers can request to see the Board minutes by contacting the office. There was a discussion around the fact that minutes are not communication tools for the membership, but rather a record of action items for the Board.

Concern was also raised about the OSMA Education Day and the OMAFRA November Sheep Seminars being combined. More specifically, producers from the East would not attend the Napanee session and then drive to Guelph for the AGM. The Board discussed the recent reductions to the OMAFRA Sheep Team and the competition for trade show participants.

The OSMA Board did agree to submit an application to the Agricultural Adaptation Council for a three week study tour to New Zealand. The objective of this project is to provide Ontario sheep producers with the tools to be more competitive, improve labor efficiency, carcass quality and grow the Ontario lamb industry. The application is to send 10-12 Ontario producers and industry support staff to New Zealand for a 3 week period in February 2015. Because space is limited, interested producers will need to submit a request to the OSMA office for a steering committee to review.

You're Not Too Late!

Eadie Steele, Program Developer, Master Shepherd's Course

You can still take part in the Master Shepherd's Program which is designed for commercial producers with the desire to expand their flocks to a financially sustainable business. Modules are open to extra participants who want to enroll in selected modules. The registration cost for individual modules is \$250 per person for two days of instruction. A late registration fee of \$350 applies to individual modules.

	Module Two	Module Three	Module Four
Date	September 11 and 12	October 9 and 10	November 6 and 7
Topic	Flock Replacements and Flock Health	Nutrition	Sheep Industry Governance
Location	Fairfield Inn and Suites, Guelph ON	Fairfield Inn and Suites, Guelph ON	Holiday Inn, Guelph ON
Registration Deadline	August 28	September 25	October 23

The confirmed speakers for Module Two are Dr. Cathy Gallivan, Canadian Sheep Breeders Association; Dr. Paula Menzies, University of Guelph; Johanne Cameron, CEPOQ; Dr. Chris Buschbeck, Small Ruminant Genetics; and Delma Kennedy, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. Module Two attendees will hear presentations regarding Breeding Stock Soundness, Ram Selection Criteria, the Importance of Physical Conformation, Monitoring and Managing Reproductive Programs, Breeding Strategies, and measuring Progress from Genetic Selection, Out of Season Breeding and Artificial Insemination and Embryo Transfer. The students will be encouraged to develop strategic breeding plans for their own flock to incorporate into their business plans. As a part of module two, attendees will also get to participate in field tours to a research station and area sheep farms. Module Three will feature the following speakers: Dr. Paul Luimes, Ridgeway College and Ira Mandell, University of Guelph. Ruminant Digestion, Body Condition Scoring, Maintenance and Flushing Rations, Lamb Nutrition and Understanding Feed Analysis Reports are some of the topics that will be covered. The students will develop and balance a feeding program for the various groups of sheep on their own farm as a part of Module Three. They will be encouraged to discuss ration formulation issues, and will receive input from fellow shepherds as well as instructors. Field tours to a testing laboratory and area sheep farms are also being planned.

Sheep Industry Governance, Module Four is held in conjunction with the OSMA Annual Meeting and the OMAFRA Seminars. A special evening session is planned where the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency (OSMA) General Manager, Jennifer MacTavish, will explain the roles and responsibilities of the various governing organizations in the sheep industry. Please refer to the OSMA website for more information on that event.

[http://www.ontariosheep.org/Events/tabid/124/ctl/Details/Mid/424/ItemID/242/Default.aspx?ContainerSrc=\[G\]Containers/OntarioSubpage_container/OntarioSubpage&SkinSrc=\[G\]Skins/OntarioSheep/subpage](http://www.ontariosheep.org/Events/tabid/124/ctl/Details/Mid/424/ItemID/242/Default.aspx?ContainerSrc=[G]Containers/OntarioSubpage_container/OntarioSubpage&SkinSrc=[G]Skins/OntarioSheep/subpage)

Send your request for module registration to mastershepherds@outlook.com as you won't want to miss out on this opportunity to take your farm business to the next level. Please make cheques payable to Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency, and mail them to 130 Malcolm Road Guelph, Ontario, N1K 1B1



This project was funded in part through Growing Forward 2 (GF2), a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. The Agricultural Adaptation Council assists in the delivery of GF2 in Ontario.

2014 Classic

The 2014 All Canada Sheep Classic occurred on July 9 to 12 in Ancaster, Ontario. 118 rams and 183 ewes were sold. Rams averaged \$681 per head while ewes averaged \$497 per head.

Supreme Champion Ewe was awarded to VanGro Farms, the Groves Family. The Suffolk ewe sold for \$1,300 to Jesse Geddes of Norton, NB. Supreme Champion Ram, a Suffolk owned by Bill Mactaggart, sold for \$1,500 to Maxime Luduc.

The fleece competition occurred and fleeces were on display. Champion Fleece was awarded to Wilson Colony, Alberta in the range wool class. Reserve Champion Fleece was awarded to Mary Grant, Ontario in the crossbred wool class.

Many other events occurred throughout the event including an Education Day presented by OSMA, an industry tradeshow, a junior show and a commercial sale.

Thank you to the Purebred Sheep Breeders' of Ontario, the Canadian Sheep Breeders' of Ontario, the Classic Committee, the Junior Show Committee and to the sponsors and trade show exhibitors. Special thank you to Jim Groves and Bill Mactaggart.

For full Classic details please visit: sheepbreeders.ca/classic.html

Performance Testing: Survey

Delma Kennedy, Sheep Specialist Genetics, Reproduction and Performance Programs, OMAFRA

I am interested in finding out if there is a group of Ontario sheep producers who would like to participate in an informal group to discuss performance testing.

It would be appreciated if you could take 10 minutes or less and answer a survey at the link below that will help determine if there is enough interest to develop this idea. The survey will be open until September 15, 2014.

The survey link is being distributed to email accounts via the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency, Ontario email addresses recorded with the Canadian Sheep Breeders Association and Ontario producers who participate in performance testing. If there is an Ontario producer who may be interested and has not received this link please feel free to forward it.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YG3Y7QG>

Breeding Program to Reduce Loss amongst Ontario Sheep Industry

A collaborative project, between three Ontario sheep operations, Breezy Ridge Farms, DP Farms and the Shepherds Gate, is aiming to provide an effective solution to gastrointestinal parasites/worms in sheep.

Approved for up to \$110,000 in funding through *Growing Forward 2(GF2)*, this project is studying the outcomes and success of breeding sheep for parasite resistance.

Worm infestations can slow growth rates, reduce carcass weights, hinder wool and milk production and negatively impact the overall health of sheep and lambs. Anthelmintics (drugs) for worm control exist; however, a rapid increase in resistance to these products has been reported globally. After experiencing parasite resistance to Anthelmintics decades ago, genetic resistance to internal parasites was successfully developed in several important sheep producing countries such as New Zealand and Australia. These results indicate that similar results are possible to achieve within Canada.

"This collaboration believes the only permanent long-term solution to help manage drug resistance is to breed sheep that are resistant to parasites" says Phil Smith, owner of Breezy Ridge Farms and breeding coordinator. "The successful incorporation of genetic resistance to parasites would: lower production losses, increasing revenues; reduce treatment of animals, lowering costs and labour demands; and, increase the overall health and lifespan of the animal."

Over the last two years, Smith has performed fecal egg counts on all on-farm stud rams and results indicate that a large number of the offspring show resistance to parasites. This project will expand this testing, which will greatly speed up the process of creating worm-resistant sheep in Ontario.

"In some parts of the world, the level of parasite resistance to Anthelmintics has reached the point where

sheep farming is no longer sustainable," says Kristin Ego MacPhail, AAC Chair. "This project supports the effort to protect Ontario's sheep industry from this same type of devastation."

GF2 is a comprehensive federal-provincial-territorial initiative aimed at encouraging innovation, competitiveness and market development in Canada's agri-food and agri-products sector. The AAC assists in the delivery of *GF2* in Ontario.

What's New: Canadian Sheep Federation Update

Source: From the Flock, July/August 2014

Save the Date

This year's Canadian Sheep Federation's Annual General Meeting will take place on November 18th and 19th in Airdrie, Alberta. The CSF is pleased to be partnering with Alberta Lamb Producers and Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development in offering a producer session featuring international speakers. All are welcome to attend AGM activities on Wednesday, November 19th. Look for more details in the September issue of From the Flock.

National Occupational Standards for the Canadian Sheep Industry

The Canadian Sheep Federation is collaborating with the Canadian Agricultural Human Resources Council (CAHRC) in the development of a National Occupational Standards (NOS) for the sheep sector. CAHRC project outcomes include:

- Providing agricultural stakeholders with a benchmark of industry-validated skills and knowledge required across the sector;
- Enabling agricultural producers to better recruit and retain skilled employees by clearly defining the skills and knowledge needed for entry-level, experienced, supervisory and management occupations;
- Assisting agricultural employers with HR issues by linking NOS with an existing agricultural HR toolkit;
- Assisting job-seekers, students and HR professionals by linking NOS with an existing AgriPathways on-line career path tool;
- Enabling the labour mobility of agricultural employees by linking NOS with career path resources; and
- Supporting educational institutions with ensuring relevance of their curriculum.
- A reduction in labour shortage by supporting a better match between skills and job market demands in the medium- to long-term.
- A reduction in labour shortage in the medium- to long-term by supporting more informed labour market decisions by job seekers, employers and students through the creation and dissemination of labour market intelligence that will clarify the many job opportunities and career pathways (levels, categories and requirements) within agriculture.

Double Cropping Fall Rye for Extra Forage

Joel Bagg, Forage Specialist & Peter Johnson, Cereals Specialist, OMAF and MRA

Fall rye is an excellent forage crop when seeded after early-fall harvested crops. It is ready for harvest in southern Ontario in mid-May, which provides great opportunities for "double crop" options, and can

also fill in the gap in years when forage supplies are short. Seed as early as possible in September, apply nitrogen in the spring, and time harvest for nutrient quality needs. Do not confuse cereal rye (*Secale cereale*) with ryegrass (*Lolium multiflorum* or *L. perenne*), as they are totally different grass species with quite different characteristics.

Fall rye prevents erosion and gives good weed suppression. Rye is very cold tolerant, the hardiest and most disease resistant of the winter cereals. Fall rye has an extensive fibrous root system, can scavenge nitrogen very effectively, and utilizes early spring moisture for rapid growth. Fall rye is faster growing and earlier maturing in the spring than the other winter cereals, including wheat, barley and triticale. This enables an earlier forage harvest and more “double crop” options.

Fall rye grows well on lighter and low pH soils, but does not do well on poorly drained, heavier soils. Forage rye is higher yielding, but not as palatable as winter wheat. Rye matures rapidly at the flag-leaf, boot and early-heading stages, with significant reductions in forage quality. This can create the challenge of a very narrow harvest window, particularly if there are rain delays.

Double Crop Options

Farmers looking for extra forage can plant fall rye following the harvest of many crops, particularly corn silage. Forage rye harvested in mid-May can be followed by a late-planted crop, such as soybeans, edible beans, or a warm-season annual forage crop such as sorghum. Winter wheat heads two weeks later than fall rye making forage wheat harvest too late to be followed by corn or soybeans. In dry years, decreased moisture in the soil profile following forage rye can have a negative effect on the yield of the following crop. It is essential to completely kill the rye with glyphosate or tillage to minimize shading and competition for moisture.

Rye is sometimes noted for having an “alleopathic effect” that suppresses the germination and growth of weeds and other crops. With most of the rye plant removed, alleopathy is a low risk in forage situations. The possible exception is with no-till corn on heavier soil types.

Summary

Seeding fall rye for forage can be an excellent, cheap source of additional feed. Seed as early as possible in September, apply nitrogen in the spring, and time harvest for nutrient quality needs. By double cropping, rye can fill the gap on years with short forage supplies, or be a regular part of a profitable rotation.

See full article at: <http://fieldcropnews.com/2013/08/double-cropping-fall-rye-for-extra-forage/>

Have Your Say: Food Safety Survey

The University of Guelph is conducting a study to find out how your business manages food safety controls and the challenges you face in doing so. The results will help design and build programs to support YOUR business.

To be heard, please visit:

[Bit.ly/SafeFood1](http://bit.ly/SafeFood1)

Best Management Practices Book Delivers Soil Erosion Solutions

Guelph, ON [July 24, 2014] – Learning to recognize and manage soil erosion is covered in one of the latest publications in Best Management Practices (BMP) series. *Controlling Soil Erosion on the Farm* identifies the various causes of soil erosion and outlines practical on-farm solutions to preserve valuable soil resources.

“Every year, soil erosion wears away crop productivity and contributes to potential pollution of adjacent waterways, wetlands and lakes,” says Adam Hayes, Soil Management Specialist with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. “This new BMP book helps Ontario farmers identify sources of soil erosion and then provides easy-to-follow control measures to protect this precious resource. After all, healthy soil is the best defense against soil erosion.”

Topics covered in *Controlling Soil Erosion on the Farm* include: the foundation of erosion control, a problem/solution chart to identify causes of erosion, easy-to-follow best practices using large, full-colour photos and diagrams to present specific soil erosion control methods (e.g. for tillage, rill, gully, bank and wind erosion), and a list of additional resources.

The 38-page booklet style of *Controlling Soil Erosion on the Farm* represents a shorter format used on many of the newer BMP books – designed to provide basic topic information with links for additional, more detailed information.

The BMP series contains more than 30 innovative and award-winning reference books with practical and affordable ideas for conserving soil, water and other natural resources in rural areas. BMP books are available at no charge (shipping and handling charges may apply) and can be ordered online at www.publications.serviceontario.ca, by phone through the Service Ontario Contact Centre at 1-800-668-9938 or in person at Service Ontario Centres throughout the province.

A full list of all BMP books is available at www.publications.serviceontario.ca – search for “Best Management Practices agriculture.”

The BMP books are developed through collaboration between Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. For more than 25 years, these groups have worked together to produce the Best Management Practices resources, delivering useful information on environmentally sustainable farm practices.

Upcoming Events

For more information on any upcoming events please visit the OSMA website at: www.ontariosheep.org/Events.aspx

- Aug 7 & 8 Master Shepherd Course – Module 1, Guelph, ON.
- Aug 8 Annual Kingston Sheep Dog Trials.
- Aug 16 District 1 Agribusiness Tour, Coldstream, ON.
- Aug 21 District 5 AGM, Wallenstein, ON.
- Aug 20 – 30 Centreville Fair, Centreville, ON
- Aug 30 Atlantic Sheep Sale. Turo, Nova Scotia.
- Sept 4 District 1 AGM. Dawn-Euphemia Township Fire Hall, Rutherford, ON at 8 pm.
- Sept 9 – 11 Canada’s Outdoor Farm Show. Woodstock, ON.
- Sept 11& 12 Master Shepherd Course: Module 2, Guelph, ON.
- Sept 12-14 WOPA Bus Trip, New York State, USA.
- Sept 16-20 International Plowing Match. Ivy, ON.
- Sept 23 - 25 Sheep Shearing School, Alliston, ON.
- Oct 9 & 10 Master Shepherd Course: Module 3. Guelph, ON.
- Oct 10 Practical Farming Conference, Guelph, ON
- Oct 18 Practical Farming Conference, Arthur, ON
- Nov 4 OMAF Sheep Seminar, Napanee, ON
- Nov 6 OMAF Sheep Seminar, Holiday Inn, Guelph.
- Nov 7 OSMA AGM, Holiday Inn, Guelph.
- Nov 6 & 7 Master Shepherd Course: Module 4, Guelph, ON. (In conjunction with OSMA AGM and sheep seminars).
- Nov 11 – 16 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair

Have Something to Add?

Contact Jillian Craig at
jrcraig@ontariosheep.org

Additions are due the
20th of the month.

For a full list of upcoming events and for more details please visit www.ontariosheep.org and click on ‘Events’

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 or triplerfarms@kent.net	<p>http://osma_district_1.tripod.com/</p> <p>August 16 – Agribusiness Tour This opportunity will educate the participant in pasture and confinement rearing of sheep and lamb. Various handling, fencing and water systems will be observed. Breeding programs that can produce many pounds of lamb will be seen. Production of goat cheese may invite future opportunities.</p> <p>-7.50 am. -meet in Coldstream at Middlesex Centre municipal building (10227 Ilderton Road) -8.00 am. - depart for Brussels -9.45am. –arrive at Brussels Agri Services Ltd. We will meet our host Tim Prior and depart for Farm #1 -10.00am. - arrive at the farm of Paul Van Dorp and home of Blyth Farm Cheese -12.00pm. –lunch at Brussels courtesy of our host. A tour by our host of his business will follow lunch. -2.00pm. –arrive at the farm of Keith Todd and Todd Sheep Company Inc. -4.00pm. – depart for Coldstream</p> <p>Please reserve your spot on this tour by AUGUST 4, 2014. Contact Dave DeKay @ 519 666 0626 or dmdekay@isp.ca</p> <p>September 4 – Annual General Meeting for District 1 OSMA at Dawn-Euphemia Township Fire Hall in Rutherford (4596 Lambton Line) @ 8.00 pm.</p> <p>October 2 - Dr. Paul Luimes speaks at University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus @ 8pm.</p> <p>December 4 - Christmas potluck @ Christian Reformed Church in Wyoming (4524 Confederation Line) @ 7pm.</p>
Dist 2	Kyle Harrison at 519-334-3928 or kyleharrison22@hotmail.com	<p>Meetings: Aug 7 – Summer social Sept 18 – District AGM – Sprucedale, Hanover Meetings usually held the 1st Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm</p>
Dist 3	Vacant	

Dist 4	Sharon Petheram at 519-443-5844 or petherdale@gmail.com	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	Dianne Orr at 519-928-5302 or orr7@sympatico.ca	District 5 AGM: August 21 st at 7pm. Potluck Location: Ryan and Romy Schill's Farm 7489 4 th Line Wallenstein For more information please contact Romy at 519-669-4146 or email circle.r.livestock@hotmail.com Meetings are usually last Wed. of every month, Location TBA
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	Matt Fleguel at 613-961-9260 or mfleguel@gmail.com	Meetings: Our monthly meetings are normally held on the 3rd Monday of every month at Napanee High School, Napanee, at 7.30 p.m. For more information visit: www.osmadistrict8.ca/
Dist 9	Tyler Armstrong at 613-433-8255 or pinnaclehaven@gmail.com	
Dist 10	Christine Power at 613-816-0846 or msloboda2003@gmail.com	For more information visit: www.osmadistrict10.ca/
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 Sunderland Co-op Boardroom at Oakwood Location (Taylor Road, Oakwood)

Membership is \$20 per farm per year. Contact: Jillian Craig at jillian_stoneybrookfarm@hotmail.com

August – No meeting

September 10th – 7:30pm at Oakwood Elevators

Western Ontario Lamb Producers

District 2 and 3 area

The Western Ontario Lamb Producers Association will be travelling to New York State this September 12, 13 and 14.

Seats are available for Members of the Association for \$185.00 each, non-members will require to purchase a membership for an additional \$20.00/family. We will be travelling via coach to Kyle Farms, Cornell

University, David Malcolm Farm, and James Leach's farm. Our tour will include a stop in Niagara Falls on our route home.

If you are interested in reserving a seat on the coach with WOLPA please contact Lisa Ernewein at l.sernewein@wightman.ca or 519-392-8624. Tour cost includes bus, biosecurity boots per farm. Cost does not include hotel and meal costs, we have a block of rooms reserved for the tour, when booking you will be given the information for booking your room.

Southwestern Ontario Sheep Farmers

Formerly known as Middlesex Sheep & Lamb Producers

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

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