

# *The Monthly Messenger*

*November 2013*

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

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

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## Fischer re-elected Chairman of the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency

*For immediate release*

**October 30, 2013** – Guelph, ON – At the recent Annual Meeting of the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency, Dennis Fischer received the support of his peers and was re-elected as Chairman.

Mr. Fischer, along with his family have a flock of 600 commercial ewes in Elmwood, Ontario. He expressed his gratitude for being chosen to lead the sheep industry through the next year. “I appreciate this vote of confidence from my fellow producers,” he said. He went on to explain that he is proud of what the Board has accomplished this year and is eager to address the concerns of the industry and finding solutions to improve and move our industry forward.

Fraser Hodgson was re-elected as Vice-Chair for his third year. Hodgson and his wife Ruth run a 120 head commercial Suffolk flock in Lambton Shores Ontario. Fraser has been a member of the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency Board for 4 years.

Heather Little and Gary Fox are new members to the Board this year representing Districts 5 and 8 respectively.

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 development and market development.

## 2013 AGM Well Received by All

The 2013 OSMA AGM had over 170 attendees. The Producer Education Day focused on the business of sheep farming.

Friday evening featured a delicious lamb banquet. The awards ceremony followed and many producers were recognized. The awards are as follows:

### **GenOvis Awards:**

#### Polled Dorset

Highest Growth Index: Colleen Acres and Dwayne Bazinet, Maple Meadow Farms

Highest Maternal Index: Bethanee Jensen, Shepherd’s Fold

#### Rideau

Highest Growth Index: Judy Dening, The Shepherd’s Gate

Highest Maternal Index: Francis Winger

#### Suffolk

Highest Growth Index: William MacTaggart, MacTaggart Suffolks

Highest Maternal Index: Tina Harrington, Stonehill Sheep

#### Any Other Breed

Highest Growth Index—Charollais: Joanne and Ted Skinner, Cedar Creek Charollais

Highest Maternal Index—Cross Bred: John and Eadie Steele, Shepherd’s Choice

**Scholarship Award**

The \$500 OSMA Scholarship was awarded to Chelsea Steele from Norwood, Ontario. Chelsea could not attend due to school commitments, her parents, John and Eadie Steele accepted the award on her behalf. Chelsea wrote a poem about biosecurity. This poem will be featured in the December Sheep News.

**Past OSMA Directors**

The following Directors were recognized for their commitment and devotion to the Ontario Sheep Industry:

- Chris Kennedy
- Chris Kyle
- Allan Burn
- Andrew Gordanier
- Marc Ritchie
- Andrew Harrison

**Long Service Award**

With over 60 years in the Ontario Sheep Industry the Long Service Award was presented to John K. Campbell.

**Outstanding Shepherd Award**

A member of the District one Sheep Committee and Southwestern Ontario Sheep Farmers, the Outstanding Shepherd Award was presented to Mels van der Laan.

**Mapleseed Pasture Award**

The 2013 Mapleseed Pasture Award was presented to Bill McCutcheon from Mulmur Vista Farm. Bill gave a presentation, showing pictures from his farm. For more information please see the press release from the Ontario Forage Council below.

Special recognition was given to Anita O'Brien for her dedication to producers and the industry as a whole. She is now focusing on farming.

The OSMA business meeting occurred on October 26, 2013. More details will be available in the December Sheep News along with a copy of the Financial Statements.

**Ontario Pasture Award Winner Named**

*For Immediate Release, Ontario Forage Council*

**October 25, 2013** – Guelph, ON– Bill McCutcheon of Mulmur Vista Farm near Grand Valley in Dufferin County is the winner of the 2013 Sheep Pasture Award. The award, sponsored by MAPLESEED Canada, the Ontario Forage Council and the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency (OSMA) was presented today at OSMA's Annual Meeting. For their environmental and pasture improvements and management, the McCutcheon's receive \$500 and a bag of forage seed.

The McCutcheon flock consists of approximately 1000 ewes plus their offspring. Bill depends heavily on good quality forage and during the main pasture growing time he grows a mixture of predominantly orchard grass & white clover or tall fescue & white clover. He pastures about 150 acres and is a strong advocate for rotational grazing. Bill has the ability to divide the pastures into 42 different paddocks, and provide water to each one.

The paddocks are fenced using a variety of fencing, including hi-tensile electric, polywire and flexinet. Some page wire is used for exterior fencing. Bill has been an active participant in the Environmental Farm Plan program, and has fenced the sheep out of the drainage ditch and also the river at the back of the farm. Bill also practices strip grazing on the stockpiled grass in addition to grazing corn, turnips and kale. He also stockpiles tall fescue and or orchard grass. As Bill comments, “We usually have lots of moisture in our soil, so we can always grow grass. Our land is better suited to growing pasture because of the lower CHU, cooler nights and early sunshine.”

Bill likes to get the ewes out on grass by mid April and usually finish grazing in mid December. Bill states he is increasingly trying to extend his pasture season by stock piling tall fescue or orchard grass and by pasturing turnips, kale, oats and corn. As Bill says, “If we had less predator issues, we would put lambs on grass as well”.

Bill is quick to comment that “In addition to good quality pasture, fresh water is readily available in each paddock and is an essential feature”.

Barry Robinson, Sales Manager with MAPLESEED said, “The McCutcheon’s are ideal candidates for the 2013 award, because of the innovation and consistency they have shown in their farming operation and their willingness to share ideas for the benefit to agriculture and the industry in general.

Ray Robertson, Manager of the Ontario Forage Council says, “This year’s Ontario Sheep Pasture Award winner exemplifies many of the management techniques that have been promoted and put into action for a sustainable long term operation, and can be utilized on many sheep operations”.

The deadline for applications for the 2014 Ontario Sheep Pasture Award is October 1, 2014. For details call the Ontario Forage Council at 1-877-892-8663 or visit either the Ontario Forage Council’s website at [www.ontarioforagecouncil.com](http://www.ontarioforagecouncil.com) or the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency’s website at [www.ontariosheep.org](http://www.ontariosheep.org).

## Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers

Business Update—Fall 2013

Prepared By: Eric Bjergso, General Manager, CCWG

### **Briefly highlighted, some 2013 CCWG activities are as follows:**

- Participated at the 25th International Wool Trade Fair and Information Conference which was held in Suzhou, China Sept 14th – 16th, 2013. Canadian wool was on display at the trade fair and we successfully negotiated a number of contracts for delivery through to February 2014. The event was attended by 500 delegates from the Chinese and International wool trade. It was very informative and a great venue to promote Canadian wool to a wide range of potential buyers. Traveled before and after the conference with CCWG agents in China to promote and market, graded and objectively measured Canadian wool.

- For the fiscal year ending February 28, 2013 the co-operative recorded gross sales of \$8,688,513 which represents an 8% increase from the previous year. Sales have increased almost 28% over the past three years. The Board of Directors authorized a dividend payment of 7% to the shareholders of record date December 31, 2012 and 5 cents per pound to the Shareholder Wool Shipper Loyalty Reward Program (SWSLRP). Full details on these programs can be found on the company website [www.wool.ca](http://www.wool.ca). Wool volume increased by 8.2% in 2011 and 8.6% in 2012 but slipped by 6.5% in 2013, due mainly to a reduction in wool consignments from Quebec.

- The CCWG Board of Directors approved managements proposal to renovate the Carleton Place Stockman Supply Store. The project involves demolishing and renovating the existing Stockman Supply Store which is contained within the warehouse and is comprised of an area of approximately 7,500 square feet. The original stone walls of our CPR roundhouse will be sandblasted to highlight the beautiful architecture of the building which was built in the 1800's. As well, fifteen large heritage style windows will be installed. The current store and inventory has been relocated into our new warehouse building until the project is completed (estimated 10 – 12 weeks). During this time frame the new storage building will not be used for storage of graded wool bales. The design-build contractor for the project will be Cornerstone Builders Ltd from Belleville, ON. (see [www.wool.ca](http://www.wool.ca) for a slide show of the renovation in progress)
- An older model wool baler at the Carleton Place wool grading facility has recently been replaced with a new high density wool press that was purchased from a USA manufacturer.
- Major sponsor for numerous sheep related events during the year across the country.
- Working closely with ear tag manufacturers, the CSF and provincial sheep organizations in support of the CSIP. Renewed contracts and distribution agreements for the upcoming year.
- CCWG websites, [www.wool.ca](http://www.wool.ca), [www.premier-choix.ca](http://www.premier-choix.ca) have been upgraded along with new user friendly e-commerce in English and French.
- CCWG promotional materials have been updated and a new French Livestock Supplies Catalogue is now available from Premier Choix Agricole.
- Helped organize and supported shearing schools in western and eastern Canada in 2013.
- New staff appointments have been made at CCWG branches in Lethbridge, AB, Saint-Hyacinthe, QC and Carleton Place, ON.
- Sponsored a research project undertaken by Dalhousie University to investigate the feasibility of wool value chain development.

Our retail business continues to grow and is a very important source of revenue for the company. It enables us to present a strong balance sheet for operating the business and for financing future expansion, capital expenditures, as well as our ongoing support and commitment as a sheep industry partner.

Appreciation is extended to all CCWG staff and Directors for the successful results that have been achieved during the past fiscal year. We also thank our loyal customers for their continued support and patronage.

## CFGA Forage Variety Performance Testing Survey

The Canadian Forage and Grassland Association (CFGA), using Survey Monkey has developed an internet based survey aimed at those who purchase and utilize forage crops in their businesses (farm, processing, reclamation etc.). The CFGA views feedback from end users of forage seed as an essential component for the development of a Canadian forage variety testing strategy. Ongoing independent forage variety performance information is important in sustaining the growth of many primary agriculture businesses.

The CFGA is conducting this survey in response to proposed changes in the Seed Act by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). The proposed changes would discontinue the current merit-testing process as a requirement for registration of forage species in Canada. The proposed changes by CFIA could come into effect in late 2013. If merit-testing for registration is no longer required, registration trials will not be conducted. If the registration testing system is not replaced with another Performance Testing system, there will be no independent, unbiased data to compare commercially available forage varieties.

Discussions on the development of a national Performance Testing system will take place over the next few months, with the objective of discussing the draft Terms and Conditions at the 2013 CFGA AGM and Conference in Olds, Alberta December 10 and 11, 2013.

Summarized data from this survey will assist the CFGA in leading the discussions on the key information that a testing program must generate in order to meet the needs of those who utilize forage crops in their production systems.

Producers and other end users are encouraged to go to the following site and complete the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3CZY9BD>

Through the use of “Survey Monkey” all survey feedback is anonymous.

If you have any questions regarding this survey please contact Wayne Digby, Executive Director, CFGA at (204) 726-9393 [w\\_digby@canadianfga.ca](mailto:w_digby@canadianfga.ca).

## Step Up

[WWW.FMC-GAC.COM/STEP-UP](http://WWW.FMC-GAC.COM/STEP-UP)

# STEP UP

*Where enthusiasm meets experience.*



## What is STEP UP?

STEP UP is an on-farm learning placement. This mentorship program matches those who are considering a farming career with an experienced farm manager. This is a chance to learn farm business management skills in a hands-on setting!

### Who can be a Mentor?

Anyone who is an experienced farm manager interested in taking the time to pass on the best of his/her farm business management knowledge. Mentors receive a \$2000 honorarium for participating!

### Who can be a Mentee?

Anyone who is interested in agriculture and is at least 18 years old.

### Where?

This is a national program.  
You can choose a placement close to home or in another province.

### When?

This program is a minimum of 8 weeks.  
You can start as early as April 1st 2014.

### How?

We are accepting applications now!

**Application Deadline: February 14, 2014**

Website: [www.fmc-gac.com/step-up](http://www.fmc-gac.com/step-up)

Email: [stepup@fmc-gac.com](mailto:stepup@fmc-gac.com)

Phone: 1-888-232-3262

*“The STEP UP program offers Mentees a legitimate learning experience while offering the Mentor a generous honorarium for helping to increase the agricultural capacity of Canada.” - Mentor*

*“As a STEP UP Mentee I was working **AND** learning. STEP UP affords this dual focus and has allowed me to better appreciate the importance of solid business management skills. You may have the best product in the world, but if no one knows about it, or you can't afford to produce it... then a successful business will remain out of your reach!” - Mentee*

Interested in supporting the program and Canada's future farm leaders?

Contact us to find out how your organization can be part of this wonderful opportunity.

A joint partnership between:



Funded in part by:



## 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)

- Nov 1-10 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, Exhibition Place, Toronto, ON [www.royalfair.org/](http://www.royalfair.org/)
- 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 6 2013 Ruminant Feed Industry Day, Elora Community Centre. For more information call 1-877-424-1300.
- Nov 7 2013 Ruminant Feed Industry Day, Richmond Fairground Hall. For more information call 1-877-424-1300
- Nov 7 District 1 Meeting, Rutherford Fire Hall, 8:00 pm. Topic: “Helping your ewes make you more profitable”. Contact Marlene Raymond at [tripler@kent.net](mailto:tripler@kent.net) or 519-683-6635.
- Nov 7 District 2 Meeting, Markdale Ag Services, 7:30 pm. Contact Kyle Harrison at 519-334-3928 or Barb Zettler at 519-392-6549
- Nov 12 November Sheep Seminar, Elma Memorial Community Centre, Atwood
- Nov 14 November Sheep Seminar, Napanee Lions Community Hall, Napanee
- Nov 27 Forage Focus 2013, Winchester Community Centre. Contact Ontario Forage Council to register at 1-877-892-8663 or 519-986-1484.
- Nov 28 Forage Focus 2013, Shakespeare Optimist Hall. Contact Ontario Forage Council to register at 1-877-892-8663 or 519-986-1484.
- 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: [www.greyagservices.ca](http://www.greyagservices.ca)
- Feb 25-26 Agricultural Management Institute Conference--Take a New Approach: Creating Agribusiness Linkages. Register at [www.TakeANewApproach.ca](http://www.TakeANewApproach.ca)
- Feb 27-28 /14 Central Ontario Agricultural Conference – Sheep Day February 27 – Georgian College, 1 Georgian Drive, Barrie Ontario For more information visit the website: [www.centralontarioagconference.ca](http://www.centralontarioagconference.ca)
- 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

### Royal Agricultural Winter Fair

November 1 – 10, Exhibition Place, Toronto, ON

Come visit the OSMA Booth at the Royal! There are many sheep events occurring including:

November 5 – Market Lamb Show at 11 am and the Market Lamb Auction at 5 pm

November 7—Breeding Sheep Show at 9 am

November 8—Breeding Sheep Show at 9 am and Sheep Trophy Classes at 6 pm

November 9—TD Junior Sheep Show at 9 am and TD Ladies Lead and Wool at 1 pm

November 10—Sheep to Shawl Competition 9 am, Drop Spindle Competition at 10 am and Wool Auction

For more information please go to <http://royalfair.org>



**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)

**2013 Ruminant Feed Industry Days**

Wednesday, November 6, 2013 - Elora Community Centre

Thursday, November 7, 2013 - NEW - Richmond Fairground Hall

Objective: To present feed industry personnel including sales staff, nutritionists and other interested professionals with timely information and tools to help their ruminant livestock clients

For more information:

Toll Free: 1-877-424-1300

Local: (519) 826-4047

E-mail: [ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca](mailto:ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca)

**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 (Napane Lions Community Hall, 57 County Rd. #8, Napane)

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>

**Forage Focus 2013**

November 27 at Winchester Community Centre

November 28 at Shakespeare Optimist Hall

10 am to 3 pm cost is \$40 which includes proceedings and a hot roast beef lunch.

Keynote speaker will be Dr. Dan Undersander.

Registration Deadline is November 25.

For more information or to register please contact the Ontario Forage Council at 1-877-892-8663 or 519-986-1484.

**48<sup>th</sup> Annual Grey Bruce Farmers Week**

January 8-14, 2014, Elmwood Community Centre, 38 Queen Street West

Sheep Day will be held on Saturday, January 11, 2014 from 9 am to 4 pm. No pre-registration is required and the admission cost of \$25 includes a hot roast beef dinner and refreshments during the breaks. Information on the speakers and the panel featured that day will be found on our website – [www.greyagservices.ca](http://www.greyagservices.ca) and all are welcome to call the office – 519-986-3756 for any additional information required.

**Agricultural Management Institute Conference**

February 25 and 26, 2014

Take A New Approach: Creating Agribusiness Linkages

Opportunities for increasing your agri-business profitability have never been better, but it takes strong business planning and relationships to take your ideas to the next level. Join us this February to hear from farmers, food processors, and business leaders who have enhanced their business relationships & innovated their way to increased profitability and new opportunities.

Cost: \$55.00 per person, which includes parking, meeting materials, welcome reception, buffet breakfast, lunch, and coffee breaks. Registration fees are non-refundable after February 1st.

Email [ami@takeanewapproach.ca](mailto:ami@takeanewapproach.ca) for more information or visit [www.TakeANewApproach.ca](http://www.TakeANewApproach.ca)

**Central Ontario Agricultural Conference**

February 27-28, 2014

Automotive Building, Georgian College, 1 Georgian Drive, Barrie, ON

Sheep Day will be held on February 27, 2014. Registration Fee is \$50 at the door or \$35 for on-line advance registrations. More information will be available shortly on the website: [www.centralontarioagconference.ca](http://www.centralontarioagconference.ca)

**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.

### **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 AB E Campus is an online farm extension service to provide farmers and producers with direct access to business management information, tools, training and networking. [agricusinesscampus.com](http://agricusinesscampus.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/)

### 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 <a href="mailto:triplerfarms@kent.net">triplerfarms@kent.net</a>	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>  Meetings: Thursday November 7 at 8:00 pm Rutherford Fire Hall, 4596 Lambton Line Topic: Matt Groen from Purina “Helping Your Ewes Make YOU More Profitable” Everyone welcome. No RSVP necessary. Contact Marlene Raymond for more information
Dist 2	Kyle Harrison at 519-334-3928 or <a href="mailto:kyleharrison22@hotmail.com">kyleharrison22@hotmail.com</a>	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 or <a href="mailto:geordawn@zing-net.ca">geordawn@zing-net.ca</a>	Meetings are usually last Wed. of every month, Location TBA

Dist 6	Karen Harvey at 905-729-3196 or <a href="mailto:pkharvey@zing-net.ca">pkharvey@zing-net.ca</a>	
Dist 7	Judy Dening at 705-324-3453 or <a href="mailto:theshepherds gate@xplornet.com">theshepherds gate@xplornet.com</a>	
Dist 8	Matt Fleguel at 613-961-9260 or <a href="mailto:mfleguel@gmail.com">mfleguel@gmail.com</a>	Meetings: November 14– Napanee Sheep Seminar Dec – Christmas Pot Luck at Huizenga’s Feb 6 March 6 May
Dist 9	Tyler Armstrong at 613-433-8255 or <a href="mailto:pinnaclehaven@gmail.com">pinnaclehaven@gmail.com</a>	
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)  
November 20—Rebecca Parker, The Importance of Pregnancy Scanning  
December 11—Christmas Meeting—Please bring a potluck item and auction item. Start: 6:00pm.

### 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.

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](#)