

Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency (OSMA) News Release

OSMA applauds approval of relaxing cable restraints

For immediate release

January 8, 2016 - Guelph, ON - As of January 1st, 2016, trained trappers and producers will be able to use relaxing cable restraints (RCRs) in Ontario. RCRs will be legal for use by licensed trappers or by producers on their property for trapping of wolves and coyotes during the open season, or in protection of property situations year-round. Certain seasonal and geographic restrictions will apply to the use of this tool. There are also technical specifications guiding the design of this restraint to help avoid capture of non-target animals and improve animal welfare. Additionally, training on the proper use of RCR's will be added to Ontario's mandatory trapper education program and Best Management Practice information will be made available to support producers and trappers using RCRs.

"Having access to tools such as the RCR, will greatly benefit Ontario sheep producers as managing predation is essential to our industry's success," said Rob Scott, Chairman of OSMA, "On behalf of the OSMA Board and our producer members, I would like to thank Minister Mauro and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry for all the work they have put in to making this possible."

Predation is a real threat to many Ontario sheep producers and is responsible for the devastating loss of valuable livestock and farm income, as well as creating additional costs for producers and for the provincial government. Given the severity of the predation problem in the province, Ontario sheep producers are grateful to have RCRs made available as a tool to help them manage predators and further their ability to increase production and capture more of the market share for sheep and lambs.

Research done on the RCR has confirmed that they are an effective, humane means of capturing problem coyotes while allowing other non-target animals to be safely released without injury.

For full details on the regulations around the use of relaxing cable restraints in Ontario please visit: www.ontario.ca/environmentalregistry and search ER# 012-4735.

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.