

Exciting Changes to the Advance Payments Program for Lamb/Sheep Producers

The Advance Payments Program, which provides cash advances to Canadian producers of up to \$400,000 with the first \$100,000 interest free and balance at prime, has undergone some positive changes for sheep producers. With the support and assistance of the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency, Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) has been successful in improving the Advance Payments Program for sheep producers in Ontario.

Sheep producers with 'continuous flow' where inventory remains consistent throughout the year, will now be able to make one payment for the entire advance up to 12 months from the date of receiving the initial funds. This is a major improvement as a producer can realize more savings by extending their interest free portion of the loan to a full year versus paying back on their first sales of lambs and/or sheep. Standard operations (in/out) will continue to have the benefit of a repayment period of up to 18 months from the start date of the program each year and will continue to repay advances as lambs and/or sheep are sold.

The program for sheep producers commences March 1st of each year, and producers can access up to \$100,000 interest free each to a maximum of \$400,000 with the additional \$300,000 at prime. A producer can apply anytime between March and the following February each year on current inventory that is intended to be sold in the current program year. Producers can apply for multiple products on the same application (i.e. livestock and crops) for one fee. Please note that enrollment in Agristability is required for any livestock advances.

The Advance Payments Program is administered through Agricultural Credit Corporation. If you have any questions or to request more information, please contact ACC at 1-888-278-8807, info@agcreditcorp.ca or visit www.agcreditcorp.ca.