



The Messenger

OSMA and the Industry

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Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency

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Deadline to submit material is the 20th of the month before. Please send all submissions to Meggy at mchan@ontariosheep.org, or call 519-836-0043 ex. 29 with any questions.

Out and About: April Recap

Wonder what OSMA gets up to in a month? Here are the highlights of where we were representing you!

April 4 – Ontario Agricultural Commodity Council and Ontario Agricultural Sustainability Coalition Meeting

April 7 – Agricultural Community of Practice Meeting

April 8 – Foodland Ontario Retailer Awards Ceremony

April 11 – Federation des Producteurs d'Agneaux et Moutons du Quebec Market Access Meeting

April 11 – Livestock Research Innovation Corporation Board Meeting

April 12 – Meeting with MP Francis Drouin

April 12-14 – Canadian Federation of Agriculture Meeting

April 13-14 – Agricultural Institute of Canada Research Meeting

April 15 – Ontario Livestock and Poultry Council Meeting

April 18 – Growth Strategy Meeting

April 19 – Livestock Sustainability Working Group Meeting

April 20-21 – OSMA Board Meeting

April 21 – Farm Animal Emergency Management Meeting

2016 Census of Agriculture

At the beginning of May 2016, farm operators will be asked to update Canada's agricultural profile by completing the 2016 Census of Agriculture questionnaire.

The census will provide farmers, farm organizations, policy makers, stakeholders, and citizens with relevant information about the future of the Canadian agricultural sector and help them make informed decisions regarding agricultural practices in this country.

Stakeholders

The participation of sheep farmers in the Census of Agriculture is an important factor in obtaining new information at the local and national levels.

Accurate statistics give agriculture practitioners an understanding of where we've come from and where we are now, and allow for a well-informed response to tomorrow's farming challenges.

Policy makers

The Census of Agriculture is the backbone of Canada's agricultural statistics program. It identifies trends, opportunities and challenges within the agricultural sector. Questions cover topics such as land use, crops, livestock, agricultural labour, machinery and equipment, land management practices, and farm finances. The breadth and depth of the census content renders it the most definitive source of information on the agricultural sector, providing a rich source of data about the realities of farming life in Canada.

Farmers

In early May, you will receive a letter with easy-to-follow instructions on how to complete your Census of Agriculture questionnaire online. This user-friendly option will save you time by automatically adding totals and limiting the questions to the ones that apply to your operation.

The questionnaire can be completed by anyone who is responsible for, or knowledgeable about, the day-to-day management decisions of your farming operation. As required by the *Statistics Act*, the information you provide will be kept confidential and used only for statistical purposes.

This May, add your voice to those of Canada's sheep farmers by completing your Census of Agriculture questionnaire!

QUICK SHEEP FARMING FACTS FROM THE 2011 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE:

- There were 1.1 million sheep and lambs on Canadian farms. Ontario led the country with 352,807 (31.8%), followed by Quebec with 272,574 (24.6%) and Alberta with 202,903 (18.3%).
- Only 10,111 Canadian operators reported raising sheep and lambs.
- The average herd size of a farm was 111 sheep and lambs. The largest farms were in Quebec (234 sheep and lambs) and the smallest in British Columbia (36 sheep and lambs).
- There were 2,903 farms that **specialized in sheep and lamb farming** (the majority of their farm receipts was received from sheep and lamb farming). Here are some facts about these farms:
 - There was a total of 626,577 sheep and lambs (57.5% of the total number in Canada).
 - The largest 5% of all specialized sheep and lamb farms raised 18% of all Canadian sheep and lambs.
 - Among the specialized sheep and lamb farms, 58.9% were held in sole proprietorship; 33.3% were owned in partnerships; 6.3% were owned by family corporations; and 1.3% were owned by non-family corporations.
 - The average herd size of a specialized farm was 216 sheep and lambs.
 - There were 4,375 operators across Canada and 61.7% were male.
 - The average age of an operator was 52 years old.
 - Among the operators, 48.3% were 55 years and older; 43.5% were 35 to 54 years old and 8.2% were under the age of 35.
 - Furthermore, 39.2% of operators did not work anywhere other than on the farm, while 24.3% worked more than 40 hours per week at another job in addition to their farming duties.

For more information, please visit the [Statistics Canada](http://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/26-651-x/2013001/article/11831-eng.htm) website.

As required by the *Statistics Act*, a Census of Agriculture questionnaire must be completed for every agricultural operation in Canada.

Ontario Forage and Hay Co-op Receives GF2 Funding

The Ontario Hay and Forage Co-operative, working in collaboration with the Ontario Forage Council, announced today that it has received *Growing Forward 2* funding approval from the Agricultural Adaptation Council for a comprehensive Feasibility Study and Business Plan for its double-compaction hay processing facility. The *Growing Forward 2* funding of \$81,116 will enable the Co-operative to build a strong business case for its plan to build a facility capable of processing up to 100,000 tonnes of premium quality Ontario hay annually.

Fritz Trauttmansdorff, the Co-operative's Chair, thanked the AAC for their significant commitment to the Co-

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operative's project. "By leveraging members' investment, the Agricultural Adaptation Council's grant enables us to prepare the thorough Feasibility Study and comprehensive Business Plan essential to launch a project of this magnitude," said Trauttmansdorff. Ontario Forage Council Manager Ray Robertson congratulated the start-up Co-operative, adding that "this once again demonstrates the critical role that *Growing Forward 2* can play in supporting new ventures aiming to build new markets for Ontario agricultural products."

The recently formed Co-operative is aiming to tap into export markets for superior forages to support growing dairy, equine, and livestock markets, particularly in Asia and the Middle East. The Co-operative's goal is to increase returns for producers by enabling them to obtain higher prices for their hay. By working with producers to establish on-farm hay-drying facilities, and building a facility to compact their hay into compressed square bales for overseas shipment, the Co-operative intends to offer a premium product to buyers in the livestock and equine sectors.

The Ontario Hay and Forage Co-operative has been structured as a "new generation co-operative" which means that producers will be both entitled and obligated to deliver hay to the Co-operative. Members will invest in the Co-operative in proportion to the volume of hay they commit to deliver to the Co-operative. Profits from the venture will be shared among members based on the volume of hay they ship to the Co-operative. An incentive structure will be developed to reward member producers for premium quality hay. Producers interested in joining the Co-operative can get more information on the Co-operative's website (www.ontariohay.ca).

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.

1st Sheep Equipment Expo to be Held in June 2016

Overwhelmed by all the options out there for sheep handling equipment and management programs and you're just not sure how to decide what's best? On June 18th, 2016 the first ever **Sheep Equipment Expo** will be happening in Drayton and will feature sheep handling equipment, management software equipment and other various sheep specific equipment. There will be hands-on demonstrations of different systems and representatives from each company to answer any questions you may have about their products. There will even be live sheep on site for demonstrations with handling equipment! This event will be a great opportunity for producers to get out and experience and look at a variety of different products, putting them in a better position to make the best purchasing decision for their operation. Additionally, a food booth run by a local service club/ 4H will also be set up to offer lunch to exhibitors and attendees.

We are still looking for more exhibitors and this is a great chance to promote your sheep specific equipment! To register, contact Romy Schill as soon as possible!

June 18, 10 am – 1 pm
Drayton Fairgrounds - 49 Elm St. Drayton, ON N0B 1A0

For more information, or if you are interested in being an exhibitor, please contact Romy Schill at circle.r.livestock@hotmail.com!

OSMA Exclusive Offers at TSC Stores in May

TSC Stores **ONTARIO Sheep** **OSMA MEMBER EXCLUSIVE MAY OFFER**

OFFER VALID MAY 1 TO 31, 2016 ONLY

20% OFF **Behlen COUNTRY TUFF STUFF PRODUCTS**

ALL STOCK TANKS, BUCKETS, PAILS, & POULTRY FEEDERS ONLY AT TSC STORES!

Incredible News!
Save 20% off all regular priced stock tanks, buckets, pails & poultry feeders as your OSMA Member Exclusive May Offer!

To enjoy this special offer, simply show your card at the register when you visit TSC Stores before May 31, 2016.
*Offer applies to select in stock, regular priced items only. Excludes sale priced items, clearance priced items, hot buys, & gift cards. Offer not applicable to wholesale purchases. If a product is featured at a lower price in store, the lower price will apply. Card cannot be combined with any other offer or discount. Card is not redeemable for cash and has no cash value. Customer must show their OSMA Member Bonus Card to receive offer.

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Upcoming Events

For more information on any upcoming events please visit the OSMA website at: www.ontariosheep.org/Events.aspx or contact the OSMA Office at 519-836-0043.

April 28 – **District 8 Meeting:** Join D8 sheep producers for a meeting to learn about nutrition and parasites, and get an update on Cache Valley Virus from Dr. John Hancock. Meeting will be held at 7 pm at Napanee District Secondary School, Rm A1. Contact Michelle at osmad8secretary@gmail.com for more info!

Southwestern ON Sheep Farmers Meeting: Guest speaker for this meeting is Marc Boersma from Boersma Farm Supply. He will be speaking on feeding lambs to give them a good start and finish. Meeting will be held at 7:30 pm at the Coldstream Community Centre. For more info, contact michadon.jeffrey@gmail.com.

Western ON Lamb Producers Meeting: Guest speaker Ken DeBoer will discuss managing feed inventories to maximize potential for flock and farm benefit. Meeting will be at 7:30 pm at the Bluevale Community Hall.

May 14 – **District 10 Pasture Walk:** D10 invites everyone to attend this informative meeting on Pasture Rejuvenation with Richard Lavigne from Summit Seeds. The meeting will be held from 10am -12pm at 455 Donoghue Rd., Oxford Mills, ON K0G 1S0. Rubber boots are recommended! For more info contact Michael Sloboda at 613-868-1892 or msloboda2003@gmail.com.

May 26 – OSMA Board Meeting

Other Organizations and Reference Information

Victoria County Sheep Producers

Third Wednesday every month starting at 7:30 Oakwood Elevators (Taylor Road, Oakwood)
Membership is \$20 per farm per year. Contact: Peter Craig at pdcraig@outlook.com

Western Ontario Lamb Producers

District 2 and 3 area

For more information email westernontariolambproducers@gmail.com

Southwestern Ontario Sheep Farmers

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

Ontario Suffolk Sheep Association

www.facebook.com/ontariosuffolk

DISTRICT	CONTACT	INFORMATION
Dist 1	Dave DeKay at 519-666-0626 or dmdekay@isp.ca	http://osma_district_1.tripod.com/
Dist 2	Matt Zehr at 519-363-2029 zehr.matt@gmail.com	
Dist 3	Sandi Brock at 519-263-2325 brocksandi@hotmail.com	
Dist 4	Jay Mycroft at jay.mycroft@xplornet.com or 905-957-1114	District 4 Meeting District 4 meetings tentatively to be held the 3 rd Wed. of the month at 7:30 at the Ancaster Fairgrounds (630 Trinity Road, Ancaster).
Dist 5	Dianne Orr at 519-928-5302 or orr7@sympatico.ca	Check out the District 5 Facebook Page!
Dist 6	Karen Harvey at 905-729-3196 or pkharvey@zing-net.ca	
Dist 7	Judy Dening at 705-324-3453 or theshepherdsate@xplornet.com	
Dist 8	Michelle Voskamp at 613-848-8972 or secretary@osmadistrict8.ca	Our monthly meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of every month at 7 pm at Napanee High School, Napanee. For more information visit: www.osmadistrict8.ca/
Dist 9	Tyler Armstrong at 613-433-8255 or pinnaclehaven@gmail.com	
Dist 10	Christine Power at 613-686-1892 or christine.power@ic.gc.ca	Check out our Facebook website page: https://www.facebook.com/OSMAD10
Dist 11	Debra Garner at 705-563-2761 or bill.debgarner@gmail.com	