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## **For Immediate Release**

### **ACC TO ADMINISTER NATIONAL SHEEP AND LAMBS ADVANCE PAYMENTS PROGRAM**

GUELPH, ON (March 25, 2015) - Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) is pleased to announce that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has approved ACC's request to administer the Advance Payments Program (APP) for sheep and lamb producers across Canada.

"ACC has been administering this program for Ontario sheep and lamb producers for several years and looks forward to working with producers nationally to deliver this very beneficial financial program. Producers are eligible to receive up to \$400,000, with the first \$100,000 being interest-free and amounts over \$100,000 at prime (currently 2.85 %)," stated Jaye Atkins, CEO of ACC.

Applications are being received now for the program start date of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015. Producers can complete applications over the phone by calling ACC or through the traditional application process.

"Given the work we have done with ACC and their support for the sheep industry in Ontario, we have great confidence in their ability to administer the APP nationally," said Jennifer MacTavish, General Manager of the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency. ACC will also be working nationally in cooperation with the Canadian Lamb Producers Cooperative based in Saskatoon and Guelph. "A national lamb and sheep Advance Payments Program administered by ACC will give lamb producers the opportunity to expand their flocks to meet increased demand in both the domestic and export markets," added Terry Ackerman, CEO of the Canadian Lamb Producers Cooperative.

The recent Royal Assent of the Agricultural Growth Act will also allow breeding animals to be eligible under the APP. Details of this major improvement will be provided at a later date.

For more information contact ACC toll free at 1-888-278-8807, or visit their website at [www.agcreditcorp.ca](http://www.agcreditcorp.ca).

ACC is a not-for-profit organization comprised of nineteen farm organizations and administers the APP for crops, livestock, nursery and greenhouses.

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