



# The Messenger

OSMA and the Industry

## Contents

Out and About: December Recap .....	2
December Board Notes .....	2
Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark Government Response Statement .....	3
Farms at Work Launches Sheep Farming Mentorship Year Three .....	3
COOL Remains in Place for Sheep and Lamb .....	4
FarmSmart Conference 2016 .....	4
Rural Ontario Income Levels and Trends .....	5
OSMA Merchandise Catalogue .....	5
Attention Ontario Lamb Retailers! .....	5
OSCIA Workshops in 2016 .....	6
Upcoming Events.....	6
District Information .....	6
Other Organizations and Reference Information.....	7

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Deadline to submit material is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month before. Please send all submissions to Meggy at [mchan@ontariosheep.org](mailto:mchan@ontariosheep.org), or call 519-836-0043 ex. 29 with any questions.

## Out and About: December Recap

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

Dec 1<sup>st</sup>: Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario Convention

Dec 1<sup>st</sup>: Emergency Management Research Expo

Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>: Trans Pacific Partnership Meeting

Dec 7<sup>th</sup>: President's Council

Dec 7<sup>th</sup>: Ontario Agricultural Sustainability Coalition Meeting

Dec 9<sup>th</sup>: OSMA Board Meeting

Dec 10<sup>th</sup>: Agricultural Adaptation Council AGM

Dec 10<sup>th</sup>: Livestock Research Innovation Corporation Board Meeting

Dec 11<sup>th</sup>: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Meeting Re: Cap and Trade Design Options

Dec 14<sup>th</sup>: Ontario Agriculture Commodity Council Meeting

## December Board Notes


The Board spent time at the December Board meeting reviewing the feedback from the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The reviews of the meeting were positive, although concern was expressed regarding the distance between the trade show space and the speakers. Based on the positive feedback, the Nottawasaga Inn has been booked for November 27 and 28, 2016. Staff is working with the Inn on some options to ensure the trade show space and speakers are in the same area.

The Board reviewed the Resolutions from the AGM. Each District that brought a resolution to the floor will have a letter sent to them from the Board regarding their resolution and a complete listing of the resolution along with the Board's response can be found later on in the Messenger.

Peter Sykanda from the Ontario Federation of Agriculture joined the meeting to help answer questions on Cap and Trade. For agriculture the concerns are around methane, manure and fertilizer applied to land and if the sector can reduce these, there is the potential to generate a credit that could be sold. It is difficult to say how Cap and Trade will impact sheep farmers; it will largely depend on how fuels are regulated.

Some of the producer input on production insurance was reviewed by the Board including abortions, lambs that die before they are 24 hours old, entrapment *et cetera*. Some concerns were raised about how sustainable it would be to have certain perils covered and not others and if there is a way to have a program that mirrors crop insurance. OSMA will continue its dialogue with OMAFRA on this and continues to welcome input from producers.

Updates were provided on the CSF AGM which included discussions on traceability and tag quality. The CFA Committee on Interprovincial Trade Barriers has just started its work and will be presenting its findings to the Minister of Trade. It looks like the much of the content will be based on the sheep industry.



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is proud to work on behalf of 37,000  
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## Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark Government Response Statement

The provincial government has released its response statement for Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark. Along with the government response, an amendment has been made to Ontario Regulation 197/11 to extend the current exemption for agricultural operations in relation to Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark until December 31, 2015.

The response statement outlines the actions that are necessary for the protection and recovery of the Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark. The actions identified as “high” will be given priority consideration over the next five years. The government will support conservation, agency, municipal and industry partners and Aboriginal communities to undertake activities to protect and cover Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark and support will be provided where appropriate through funding, agreements, permits and/or advisory services.

The government has identified the following actions as being necessary for the protection and recovery of the Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark: Stewardship and Awareness; Habitat Protection and Management and; Research and Monitoring.

To see the government response and get more information on the actions to be taken, please visit: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/bobolink-and-eastern-meadowlark-government-response-statement#section-2>

## Farms at Work Launches Sheep Farming Mentorship Year Three

The Farms at Work Sheep Farming Mentorship offers new shepherds an opportunity to work and learn alongside well-respected mentors. In 2016, the program will run from April to August, and will once again be led by long-time shepherds, Bob and Gail Irvine of Rocky Lane Farm. Participants attend five

field days on the mentor's farm, featuring curriculum-based learning in a small-group setting and hands-on practical projects. Mentees will also have access to several hours of one-on-one mentor support between field days.

If you are a new shepherd looking to learn under an experienced farming mentor and to integrate into the established community of sheep producers in the region, Farms at Work's Sheep Farming Mentorship may be for you. Applications for the 2016 season are now available. For more information please visit [www.farmsatwork.ca/mentorship-programs](http://www.farmsatwork.ca/mentorship-programs), or contact our office (705-743-7671 | [info@farmsatwork.ca](mailto:info@farmsatwork.ca)).

## COOL Remains in Place for Sheep and Lamb

December 18, 2015 – Ottawa, Ontario – In a joint press held earlier today, Minister Lawrence MacAulay (Agriculture) and Minister Chrystia Freeland (International Trade) announced that an omnibus appropriations bill that includes language to repeal U.S. Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) for beef and pork has cleared both the U.S. House and Senate, and was sent to President Barack Obama to be signed. But the bill will not see the repeal of COOL for sheep and lamb products. President Obama has now signed the bill.

Both Ministers MacAulay and Freeland claimed this recent development a 'victory' for Canadian agriculture. But Canada's sheep industry is exceptionally disappointed in the federal government's elation over what is merely a selective repeal of legislation that will continue to contravene Canada's free trade agreements.

<http://www.ontariosheep.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=iPvgWjvkPK4%3d&tabid=64&mid=415>

## FarmSmart Conference 2016

FarmSmart and YieldSmart is here! Whether you're into crops or livestock, you'll find something interesting in this year's line-up. Our program for FarmSmart 2016 is now available on our site with more session and speaker information. Now in its 17th year, the main FarmSmart conference will return to **Rozanski Hall at the University of Guelph on Saturday, January 23, 2016**. Presentations will address current and emerging technology and innovation across a range of topics, from crop and livestock production to soil and environmental management, business, marketing, and general interest.

For a fourth year, a full-day event will precede the main FarmSmart conference. Following in the successful footsteps of CornSmart, SoySmart and SoilSmart, this year's event is [YieldSmart](http://www.yieldsmart.ca), held once again at the Manulife Sportsplex at RIM Park 2100 University Ave. E. in Waterloo on Friday, January 22, 2016. <http://farmsmartconference.com/farmsmart-ag-conferences-evolving-program/>

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## Rural Ontario Income Levels and Trends

Rural family income levels have been increasing faster than inflation but remain 15 per cent lower than levels in metropolitan Ontario, according to new *Focus on Rural Ontario* fact sheets.

“The rural income story is one of both good and bad news since the rise has flattened out over the last five years,” says Norman Ragetlie, Director of Policy and Stakeholder Engagement, Rural Ontario Institute.

Despite the income gap between metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas, the share of non-metropolitan individuals living in low income families is lower than among metropolitan families if the income threshold is adjusted for a lower cost of rural living.

<http://www.ruralontarioinstitute.ca/file.aspx?id=4833ec39-4dc6-46b5-967b-fc9fa4c53446>

## OSMA Merchandise Catalogue

OSMA has lots of great merchandise available and now we have an online catalogue and an order form so you can get all your OSMA swag without going anywhere! We have a great selection of items including hats, shirts, mugs, aprons, cookbooks and more! Check out our selections online and be sure to order ahead if you’ve got a sheep enthusiast to buy for!

Catalogue can be found at [ontariosheep.org](http://ontariosheep.org) under Production Information > Other Resources or at:

<http://www.ontariosheep.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=B6sUoL679Y%3d&tabid=99>

## Attention Ontario Lamb Retailers!

Do you sell Premium Ontario Lamb products? Are you looking for new ways to promote Ontario products? If the answer to these questions is yes, then the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency has just

what you need. OSMA has “Fresh Premium Ontario Lamb” stickers (rolls of 250) and also lamb cut charts in both 8.5” x 11” and full poster size available free of charge to anyone who is selling Ontario lamb products. If you are interested in getting any of these resources, please contact the office at 519-836-0043 or by email at [admin@ontariosheep.org](mailto:admin@ontariosheep.org).

## OSCIA Workshops in 2016

The Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association is hosting a number of workshops and webinars on Food Safety, Traceability and Biosecurity over the next few months at various locations across the province in both English and French. For more details, dates and locations see the links below.

[Food Safety Workshops](#)

[Traceability Workshops](#)

[Biosecurity Workshops](#)

## 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) or contact the OSMA Office at 519-836-0043.

- Jan 6-12      **Grey-Bruce Farmer’s Week: Sheep Day** – Saturday Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>, 9 am start. Elmwood Community Centre, 38 Queen St. W, Elmwood, ON N0G 1S0
- Jan 12      **District 3 Meeting: Feeding “Ewe” for Profit** - Jamie O’Shea from Grand Valley Fortifiers will be the guest speaker. Meeting will be 7pm in the Morenz Room at the Mitchell Arena.
- Jan 23      **FarmSmart Conference:** 8:30 am registration, Rozanski Hall, University of Guelph.
- Feb 9      **BIO Annual General Meeting:** 10am – 12pm, Mallot Creek Boardroom. 294 Mill St. E., Elora, ON N0B 1S0
- Mar 3      **District 2 Meeting:** Save the date, more details to come!
- Mar 5      **District 10 Sheep Day:** Save the date! More details to follow.
- Mar 8      **District 3 Meeting: Lambing 101** – Guest speaker will be Dr. Charlotte Winder. Meeting will be at 7 pm at Tavistock Grace United Church

### District Information

DISTRICT	CONTACT	INFORMATION
Dist 1	Dave DeKay at 519-666-0626 or <a href="mailto:dmdekay@isp.ca">dmdekay@isp.ca</a>	<a href="http://osma_district_1.tripod.com/">http://osma_district_1.tripod.com/</a>
Dist 2	Matt Zehr at 519-363-2029 <a href="mailto:zehr.matt@gmail.com">zehr.matt@gmail.com</a>	
Dist 3	Sandi Brock at 519-263-2325	

	<a href="mailto:brocksandi@hotmail.com">brocksandi@hotmail.com</a>	
Dist 4	Jay Mycroft at <a href="mailto:jay.mycroft@xplornet.com">jay.mycroft@xplornet.com</a> or 905-957-1114	<b>District 4 Meeting</b> District 4 meetings tentatively to be held the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed. of the month at 7:30 at the Ancaster Fairgrounds (630 Trinity Road, Ancaster).
Dist 5	Dianne Orr at 519-928-5302 or <a href="mailto:orr7@sympatico.ca">orr7@sympatico.ca</a>	<a href="#">Check out the District 5 Facebook Page!</a>
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:theshepherdsgate@xplornet.com">theshepherdsgate@xplornet.com</a>	
Dist 8	Michelle Voskamp at 613-848-8972 or <a href="mailto:secretary@osmadistrict8.ca">secretary@osmadistrict8.ca</a>	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: <a href="http://www.osmadistrict8.ca/">www.osmadistrict8.ca/</a>
Dist 9	Tyler Armstrong at 613-433-8255 or <a href="mailto:pinnaclehaven@gmail.com">pinnaclehaven@gmail.com</a>	
Dist 10	Christine Power at 613-686-1892 or <a href="mailto:christine.power@ic.gc.ca">christine.power@ic.gc.ca</a>	Check out our Facebook website page: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/OSMAD10">https://www.facebook.com/OSMAD10</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 Oakwood Elevators (Taylor Road, Oakwood)  
Membership is \$20 per farm per year. Contact: Peter Craig at [pdcraig@outlook.com](mailto:pdcraig@outlook.com)

#### Western Ontario Lamb Producers

District 2 and 3 area

For more information email [westernontariolambproducers@gmail.com](mailto: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

#### Grey Bruce Sheep Management Club

Location: Grey Gables in Markdale

#### Ontario Suffolk Sheep Association

[www.facebook.com/ontariosuffolk](http://www.facebook.com/ontariosuffolk)