

The Monthly Messenger

December 2013

Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency, 130 Malcolm Road, Guelph, ON, N1K 1B1

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GM Report—Pending Traceability Regulations

Jennifer MacTavish, OSMA General Manager

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has released its discussion documents on the options for livestock identification and traceability regulations. These documents were presented to the Canadian Sheep Industry at the Canadian Sheep Federation's (CSF) Annual Meeting in Ottawa in November.

The proposed amendments to the federal *Health of Animals* Regulations will be subject to consultations between November 2013 and April 2014; with implementation slated for early 2016. So now is the time for the sheep industry to give careful consideration to what will work traceability wise for the industry.

The main outcomes of the proposed livestock traceability system are that (a) risks to the Canadian animal resource base are mitigated, (b) risks to Canadians from the transmission of animal diseases to humans are minimized and (c) international markets are accessible to Canadian food, animals, plants and their products.

With these main outcomes in mind, it is suggested that four main gaps need to be addressed. The first one is that not all livestock species that share diseases are subject to traceability requirements. While the amendments to the *Health of Animals Regulations* will subject cervids and goats to traceability requirements and include the addition of movement reporting requirements for cattle, bison, sheep, goats and cervids, the real issue is how to deal with horses. The goal is to ensure that no group is put at risk by another and given that horses don't share many or any significant diseases with production livestock, excluding them from this regulatory amendment may be an option. Pigs have been part of a separate regulatory amendment.

The second issue is that there is a delay between a movement event and when traceability data is reported to a database. This delay does not support an efficient traceability investigation. While ideally information would be reported to a database within 48 hours of a movement event, the recommendation is that 7 days be the time allowed to report movement events.

The fact that domestic movement of livestock to high-risk locations, such as commingling sites, is not reported is the third issue. Currently for the sheep industry, the CFIA is proposing that there be no movement reporting requirements of livestock within a farm. However, when sheep leave the farm of origin the operator would report the animals' identification number, location of departure and destination, date and time animals are loaded and the license plate number of the conveyance. Given that the recommendation further states that the operator of the intermediate site (e.g., auction, assembly yards, community pastures) would not be required to report the receipt of the animals, there is great concern that this is putting too much of the traceability onus on sheep producers. Especially since producers are the ones purchasing the tags and applying them and, that for other livestock groups the intermediate sites are the ones who are being recommended to report the receipt of animals.

The fourth issue is that there is the lack of geographical precision of the traceability information gathered does not support an efficient response to disease outbreak or natural disaster. To address this issue, when movement is reported a Premises ID (PID) is required. Any producer who does not have a PID can get one quickly and easily from the Provincial Premises Registry (www.ontarioppr.com or 1.855.697.7743).

The CFIA has indicated that there is the possibility, should the industry wish, that sheep younger than 12 months sent directly to slaughter from a farm to an abattoir would have the option of being identified with a non-electronic ear tag bearing a number unique to the site instead of an RFID with an individual animal identification number. This would include the option of group lot identification. In this situation, producers

would need to report only one animal ID number (the flock number) for a group of lambs sent directly to an abattoir.

OSMA is currently investigating the options of group lot identification and if it would work for animals going through the auction mart. We also want to make sure that you have the opportunity to be heard. We are willing to facilitate WebEx's with the CFIA if you would like, or alternatively you can contact me and let me know your comments and I will ensure they get incorporated into the discussions

Board Notes

Highlights from the November 27, 2013 Board Meeting

At the November Board meeting, the Board reviewed whether or not having Board meeting minutes posted on the OSMA website was meeting its original mandate. Recognizing that the initial intent of posting the minutes on the website was to provide open and transparent information to producers, concern was expressed that minutes may not be doing an adequate job of providing producers with the reasoning for some decisions. As such, it was decided that instead of posting minutes on the website, OSMA would ensure that meeting summaries would be provided to producers via the Messenger.



Each edition of the Messenger following a Board meeting will have an installment of **Board Notes**. While **Board Notes** is not intended to be a play-by-play of the entire Board meeting, it will hit all the highlights. Since the November Board meeting is the first one after the AGM, the Board spent time reviewing the comments provided by attendees at the AGM and reviewing the resolutions. Each District that brought a resolution to the floor at the AGM will be hearing from the OSMA shortly.

The OSMA Board reviewed the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's proposal for sheep traceability and have requested a working session with OMAF's Traceability Coordinator to work through various sheep identification and traceability options; including Group Lot ID and the use of non-RFID tags. This working session will be held at the January Board meeting. For further information on the proposed traceability requirements, please refer to Jenn MacTavish's article in the Messenger or in the December edition of OSN. Access to medications is an ongoing issue for Ontario shepherd's and there was discussion around the table about accessing vaccines for producer and work that is being done with the National Sheep Value Chain Roundtable to have new wormers available to producers.

With the CSF AGM occurring the week before the OSMA Board meeting, an update from this meeting was provided, including the fact that Quebec is no longer a member of the CSF and that Rob Scott is now the Vice-Chair of the organization. The CSF has also restructured its Board and will only have one representative from each province on the Board carrying a weighted vote. Rob is not only the Vice-Chair, but he is also OSMA's only representative on the CSF Board.

The Board also discussed: (i) an issue a producer is having with Environment Canada in relation to grazing sheep near water; (ii) developing a position on the proposal to increase minimum wage and; (iii) opted to become a member of the Agricultural Credit Corporation.

OSMA will also work on developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA). Other livestock commodities have already developed such MOU's which enable the commodity groups to assist with farm calls. They also help build credibility and trust between the OSPCA and the commodity groups. The meeting wrapped up with the OSMA Committee memberships being formed.

Phil Kolodychuk Elected CSF Chairman of the Board

For immediate release, Canadian Sheep Federation



November, 2013—Ottawa, ON—The Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF) is pleased to announce the election of Phil Kolodychuk as Chairman of the Board at the 2013 Annual General Meeting.

Phil Kolodychuk, along with his wife and children have raised lambs in Bluesky, Alberta for the past 12 years. “I would like to thank the Board for their confidence in choosing me to help lead the organization through the coming year”, said Mr. Kolodychuk, adding “I would also like to thank the departing Board members Andrew Gordanier, Dennis Fischer and Josephine Martensson-Hemsted for their dedication to the Canadian sheep industry and for championing the CSF renewal process. It was a time consuming but necessary exercise, and one that will ultimately benefit the industry”. Phil went on to say that now is the time to focus CSF efforts on initiatives that will directly benefit producers like traceability, the Farm Safe Food Practices Program, scrapie eradication and access to medications, amongst others.

The CSF Executive Committee has a number of newly elected members this year including Rob Scott (ON) as Vice-Chair, Cathy Gallivan (NB) as Secretary and Barbara Johnstone Grimmer (BC) as Treasurer. The rest of the CSF Board of Directors consists of Bill Gibson (AB), Herman Bouw (MB), Cathy Vallis (NS), Claude Gallant (PEI) and Wilson Reid (NL).

The Canadian Sheep Federation is a national, non-profit organization that represents all Canadian sheep producers. Its mission is further the viability, expansion and prosperity of the Canadian sheep industry.

For more information contact the Canadian Sheep Federation at 1-888-684-7739 or info@cansheep.ca.

Ontario Hay Now Eligible for Financing Under Advance Payments Program

For immediate release, Agricultural Credit Corporation

November 13, 2013—Guelph, ON—Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) has received approval to add hay to their growing list of eligible commodities within Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s Advance Payments Program (APP).

Commencing with the 2014 program year, five categories of hay have been approved with an advance rate of \$57.50 per tonne. These five categories include: Alfalfa, Timothy, Mixed Hay-Alfalfa and Timothy, Orchardgrass Hay, and Mixed Hay (any mixture of grasses and/or legumes). The program will cover all Ontario hay and hay mixtures intended for export and domestic sales, including farm-to-farm sales but not including hay fed on the producer’s own farm.

To be eligible for an advance, producers must have an established crop and are to be enrolled in either Agristability or the [Forage Rainfall Production Insurance Program](#) provided by Agricorp. Neither Production Insurance nor Agristability are required if applying for an advance on bales stored after harvest in summer of 2014.

The Ontario Hay program provides up to \$100,000 interest-free with an additional \$300,000 available at Bank Prime Lending Rate. Advances are to be repaid as bales are sold at first, second, or third cut, or later out of storage, and no later than April 30, 2015. All repayments are to be supported by [proof of sales](#) documentation **at time of repayment**.

Applications for the 2014 program are available on the [ACC website](#) or can be **mailed upon request**. For additional information about ACC or the services offered please contact 1-888-278-8807 or info@agcreditcorp.ca.

Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) is a not-for-profit farm organization that was founded in 1992 by a coalition of farm organizations and is now comprised of 19 producer associations and marketing boards. Since its inception, ACC has loaned over \$3 billion to Canadian farmers.

Nominations Open for Ontario's Outstanding Young Farmer –2014

For immediate release

November 12, 2013—Guelph, ON—Nominations are now open for the 2014 Ontario's Outstanding Young Farmers' Program. Nominees may be individuals, partners or couples who derive a minimum of two-thirds of their gross revenue from farming and are under the age of 40 as of January 1 in the year of competition.

Nomination forms can be downloaded from the OOYF website at www.oyfontario.ca and must be received by December 15, 2013.



Celebrating its 34th year, Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers' program is an annual competition to recognize young farmers who exemplify excellence in their profession and promote the tremendous contribution of agriculture, and rural Canada. Demonstrating leadership in the agricultural industry, nominees are judged according to the following criteria:

- Progress made in their agriculture career
- Environmental and safety practices
- Crop and livestock production history
- Financial and management practices
- Contributions to the well-being of their community, province, nation

The 2014 winner will be selected at the Ontario regional event being held Guelph from March 24-26, 2014. They will then represent Ontario at the National Awards Program, to be held in Quebec City next November.

OOYF is proudly sponsored by Farm Credit Canada, Dupont-Pioneer, Better Farming, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Grain Farmers' of Ontario and GROWMARK.

The national competition is sponsored by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Bayer Crop Science, CIBC and John Deere.

For more information contact Karen Daynard at 519-836-2583 or email kdaynard@sympatico.ca. Website: www.oyfontario.ca

Hazardous Gases on Agricultural Operations

Terrence Sauvé, Farmstead Optimization and Safety Engineer, OMAF and MRA

Hazardous gases on farms can be found in silos, manure storages, anaerobic digesters, grain bins and improperly ventilated barns – structures that provide a confined space in which gases can accumulate to dangerous levels or deprive the air of enough oxygen to sustain life. Plant material stored in a silo ferments, allowing the crop to be stored for a long time. However, the fermentation process uses up oxygen, produces carbon dioxide and, under certain conditions, nitrogen dioxide, as by-products. This results in an environment unsuitable for humans soon after the silo is filled, lasting for up to two weeks.

Manure that is stored for a long time undergoes anaerobic decomposition, which produces manure gases. Warm weather and poor ventilation can increase the concentration of these gases. Liquid manure tanks can contain toxic levels of gases or can be devoid of oxygen. High hydrogen sulphide gas levels can also deteriorate exposed concrete above the liquid manure surface.

For more information on dangerous gases found around farm operations and the safety precautions required to protect farm workers, please visit: <http://bit.ly/1bA5oQz>.

Water and Food Safety

Wayne Du, On-Farm Food Safety Specialist, OMAF and MRA

Water, an essential element for agri-food production, can also be a source of food contamination. Contaminated water can carry and transfer pathogens as well as chemical hazards to crops, livestock, poultry and foods. Here are some general tips to ensure water safety:

- Assess water sources for food safety risks;
- Test water through a credited laboratory at least once a year or as frequently as your food safety program requires to ensure that it meets the required quality standards;
- Treat water if it does not meet the required standards;
- Keep all records for water test results and treatment methods.

Food safety is everyone's responsibility. To attend one of our free online workshops on water quality and other important food safety topics, please visit: www.ontario.ca/foodsafety or call: 1-877-424-1300. Food safety practices keep agri-food businesses competitive, productive and sustainable.

2013 Photo Contest

Congratulations to the winners of this year's photo contest. Voting took place at the OSMA AGM, where all attendees received a ballot and voted for their first, second and third choice photographs. OSMA staff does not vote as they are the only ones who know the names of the entries.

1st Place: Kirk McGee, Lucky Shot



Farming Power—Cost-share for Energy Innovation in the Greenbelt

Katie Burt, Communications Specialist, OSCIA

Funding is available now for 2013 energy retrofit projects in the Greenbelt!

- Eligible BMPs include: lighting upgrades, milk plate coolers, cooling compressors, free cooling systems and heating upgrades.
- Cost-share ranges from 30% to 50%, with up to \$5,000 available within each BMP category. Each farm business can access up to \$10,000 total.
- Simple application process, made downloadable online, www.ontariosoilcrop.org.
- The eligible invoice date is retroactive to April 1, 2013, so if you've already completed a project this year you may be able to get money back.
- Project funding can be combined with other environmental cost-share provided through local conservation authorities , Ducks Unlimited and Growing Forward 2

How can I apply?

Step 1: Select from our website, www.ontariosoilcrop.org the appropriate category that your project falls under (lighting, heating, or refrigeration and cooling).

Step 2: Download the appropriate Enrolment Form, Project Proposal Application and Supplementary Application Form

Step 3: Scan, and email, fax or send it to OSCIA by mail

Email: programreview@ontariosoilcrop.org

Fax: 519-826-4224

Mail:

Christine Schamlz

1 Stone Road West

Guelph ON, N1G 4Y2

Have questions? OSCIA is happy to help answer any questions. Feel free to call Brad Carberry, Claim Analyst, at 226-979-2465.



**2nd Place: Johanna Rammaker,
Springtime on the Farm**



**3rd Place: Robin Thoen
Shearing Day**

Measuring Performance is for Everyone!

**Johanne Cameron, Agr. M.Sc., CEPOQ; Amélie St-Pierre, Animal Care Technician, CEPOQ;
Collaborator Stacey White, General Manager, CSBA**

Given profitability challenges, animal performance is priority #1!

Recommendations leading to an increase in the number of lambs born, or of kg of lamb produced, need to be implemented. Well-planned, well-thought-out and realistic investments are called for. The purchase of good quality breeding animals will improve production and should always be viewed as a sound investment.

Investing in good quality livestock to produce the greatest number of quality lambs, is the foundation of your farm and should never be neglected.



But, what should you do? Which animals should you purchase to improve your profit margin? Improvement begins by measuring your flock's performance. You must know where you are starting if you want to make progress. You must be able to identify your strengths and weaknesses in order to select sheep that will be beneficial for your flock. Do you know your production level? Do you know your weaknesses (low prolificacy,

low average daily gain, poor growth, lack of uniformity on your lambs, too much fat)? Do you measure performance? Is measuring performance a common practice in the sheep industry? Someone might say that it is not necessary, but what happens with the other species? Do you think the dairy, swine and poultry industries say the same thing? Everyone knows that the current performance of these industries is based on genetic progress and measuring performance data. Have you ever heard of a dairy producer keeping a Holstein-Angus cross for milking? That cross is meant to fill freezers! So let's keep things in perspective. The Canadian sheep industry is at a crossroads. Foreign competition is fierce and the productivity

You need a ram... what is your choice?

50 day weight	= 28 kg
100 day weight	= 52 kg
EPD 100 days	= +3,10 kg
Growth Index	= 98 %

No data, no information

of Canadian sheep is stagnant. Now, more than ever, it is time to select our breeding stock based on measured performance. It is essential for all of us.

What is GenOvis?

GenOvis is the only genetic evaluation program offered to all Canadian sheep breeders. It is a large database that records the performance of different breeds and crosses tested all across the country. The genetic evaluation system is available online to any producer (purebred and commercial) that is interested in improving their flock's performance. This genetic evaluation system was developed by the Center for Genetic Improvement of Livestock (CGIL). CGIL is located in Guelph and is composed of the best geneticists from across Canada!



GenOvis evaluates the genetic potential of sheep by breed for different traits (growth, prolificacy, mothering ability, carcass quality etc.). GenOvis is an "on farm evaluation program". This means that all the performance data must be recorded by the producer and entered into the genetic evaluation program. The genetic evaluation program then ranks the animals according to different selection traits. GenOvis is not just a genetic evaluation

program; it can also be used to compile annual breeding data, thus enabling sheep operations to analyze their weaknesses and strengths. It is the only available tool to obtain an objective evaluation of the potential of your breeding stock.

Objectives:

- Assist purebred sheep breeders, breeders of crossbreds and commercial sheep by offering on-farm genetic sheep testing;
- Evaluate the genetic value of sires, based on important economic traits;
- Select breeding stock which will improve the farm’s performance; this is possible by providing reliable genetic data on animals and by highlighting strengths and weaknesses of the flock with various reports;



- Improve productivity and profitability of flocks by genetic improvement.

Advantages:

- Provides data to assess flock productivity (flock averages);
- Offers information to improve the genetic value of a flock and follow the performance of animals within a breeding program;
- Establishes and maintains a large data base on the performance of different sheep breeds throughout Canada;
- Provides individual life production data (this information is very useful when making culling decisions, choosing replacement stock or

comparing rams within a flock);

- Genetic evaluations compare the genetic value of an animal based on several performance criteria. The data can be used to make comparisons between different flocks.
- Genetic evaluations are very useful when buying sires; they help the producer to select an animal with the best potential for improving the flock.

Producers from across Canada use GenOvis. In 2012, 117 breeders from Quebec were enrolled into the program, 38 in Ontario and 37 in the rest of Canada (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Maritimes). Quebec and Ontario have received more education about the program and the participation within these provinces has always been good. In 2012, 43 834 Canadian lambs were evaluated in the program (32 636 in Quebec, 8357 in Ontario and 2841 in the rest of Canada). Since 2001, GenOvis has observed an 88% increase in the number of ewes evaluated on the program.

For more information on GenOvis, please contact Amélie St-Pierre at (418) 856-1200 (ext 221) or genovis@cepoq.com, or Stacey White at (866) 956-1116 or office@sheepbreeders.ca.



Upcoming Events

For more information on any upcoming events please visit the OSMA website at:
www.ontariosheep.org/Events.aspx

Have Something to Add?

Contact Jillian Craig at
jcraig@ontariosheep.org

Additions are due the
 20th of the month.

- Dec 13 District 11 General Meeting and Shepherd's Christmas Social.
 7:30 pm at Kerns Hall. Please bring a snack to share.
- Dec 16 FCC Forum in London – 10 am – 3:30 pm, London Convention Centre, 300 York Street,
 London. Register online at www.fcc.ca/forums or call 1-800-387-3232
- Jan 8-14/14 Grey Bruce Farmers Week – Sheep Day January 11 – Elmwood Community Centre, 38 Queen
 St., W. Elmwood For more information visit the website: www.greyagservices.ca
- Feb 5 Sustainable Parasite Management Seminar at 7 pm, Kirkton Community Centre, Kirkton, ON.
 Please RSVP by January 22nd by calling 1-888-443-4184.
- Feb 25-26 Agricultural Management Institute Conference--Take a New Approach: Creating Agribusiness
 Linkages. Register at www.TakeANewApproach.ca
- Feb 27-28 /14 Central Ontario Agricultural Conference – Sheep Day February 27 – Georgian College, 1
 Georgian Drive, Barrie Ontario For more information visit the website:
www.centralontarioagconference.ca
- July 9-12/14 2014 Classic at the new Ancaster Fair Grounds and will include workshops, seminars, a
 tradeshow and the show and sale. For more information contact James Grove at 519-752-8552.
 Interested in a tradeshow booth contact Jennifer MacTavish at OSMA – 519-836-0043
- Sept. /14 Sheep Shearing School – Last Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday of Sept., 2014

Inspirational FCC Forum in London

Tuesday, December 10, 2013, London, ON
 London Convention Centre, 300 York Street, London, ON.

(FCC) is pleased to bring Rick Hansen, Greg Johnson and Michelle Painchaud to its FCC Forum in London to inspire agriculture producers and food processors. This complimentary event gives all producers an opportunity to learn and to encourage idea generation. Event will occur on December 10th, 10 am to 3:30 pm. Those interested should register online at www.fcc.ca/forums or call 1-800-387-3232.

Speakers:

Rick Hansen, Man in Motion and Spinal Cord Research Crusader

President and CEO of Rick Hansen Leadership Group, our keynote speaker is best known as Canada's Man In Motion. Starting in 1985, he wheeled more than 40,000 km through 34 countries, raising \$26 million in just two years, two months and two days. A celebrated athlete, leader and social innovator, Rick believes attitude is everything when overcoming challenges and achieving success. His address emphasizes the importance of dreaming big, working through obstacles and making a difference in the lives of others. Rick is founder and co-chair of the Rick Hansen Foundation and continues his commitment to spinal cord injury research and accessibility initiatives.

Greg Johnson, Tornado Hunter

One of North America's top professional storm-chasers and severe weather experts, Greg Johnson is also an accomplished photographer and speaker who inspires others to pursue their own dreams. At FCC Forums he'll share the lessons he's learned over 10 years of chasing Prairie storms, tornados, hurricanes and blizzards. Greg's recent work includes documenting the massive twister that devastated Joplin, Missouri, and helping outdoor festival organizers keep their crowds safe from severe weather. Greg plans to continue travelling the world year-round to satisfy his appetite for capturing extreme weather (when he's not cozied up at home in Regina with his family and beloved Saskatchewan Roughriders).

Michelle Painchaud, Ag Management Expert

Michelle is a farm girl who never stopped asking, How can we perform even better? As President and CEO of Painchaud Performance Group, she's one of Canada's leaders in behavioural science and talent management. She works with farmers and business owners to unlock the power of human performance and profitability. Michelle uses humour, storytelling and real-life examples to show you how the right attitude and human resources strategy can lead to dramatic results for your business.

48th Annual Grey Bruce Farmers Week

January 8-14, 2014, Elmwood, ON

Elmwood Community Centre, 38 Queen Street West, Elmwood, ON

Sheep Day will be held on Saturday, January 11, 2014 from 9 am to 4 pm. No pre-registration is required and the admission cost of \$25 includes a hot roast beef dinner and refreshments during the breaks. Information on the speakers and the panel featured that day can be found at – www.greyagservices.ca and all are welcome to call the office – 519-986-3756 for any additional information required.

Sustainable Parasite Management Seminar

February 5, 2014, Kirkton, ON

Kirkton Community Centre, 70497 Road 164 (Hwy 23), Kirkton, ON

This seminar is presented by the Kirkton Veterinary Clinic. Dr. Paula Menzies from the Ontario Veterinary College will be addressing sustainable parasite management at 7 pm. Please RSVP by January 22nd by calling 519-229-8911 or 1-888-443-4184. Free admission, door prizes and snacks provided.

Agricultural Management Institute Conference

February 25 and 26, 2014, Guelph, ON

Take A New Approach: Creating Agribusiness Linkages

Opportunities for increasing your agri-business profitability have never been better, but it takes strong business planning and relationships to take your ideas to the next level. Join us this February to hear from farmers, food processors, and business leaders who have enhanced their business relationships & innovated their way to increased profitability and new opportunities.

Cost: \$55.00 per person, which includes parking, meeting materials, welcome reception, buffet breakfast, lunch, and coffee breaks. Registration fees are non-refundable after February 1st.

Email ami@takeanewapproach.ca for more information or visit www.TakeANewApproach.ca

Central Ontario Agricultural Conference

February 27-28, 2014, Barrie, ON

Automotive Building, Georgian College, 1 Georgian Drive, Barrie, ON

Sheep Day will be held on February 27, 2014. Registration Fee is \$50 at the door or \$35 for on-line advance registrations. More information will be available shortly on the website: www.centralontarioagconference.ca

2014 Classic - Save the Date

July 9 – 12, 2014, Ancaster ON

The 2014 Classic is coming to Ontario and will be held at the brand new Ancaster Fair Grounds. It will include workshops, seminars, a tradeshow and the show and sale. The Purebred Sheep Breeders of Ontario are the official host in collaboration with the Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association. OSMA will be putting on a "Focus On This Ontario Industry" two day exhibit as well. Planning is well underway and if you would like more information, please contact Event Chairman James Grove at 519-752-8552. If you are interested in a tradeshow booth please contact Jennifer MacTavish at the OSMA office at 519-836-0043.

General Interest

Step Up

STEP UP is an on-farm learning placement. This mentorship program matches those who are considering a farming career with an experienced farm manager. This is a chance to learn farm business management skills in a hands-on setting!

Anyone who is an experienced farm manager interested in taking the time to pass on the best of his/her farm business management knowledge can be a mentor. Mentors receive a \$2000 honorarium for participating!

This program is a minimum of 8 weeks. You can start as early as April 1st 2014.

We are accepting applications now! **Application Deadline: February 14, 2014**

For more information please go to the website: www.fmc-gac.com/step-up Email: stepup@fmc-gac.com

Phone: 1-888-232-3262

New Sheep Nutrition Training Course

A new online course, "Improve Your Sheep Nutrition Management Skills" has been developed by D. Paul Luimes, researcher at the University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus. Topics covered in the course include: Feed Types; Nutrients; Digestive Physiology; Nutrient Requirements; Ration Formulation; Feed Management. This is an ongoing course that people can sign up for at anytime.

For more information or to register online visit www.ridgetownc.com/bdt/ce_sheep.cfm Further information please contact Dezarae Kemp at 519-674-1500 ext 63295 or email dmalott@uoguelph.ca

Resources

The Local Food Fund

The Local Food Fund is a three-year initiative with funding of up to \$10 million per year to support innovative local food projects that reduce barriers to regional economic development; result in sustainable regional economic development; and have a positive impact on the Ontario economy. For more information please visit: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/about/localfood.htm>.

- November 1 to December 31: Application intake for all eligible clients.

Growing Forward 2

Growing Forward 2 (GF2) is a comprehensive federal-provincial-territorial framework aimed at encouraging innovation, competitiveness and market development in Canada's agri-food and agri-products sector. In Ontario, farm, food and agri-product businesses, organizations and collaborations can build their own plan and select opportunities to help grow their profits, expand their markets and manage risks. For more information please visit: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/about/growingforward/gf2-index.htm>.

- October 25, 2013 to December 12, 2013: Application intake for implementation-based projects from organizations and collaborations.
- December 16, 2013 to January 30, 2014: Application intake for implementation-based projects from all eligible clients.

Learn More

[Growing Forward 2](#)

[Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Growing Forward 2 Programs. ontario.ca/agriculture-news](#)

GF 2 Workshops - Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)

Environmental Farm Plans (EFP) are assessments voluntarily prepared by farm families to increase their environmental awareness. The EFP workbook consists of 23 risk assessment modules relating to farm activities in three general areas: the farmstead, farming practices and natural areas.

Agribusiness E Campus

Brought to you by University of Guelph Kemptville campus. The AB E Campus is an online farm extension service to provide farmers and producers with direct access to business management information, tools, training and networking. agribusinesscampus.com

Farm Credit Canada

Producer Financing – www.fcc-fac.ca

OMAF/MRA Resource Library

omafra.gov.on.ca/english/products/index.html

Predation and Wildlife Damage

For more information on Predation and Wildlife Damage and the program application form visit the OMAFRA website at: omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/predation.htm

AGPAL

An On-line Information Source for Government Programs and Services

AgPal is part of Growing Forward, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. AgPal can be accessed directly at agpal.ca/

District Information

Note: For further information and details about your District please contact your District Secretary

DISTRICT	CONTACT	INFORMATION
Dist 1	Marlene Raymond at (519) 683-6635 or triplerfarms@kent.net	Please contact your District secretary for date and location of your next District meeting http://osma_district_1.tripod.com/
Dist 2	Kyle Harrison at 519-334-3928 or kyleharrison22@hotmail.com	Meetings: Dec 5 – Sprucedale, Hanover Feb 6 – Holstein-location TDB Mar 6 – Markdale Ag Services Apr 3 – Sprucedale, Hanover May 1 - Holstein – location TDB June – Possible Farm Tour Aug 7 – Summer social Sept 18 – District AGM – Sprucedale, Hanover Meetings usually held the 1st Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm
Dist 3	Neil Mesman at 519-504-3089 or neil.mesman@me.com	
Dist 4	Sharon Petheram at 519-443-5844 or petherdale@gmail.com	Last Saturday of every month breakfast: It is a busy time of year so the monthly producer breakfast is temporarily on hold. Notice will be issued when the breakfasts begin again.
Dist 5	Dianne Orr at 519-928-5302 or orr7@sympatico.ca	Meetings are usually last Wed. of every month, Location TBA
Dist 6	Karen Harvey at 905-729-3196 or pkharvey@zing-net.ca	
Dist 7	Judy Dening at 705-324-3453 or theshepherdsgate@xplornet.com	
Dist 8	Matt Fleguel at 613-961-9260 or mfleguel@gmail.com	Meetings: Dec – Christmas Pot Luck at Huizenga's Feb 6 March 6
Dist 9	Tyler Armstrong at 613-433-8255 or pinnaclehaven@gmail.com	
Dist 10	Gary Lapier at 613-989-2792 or rockyhylandfarm@ripnet.com	www.osmadistrict10.ca/
Dist 11	Debra Garner at 705-563-2761 or bill.debgarner@gmail.com	Meeting: Friday December 13, at 7:30 pm at Kerns Hall District 11 invites you to a General Meeting and Shepherd's Christmas Social Guest Speaker: Jennifer Stevenson, "Unconventional Markets and Ways of Marketing" Shepherd's Christmas social to follow—please bring a snack to share.

Other Organizations and Reference Information

Victoria County Sheep Producers

Third Wednesday every month starting at 7:30 Sunderland Co-op Boardroom at Oakwood Location
 Membership is \$20 per farm per year. Contact: Jillian Craig at jillian_stoneybrookfarm@hotmail.com
 December 11—Christmas Meeting—Please bring a potluck item and auction item. Start: 6:00pm.
 January 15—Topic TBA

Southwestern Ontario Sheep Farmers

Formerly known as Middlesex Sheep & Lamb Producers
 Meetings 4th Thursday of the month: September to November and 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

Western Ontario Lamb Producers

District 2 and 3 area

Ontario Suffolk Sheep Association

<https://www.facebook.com/ontariosuffolk>

OSMA Reaching Out

OSMA WEBSITE – www.ontariosheep.org

The following are just a few things you will find on the OSMA website.

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| About Ontario Sheep | - Messenger |
| Programs, Services | - OSN |
| Market Information | - Locators – Lamb, Guardian Animals, and Breed |
| Sheep Production Information | - Lamb Nutrition and Recipes |
| Current Initiatives | - Virtual Farm Tour |
| Research Projects | - Links and Videos |
| News | - Kids Corner |
| | - Events |

Weekly market reports and Religious & Ethnic Holidays:

<http://ontariosheep.org/MARKETINFORMATION/MarketReports.aspx>

OSMA Market App

Get the latest market information directly to your smart phone. The app lets farmers make marketing decisions on the go.

See the September 2012 issue of Ontario Sheep News for instructions to download the app to your Smartphone. Visit the following websites to download the app.

Blackberry www.OntarioSheep.org/BlackBerry.php
Apple www.OntarioSheep.org/Apple.php
Android www.OntarioSheep.org/Android.php

OSMA FACEBOOK PAGE

‘Like us on Facebook’ visit www.facebook.com/ontariosheep

OSMA TWITTER ACCOUNT

OSMA has a new twitter account that you should visit.

<https://twitter.com/OntarioSheep>
<https://twitter.com/OntarioLamb>

Email or Address Changes:

Let us know when you have a change in your email or mailing address so that we can update our records to make sure that you receive current information. Send your new information along with your producer registration number, if you know it, to Lorraine Hall at lhall@ontariosheep.org or phone 519-836-0043

Pass On The Messenger:

If you know of someone who doesn’t currently receive the Messenger, and you think would be interested in receiving it, please pass it along to them. Ask them to forward their information to Lorraine Hall at lhall@ontariosheep.org or phone 519-836-0043 to have their name added to the distribution list.