

Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency (OSMA) News Release

Molly Leblanc of Conestoga College Wins First Annual Ontario Lamb Recipe Challenge Hosted by OSMA

*For Immediate Release*

March 21, 2016 – Guelph, ON – Congratulations goes to Molly Leblanc of Conestoga College for 1<sup>st</sup> place at the inaugural Ontario Lamb Recipe Challenge with her Juicy Tzatziki Lamb Burger recipe! On Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup>, at Conestoga College, three finalists from Conestoga, Durham and Fleming Culinary School Programs, faced off in the first ever Ontario Lamb Recipe Challenge Finals. Each student prepared their own original recipe featuring Ontario Lamb and presented it to a panel of four judges. This year, judges sampled Lamb Goulash, a Lamb Burger and Honey Garlic Lamb Chops.

“We all had a blast with this event,” says Rob Scott, OSMA Chairman, “It was a great way to promote Ontario Lamb, provide an educational experience to the culinary students, and get some great new recipes we can share with everyone.”

Lamb is often thought of as something that is too hard or too time consuming to cook for a weeknight dinner, so OSMA partnered with three culinary colleges to challenge their students to develop recipes featuring Ontario Lamb that could be prepared, start to finish, in less than 40 minutes and used only tools and ingredients that might be found in an average household.

Each college received two lamb carcasses to work with and each submitted their top 3 recipes to OSMA. At the March board meeting, OSMA board members and staff had the challenging task of choosing three recipes to move on to the finals. Chef Kevin Malinski of Platters Catering & Events Inc., and his team did an excellent job of preparing and serving each of the 9 dishes, and also providing feedback to the students on their recipes.

“I want to thank OSMA for a great event!” says Philippe Saraiva, Professor of Culinary Programs at Conestoga College, “It was a fantastic opportunity and I look forward to next year and working together to help students learn more about Ontario Lamb.”

Special thanks goes out to each of our judges, Rob Scott, OSMA Chairman, Barb Smith, Foodland Ontario, Charmian Christie, the Messy Baker Blog, and Juliet Oraziotti, Linc Farm at Southbrook, as well as Conestoga College for the use of their facilities and equipment. With the great success of the event this year, OSMA has lots of ideas for next year’s event so be sure to stay tuned for more details!

The Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency (OSMA) is a producer organization representing all aspects of the sheep industry in Ontario. Established in 1985 under the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Act, OSMA’s mission is to enhance producer returns and provide consumers with premium lamb and sheep products by encouraging Ontario sheep producers to provide quality, year-round product through advocacy, industry capacity, research and market development.