

## **Deadline Quickly Approaching: Master Shepherd's Course**

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The July 7<sup>th</sup> deadline is quickly approaching for applications to the Master Shepherd's Course. This 12 module course will focus on giving experienced producers the tools necessary to expand their business. The course curriculum is aimed at commercially minded Shepherds with a desire to progress to the next level of production. This is a very intensive group of courses that combine classroom instruction and practical applications, where topics permit. Students will benefit from "hands on" training sessions by some of the best minds in our Industry.

The course will begin with a business planning session lead by Larry Martin, Agri-Food Management Excellence (<http://www.agrifoodtraining.com/Advanced>) who training will assist students with developing personalized business plans. The students are then expected to incorporate the knowledge they've acquired in each subsequent module, into their respective business plans. When the course is finished, they will have a complete business plan, tailor made by themselves, for their own farms. Larry Martin has agreed to return for two evening evaluation sessions to help students refine their business plans. Students are expected to create a plan that will be a reference for their future in the sheep industry - not just another binder gathering dust on the shelf.

Module One – Business and Time Management - Thursday August 7th and Friday August 8th

Module Two – Flock Replacement and Flock Health - Thursday September 11th and Friday September 12th

Module Three – Nutrition - Thursday October 9th and Friday October 10th

The first three modules will be held at Fairfield Inn and Suites by Marriott in Guelph.

<http://www.marriott.com/ykffi>

Module Four will be held in conjunction with the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency annual meeting and Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs seminars in Guelph. Further modules will take place where most of the applicants reside. Other module topics will be Feeding Systems, Economics of Infrastructure, Effective Health Management, Lambing and Lamb Rearing, Predation and Marketing.

We plan to source as many speakers as possible from North America. We will invite speakers from OMAFRA, University of Guelph and experts from across Canada and the U.S.A. Furthermore, successful sheep farmers here in Ontario will give students the benefit of their years of experience.

Full enrollment spaces in the complete 12 education modules are limited to 18 students. Registration cost for the complete course is \$2,400. Registered students may bring an additional two members of their family or employees to any module free of charge. The first payment of \$1,000 should be sent to the OSMA office to secure your enrollment, with the balance of \$1,400 due on December 1, 2014. This is an incredible value that this course offers for the price. Many other business planning courses cost much more and only give participants case studies.

Send your request for your application today to [mastershepherdscurso@outlook.com](mailto:mastershepherdscurso@outlook.com) Don't miss out on this opportunity to take your farming business to the next level.



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