

Stolen Lambs and Sheep: What to Do

June 22, 2015 (Guelph, Ontario) – The Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency (OSMA) is urging producers to keep a close watch on their sheep and lambs. Due to increasing livestock prices, farmers may be at a greater risk of having livestock stolen from barns and / or pastures.

If you think your sheep or lambs have been stolen you should immediately notify the OPP and your insurance company about the theft. Be sure to give a description of the sheep and / or lambs (quantity missing, approximate size or weight, RFID tag numbers or other identification, if possible). You should also call the OSMA Office at 519-836-0043.

OSMA will notify the sales barns of the theft and will give a description of your lambs on your behalf. OSMA will also advise the OPP of which sales barns have sales scheduled in the immediate future as well as notify OMAFRA including the OMAFRA office in the affected area.

Some measures you can take to reduce this risk may include limiting access to the barns or paddocks by installing locks on main access gates (gates at the road or driveway), identifying your animals with RFID tags and / or other forms of identification, recording the number of animals in each pen or area, frequently counting the number of animals to ensure the correct number are present and if possible have a livestock guardian dog or farm dog present to discourage entry. No trespassing signs may also discourage unauthorized vehicles.

About OSMA

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 development and market development.