

## Ontario Sheep donation aids food bank

**December 10, 2014** (Brantford, Ontario) – The Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency (OSMA) continues its commitment to helping Ontario's hungry have access to fresh protein. In November, OSMA had purchased the Reserved Champion at the Royal Winter Fair and this morning, donated the lamb to the Brantford Food Bank.

"This is the time of year when many of us are thinking about the Christmas season and the meals we'll be enjoying with family and friends. Unfortunately, this is not the case for far too many Ontario residents," said Dennis Fischer, Chairman of OSMA. "The OSMA Board is encouraging lamb producers across the province to take advantage of the tax credit for farmers and food banks and donate fresh lamb to their local food banks."

The tax credit is the first and only one of its kind in Canada, and makes Ontario farmers eligible to claim a 25% tax credit for all agricultural product that they donate to the province's community food banks.

"On behalf of the Ontario Association of Food Banks we would truly like to thank the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency for their very generous donation," says Carolyn Stewart, Acting Director of the OAFB. "Protein items and fresh foods are the most needed items by Ontario's food banks, so there is no question that this kind contribution will make a great impact in the lives of those in need."

Year after year, more than half of the food banks in Ontario continue to report that high quality protein is the most lacking and most needed item within food banks. The Ontario Association of Food Banks is working hard to address this need through increased partnerships with Ontario's farmers. Through the provincial food bank network over 375,000 adults and children living with chronic hunger are provided with fresh, healthy food every month.

### About the OAFB

The Ontario Association of Food Banks is a network of 125 food banks and over 1,100 hunger-relief programs across the province. Together, we served 375,000 individuals, including 160,000 children, every single month. For every \$1 donated the OAFB is able to provide \$8 worth of food, or the equivalent of three meals, to families in need. To find out more about hunger in your community, please visit: [www.oafb.ca](http://www.oafb.ca)

### 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.