

30th Annual General Meeting for the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency



For immediate release

November 2, 2015 – Guelph, ON – On October 29th and 30th, 2015, over 150 sheep producers and industry professionals from across the province gathered at the Nottawasaga Inn in Alliston for OSMA's 30th Annual General Meeting, a Fresh Ontario Lamb banquet and the Sheep Seminar run by OMAFRA. Over the course of the two day event, guests enjoyed three delicious lamb meals prepared by the Nottawasaga Inn chef with lamb generously donated by White Valley.

Thursday's seminar focused on the subject of taking lambs to a heavier weight for market, with the keynote speaker being Dr. Joyce Van Donkersgoed, in addition to several presentations from OMAFRA specialists Delma Kennedy, Jocelyn Jansen, Christoph Wand, John Molenhuis, and Jennifer Stevenson.

At the Fresh Ontario Lamb banquet on Thursday evening, the opening address was delivered by Arthur Potts, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. Several awards were presented to deserving individuals including the OSMA Outstanding Shepherd Award, the Mapleseed Pasture Award, and eight GenOvis genetic evaluation awards. The winners of these awards were:

Outstanding Shepherd Award – Bill McCutcheon, Mulmur Vista Farm – Grand Valley, ON

Mapleseed Pasture Award – Albert Botha, Shropshire Hills Farm – Grafton, ON

GenOvis Awards:

Shirley and Robert Graves and Sons from Century Lane Farm (Stittsville, ON) had the ram lamb with the highest ranking growth and maternal growth index in the Dorset Category.

In the Rideau Arcott category, Shelagh Finn from Lamb Lady Farm (Palgrave, ON) had the ram lamb the top growth index, while Joanne and Ted Skinner from Cedar Creek Charollais (Bowmanville, ON) had the ram lamb with the top maternal growth index.

William MacTaggart from MacTaggart Suffolks (Rockwood, ON) won the award for the Suffolk ram lamb with the top growth index and the top maternal growth index.

In the any other breed category, Joanne and Ted Skinner from Cedar Creek Charollais (Bowmanville, ON) had a Charollais ram lamb with the top growth index and Keith Todd from the Todd Sheep Company (Lucknow, ON) had an Ile de France ram lamb with the top maternal growth index.

OSMA's business meeting took place on Friday morning and was well attended, engaging producers in meaningful discussion around several resolutions which were brought forward by different districts, and providing an overview of OSMA's activities in the past year. Overall, it was a very successful event and we look forward to seeing everyone back again in 2016.

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.