

The Monthly Messenger

November 2015



Contents

Board Notes	2
OSMA's New Chair and Vice-Chair	2
Master Shepherd's Course Wrap-Up	3
Global Sheep – The Short Story	5
Farm Fire Safety: Preventing Your Worst Nightmare	9
Ontario Investing \$6 Million to Bring More Local Food to the Table	12
OSMA AGM and OMAFRA Sheep Seminar Wrap-up	14
For the Foodies	15
Communications Survey	16
Upcoming Events.....	17
District Information	18
Other Organizations and Reference Information	19

Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency

130 Malcolm Rd. Guelph, ON
N1K 1B1

Phone: 519-836-0043

Fax: 519-836-2531

www.ontariosheep.org

Deadline to submit material is the 20th of the month before. Please send all submissions to Meggy at mchan@ontariosheep.org, or call 519-836-0043 ex. 29 with any questions.

Board Notes

Much of the October Board meeting was spent preparing for the Annual General Meeting. Paul Luimes did come in to discuss with the Board the sheep research program at Ridgetown College and if there would be a way to have a commitment from OSMA for research dollars. The Board has asked staff and Paul to bring forward a proposal for a research project to OSMA's Research Committee for consideration.

The Board made the decision not to sponsor the 2015 Market Lamb Class at the Royal Winter Fair. Bradley Shaw (OMAFRA) and Angela Carson (AgriCorp) discussed production insurance with the Board. The key message is that this is a collaborative process, with input from producers to ensure a production insurance program is developed that meets their needs and has the right balance between costs and benefits. Historically for plants, insurance covers producers for perils outside of their control (e.g., drought, excessive moisture, frost, hail, insect infestation). The program would need to be self-sustaining and actuarially sound. Government shares a cost of the premium and all the administrative costs. Producers pay 40% of the premiums; government pays 60%.

Coverage is based on customer's production experience or capability. The customer is guaranteed a level of coverage based on that history and their chosen coverage level. If production falls below the guaranteed level due to an insured peril, a claim may be paid.

Premium rates reflect the cost of insurance (i.e., anticipated claim rate) and risk pooling (i.e., across individuals and years). Premiums collected can only be used to pay claims and reinsurance premiums. While OSMA and OMAFRA are committed to moving things along as quickly as possible, there are a number of approval steps that have to be taken and so, providing producers with a full suite of insured perils may take some time.

One of the first steps, however, is determining which perils producers want insured. And this is where you come in. The industry needs to put a list together of perils that they would like to have insurance coverage for. Please contact the OSMA office at general@ontariosheep.org or 519.836.0043 with your wish list.

OSMA's New Chair and Vice-Chair

November 2, 2015 – Guelph, ON – Over 150 sheep producers and industry representatives met in Alliston last week for the 30th Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency (OSMA). Following the election on Friday, Rob Scott was announced as the incoming Chair for the 2015-2016 year, with Marc Carere being elected as the Vice Chair.

Rob Scott, his wife Joanne and son Matt run a 300 head commercial ewe flock and a lamb feed lot finishing 2500 head annually. Rob has operated Bridged Creek Farm since 1992, has been a member of the OSMA Board for 4 years, is currently the Vice Chair of the Canadian Sheep Federation and is a Director on the Canadian Federation of Agriculture Board. "It's an honour to be voted in as Chair of the OSMA board. This is an industry with great potential and it's an exciting time to be able to represent

Ontario Sheep producers” says Scott. “I have big shoes to fill taking over from Dennis, and I want to extend a sincere thank you to him from all of us for being an excellent leader through the many transitions and changes our industry has seen in the last few years.”

Marc Carere has extensive experience in agriculture. In partnership with his wife Helen, he has operated Ballinahistle Farms Limited for over 30 years. Since 1998 they have concentrated their efforts on the development of a large commercial ewe flock and lamb feedlot. Marc has been involved with many commodities including beef, dairy and cash cropping and has served these industries in various capacities. He continues to participate in many industry projects and committees. “It’s a privilege for me to be elected as Vice-Chair, and I am looking forward to representing all of Ontario’s sheep producers during this exciting and challenging time for the sheep industry,” stated Carere.

Stepping down from his position of Chair of the Board is Dennis Fischer, and we at OSMA would like to extend our sincere thanks to him for his dedication to the industry over the last 4 years. “It has been an honour for me to represent OSMA over the last four years, seeing OSMA through some challenging times and some fantastic opportunities.” Says Fischer, “Congratulations to Rob and Marc who will be taking over as Chair and Vice Chair; I know they will be great leaders for the sheep industry and I look forward to seeing what they accomplish.”

Master Shepherd’s Course Wrap-Up

By: Eadie Steele, Program Coordinator

First and foremost, I owe a huge debt of gratitude to all of the participants, guest speakers, farm tour hosts, sponsors and the OSMA staff. I could not have organized 12, 2 day modules in 14 months without your considerable co-operation and assistance. Please know that each of you have made a huge contribution to the future of the Ontario Sheep Industry. Final tallies of significant measurable goals are; 18 full course enrollments, 42 individual module registrations, 54 guest speakers, 6 business tours, 17 farm tours, 15 production topics, 5 locations across the province, 2 webinars, 1 research farm tour and 168 hours of class instruction time.

In my initial meeting with Jennifer MacTavish, she told me that she wanted this course to be “AWESOME!” I’ll share with you the following quotes from sponsors, speakers and participants and you can be the judge.

“The program encompasses all aspects of sheep production and is ably led by a well-renowned producer and former Master Shepherd participant – Eadie Steele. The participants in this program will form the basis of the next generation of industry leaders. I am delighted to support this program as an educator and small ruminant researcher who has worked with OSMA for several decades.” – **Dr. Paula Menzies, Professor Small Ruminant Health Management, University of Guelph**

“The course curriculum offers an excellent balance between academic instruction and practical on farm practices. The business plan model gives producers all the necessary tools that are essential in order to develop a financially viable operation. Again, we offer our unequivocal support of the Master Shepherd Program because we fully believe in the benefits that it has to offer producers who are serious about

sheep production. We congratulate OSMA for their foresight in making the course become a reality.” – **Eric Bjergso, General Manager Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers Limited.**

“For myself, I have found this experience to be invaluable in developing my farm business. I have gained extensive insight into sheep production and have already incorporated many items into my own operation. The contacts that I have made through this course have become not only a valuable resource, but a close group of colleagues and friends who I look forward to working with in the future as we continue to develop our businesses and our industry.” – **Sean McKenzie, Tulach Ard Farm, Master Shepherd’s Course Participant**

CANADIAN CO-OPERATIVE WOOL GROWERS LIMITED

Catering to Sheep Producers

We carry a complete line of supplies

One stop shopping for:

- * Gallagher Power Fencing
- * Animal Health Products
- * Handling Equipment
- * Shearing Supplies
- * Lambing Supplies
- * Pet Foods
- * Sheepskin Products & Processed Wool
- * Free Catalogue Available

Inquire about our seasonal specials

WOOL COLLECTION DEPOTS

Blenheim - 519-676-2560
 Carleton Place - 613-257-2714
 Cookstown - 705-458-4800
 Glen Huron - 705-466-3295
 Hanover - 519-364-6193
 Indian River - 705-295-4238
 Little Britain - 705-786-2679
 Madoc - 613-473-1278
 Manitoulin Island - 705-282-6283
 Millbrook - 705-939-2366
 New Liskeard - 705-647-0411
 Paris-Kitchener/Waterloo - 519-442-6486
 Thamesford - 519-285-2845
 Wingham - 519-357-1058
 York - 905-772-3298

For information regarding the wool collection depot nearest you, transportation assistance or wool market prices, contact the

CANADIAN CO-OPERATIVE WOOL GROWERS
 Carleton Place - 1-800-488-2714
 Cookstown - 1-866-458-4800

SERVING ONTARIO'S SHEEP PRODUCER
WWW.WOOL.CA

Bronze Sponsor of the OSMA AGM

“Participants were able to tour the operation, ask the farmer questions and have good discussions on certain aspects of the tour. Thank you to all of the farm tour hosts for allowing the course participants to tour your operations. Personally, this is one of my favourite aspects of the course, seeing set-ups, handling facilities, feeding rations and systems as well as unique ideas has challenged me to look at our own operation and see what might work better, save labour, or improve general practices.

I would encourage you to look into upcoming modules and participate in one, or several. Not only will you gain valuable knowledge on the specified topic, but you will learn helpful tips and tricks, partake in discussions, see the practical side when you tour sheep farms, gain valuable insight from farmers as well as socialize and network with fellow shepherds.” – **Jillian Craig, Master Shepherd’s Course Participant from March 2015 issue of Sheep News**

“Module four included the OMAFRA and OSMA annual meetings. This was the first time I had ever attended. There was a session on government bodies and websites that can assist farmers. Another session laid out the purpose of OSMA and what they do. So, in closing, I’ve found these first four modules of the Master Shepherd’s Course have been a benefit to me and to our farm. I am certainly looking forward to the rest! It is a truly beneficial course that I would recommend to anyone.” – **William MacIntosh, Master Shepherd’s Course Participant from December 2014 issue of Sheep News**

“The course has been a great way to learn and network. With all the information, education and networking it makes me very confident that our farm will be very successful. Getting to know the other producers is also a good way to bounce ideas back and forth and learn about all the different and diverse option for sheep farming. It was definitely worth the time and effort.” – **Romy Schill, Master Shepherd’s Course Participant**

“I must admit that I am quite pleasantly surprised at how far they came and how seriously they took it. When it started I questioned whether there would be a lot of commitment to the idea of writing a plan and following it. Yet it is clear that people accepted and pursued the idea. Most put the work into all the steps in the process and came out with a useful product. It appears that they have enough knowledge and interest to be able to do it again when the current plan needs to be updated. All in all, it was extremely rewarding to work with these folks who showed once again the future of Canadian agriculture is in good hands.” – **Dr. Larry Martin, Principal in Agriculture Management Excellence**

Last but not least, a big thank you to my husband John. You listened to me rant when things went wrong. You offered great suggestions to make things right. You filled in at the last moment when speakers cancelled. And you “held down the fort” at home when I was away for over a month in the past year. I am grateful for your support in this project.

I’m going to unpack my suitcase now and send all of my best wishes to all of the Master Shepherd’s. I’m sure we will meet again at future sheep events.

Respectfully submitted,

Eadie Steele

Global Sheep – The Short Story

By: Susan Hosford, Sheep Industry Specialist, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry



Who Stole The Sheep?

NZ sheep numbers have fallen below the 30 million mark for the first time since the Second World War. At the end of June 2014 there were enough sheep for every New Zealander to have six of their own. Contrast this to 1983, when there were 22 sheep for every person!

[Source: StatsNZ](#)

As New Zealand sheep producers focus on producing more lamb per ewe and are dealing with the management challenge of triplets. That may sound funny to Canadians who first used Finnish Landrace in the 1970’s and later the imported Romanovs. Both breeds are known for their reproductive rates and have contributed significantly to the genetics of the Canadian ewe flock.

In the New Zealand grass-based system, as in some Canadian flocks, rearing triplets to get to market is challenging. Twins from every ewe, every year, would be ideal.

With that goal in mind discussions amongst New Zealand producers have circled around a theory called “deflushing”. You may have heard about it. If so you will want to know that researchers involved in the discussions could find no evidence supporting the theory. They determined that “deflushing” is unlikely to reduce triplets in favour of twins. In fact reduced feed and weight loss will lower ovulation, conception rates, and embryo survival likely also reducing the number of twins and increasing the number of open ewes. Not a goal anyone wants to achieve.

The bottom line ... for mature ewes already in good condition flushing (having ewes on a rising plane of nutrition) doesn’t have much impact. It’s a better investment to target feed to the thinner ewes, those

in less than a 3.0 body condition score. Producers with very productive flocks learn to manage litters of lambs.

[Source: NZ Country Wide, August 2015](#)



Australia

Lamb and mutton exports reached record levels in 2014-15, Meat and Livestock Australia has reported. Lamb shipments were valued at a record \$1.8 billion in 2014-15 after shipments increased to the United States, Japan and the Middle East. Increased mutton shipments to the Middle East, Malaysia and the US boosted the value of the sheep meat exports to a record \$825.7 million. The value of lamb exports in the last financial year was 16% higher than last year and 55% higher than the five-year average.

Export values of lamb to the US surged to \$532.6 million in 2014-15, up 34% year-on-year and 63% higher than the five-year average; Middle East was strong during 2014-15, with the value of shipments to the UAE at \$125.4 million up 18% on the previous year. The value of lamb exports to Japan climbed 14% on year-ago levels to \$85.9 million.

MLA said shipments to China were valued at \$191.3 million, 12% lower than the previous year, but still historically high; 79% above the five-year-average. Shipments to the UK generated \$76.7 million during 2014-15, back 8% year-on-year, although still 20% higher than the five-year average.

[Source: August 27'15 MLA / sheepcentral.com](#)

Mandatory electronic tagging of sheep and goats in Victoria, AU is not “a question of if, but when”. Victoria’s State Government has asked other states to join in its latest tender for electronic sheep ear tags as it continues to promote the wider use of EID in sheep and goats, and paperless livestock tracking.

Victoria is asking for a competitive tender to check what the price is at 400,000 tags (voluntary tagging) and what the price is at for 10 million tags (mandatory). Currently the GST-exempt electronic sheep ear tags are available at about 2.5 to 3 times the price of a standard visual tag. Traceability with electronic ear tags has the potential to eliminate the cost of labour intensive data entry and paper records.

CANADA'S
Outdoor
FARM SHOW

SEPT. 13, 14, 15, 2016
WOODSTOCK, ONTARIO

Presented by
sc Farm Credit Canada

www.OutOfoorFarmShow.com info@outdoorfarmshow.com
1-800-563-5441 @outdoorfarmshow
Canada's Outdoor Farm Show @canadasoutdoorfarmshow

Bronze Sponsor of the OSMA AGM

Victorian Minister for Agriculture & Regional Development said “The ability to trace livestock movements is crucial to protect export markets, the industry, avert catastrophes and prevent further contamination. There are other reasons to trace livestock too; again always with an eye to the changing consumer tastes and requirements of our trading partners, because in every endeavour we are moving to a more digital world. We know that visually-readable tags and paper movement records will really limit our ability to properly respond to disease outbreak and electronic tagging holds the potential for enormous productivity benefits in the industry. The old-style way of doing things is not going to cut it in the longer term.”

[Source: News Release – August 10, 2015 - MLA, sheepcentral.com](#)



United States

Superior Farms, the United States largest lamb producer, opened its new Dixon California lamb processing plant, the first lamb plant to be built in the U.S since 1997. Superior Farms was founded in Ellensburg, Washington in 1964 and opened its first California beef and lamb plant in 1923. Management stated that they believe in the U.S. lamb industry and want to give producers confidence that they will have a market for their lambs for a long time to come.

The new facility is designed to use ‘green technologies’ to reduce the company’s carbon footprint as well as leading ergonomics, natural lighting, wind power and an estimated 205 reduction in water use. It will cut processing time in half and enable the processing of up to 1,400 lambs per day.

[Source: ASI Sheep Industry News, August 2015](#)

Use of annual forage crops as a late-season forage for pregnant ewes. Incorporating annual forages into an integrated livestock-crop management system may help prolong the grazing season for most livestock-management systems in the Upper Great Plains. The objectives of this study were to determine the differences in sheep performance ADG (average daily gain) among two mixtures of annual forages and mixed grass pasture grazed during the dormant season. One hundred and eight pregnant Rambouillet ewes were stratified by weight and randomly allotted to one of nine paddocks with two treatments and a control (n = 3) for three consecutive years. Treatments include two spring annual forage plantings (AF1 and AF2), and an introduced mixed-grass and forb mixture that served as the control. Grazing occurred continuously for 21 to 22 days during October. Ewe weight gain was increased ($P \leq 0.02$) in the annual forages compared to the control, but was similar between annual forages ($P \geq 0.05$). Similarly, crude protein was greater ($P < 0.01$) in annual forages relative to the control: 11.84, 12.04, and 5.90, respectively. The higher crude protein in annual forage treatments was likely responsible for the observed response in weight gain. Our research indicates that annual forages can provide feed with adequate nutritional value to pregnant ewes and may be an option to lengthen the grazing season and delay the onset of supplemental feeding.

[Source: Stackhouse, Schauer, Geaumont; Sheep & Goat Research Journal, June 2015](#)

The 21st Annual Dairy Sheep Association of North America (DSANA) Symposium will be held in Madison, Wisconsin on November 5-7, 2015.

Presentations: Twelve presentations by 16 animal scientists, dairy sheep producers, veterinarians, and sheep milk cheese makers and marketers will be held on November 5-6 at the Pyle Center on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus.

There will be numerous presentations such as “Best Practices for Raising Lambs on Milk Replacer” Dr. Earlywine, Land O’Lakes, St. Paul, MN; “Principles of Dairy Nutrition”, Dr. M. Wattiaux, U. of Wisconsin.

Tours on Saturday, November 7 will take participants to Cedar Grove Cheese in Plain, Wisconsin operated by Master Cheesemaker, Bob Wills, and to Hidden Springs Creamery in Westby, Wisconsin where participants will visit the modern dairy sheep farm and artisan cheese plant operated by Dean and Brenda Jensen. The pre-symposium sheep milk cheesemaking course will be offered on November 4 at the Center for Dairy Research on the UW-Madison campus for symposium participants and DSANA members for an extra fee.

Program, registration, hotel information: Dairy Sheep Association of North America www.dsana.org



Canada

Canadian sheep inventories slipped 2.1% with flocks in Alberta down 2.5%. Fewer ewes and lambs for breeding in Canada, which will lead to reduced market lambs in 2016.

Alberta sheep producers have experienced strong prices. Alberta rail grade lamb prices have remained above the 5-year average since July 2014. For the first six months of 2015 prices averaged \$3.99/lb, compared to \$2.78/lb during the same period in 2014.

Source: Jason Wood, Competitiveness & Market Analysis Branch, Agriculture & Forestry

Canada	Canada	Canada	Canada	Alberta	Alberta	Alberta	Alberta
July 1 st	2014	2015	Δ%	July 1 st	2014	2015	Δ%
Total Sheep	1,096,800	1,074,300	-2.1%	Total Sheep	200,000	195,000	-2.5%
<i>Ewes</i>	559,800	549,500	-1.8%	<i>Ewes</i>	90,200	89,400	-0.9%
<i>Lambs for Breeding</i>	96,000	93,100	-3.0%	<i>Lambs for Breeding</i>	14,200	14,000	-1.4%

Source: Statistics Canada

National Sheep & Lamb Slaughter Capacity

In 2014, 580,783 lambs and sheep were slaughtered in 265 Canadian federally or provincially inspected abattoirs. The number of abattoirs has steadily declined in recent years while slaughter volumes remained relatively stable from 2007 to 2012. From 2013 to 2014, the number of abattoirs in western Canada declined more significantly compared to eastern Canada (-9% in the West and -3% in the East), primarily due to the loss of 8 small provincial abattoirs in Alberta and British Columbia.

In 2013, slaughter volume increased by 10% over the previous year and in 2014 slaughter increased another 2%. In 2014, approximately 80% of lambs and sheep were slaughtered in eastern Canada. Contrary to the cattle and hog industries, the Canadian sheep industry slaughters the majority of its animals (70% of volume) in provincially inspected abattoirs, as opposed to federally inspected establishments. Ontario slaughters about 50% of Canadian volume with the majority (91%) concentrated in provincially inspected abattoirs.

Source: Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada

Farm Fire Safety: Preventing Your Worst Nightmare

Article re-printed from Ontario Beef, August 2015
by Tanya Bettridge, Perth East Fire Department

Owning and operating any kind of farm is a tough job and the last thing you need is a farm-related fire. Whether it's a fully engulfed barn, a silo that ends up a towering inferno, or a combine that got way too hot and decided to take the drive shed with it; a fire is usually considered the worst possible thing that can happen. Ask any farm owner/operator that has had a fire and they'll tell you that there is a lot more at stake than the barn.

How (or Why) it All Started

When discussing any sort of fire, the first question asked is "How did it start?" Some may consider this to be semantics, but the "how" is always the same; there was an unfortunate combination of oxygen, heat and fuel. So really, that question is not exactly helpful, but its answer is important.

The question that really needs to be asked is, "Why did the fire start?" This question takes us back to the first answer (above); meaning, which of the three elements should have been prevented? Let's look at some of the most common ways those elements come into play.

- **Fuel** – something has to ignite and feed a fire. Barns are perfect habitats as hay, straw, dust and cobwebs make prime fuel candidates. Oily rags, crops, grass and wood are also common elements that can be ignited and continue to feed a fire.
- **Heat** – common heat sources for farm-related fires are hay/straw (spontaneous combustion), heating systems, (everything from heat lamps to radiant tube heaters), hot equipment (vehicles, large equipment and welding tools) and electrical components such as wiring and fuse panels. Exposure to lightning, cigarettes and outdoor fires easily increase the risk of a structure fire.
- **Oxygen** – The nature of farm buildings is that they were designed, for the most part, to allow ventilation and air circulation. While that is needed for livestock, it certainly doesn't help when it comes to preventing or extinguishing a fire. Often, installed fire separation walls are compromised with the installation of wiring, plumbing and other utility systems.

Instant Mix

the most important **MEAL**

LambGro/KidGro
COLOSTRUM FOR LAMBS & KIDS
Dried Bovine Colostrum

700gr per package
(with Easy Scoop included)
- 1 package = 20 feedings
- 4.4g of globulin protein per kg
of body weight (per feeding)

Triple Benefit Protection
from Hypothermia / Disease /
Lack of Immunity

- High in Energy
- rich in natural colostrum fat
and lactose. Energy helps
maintain body temperature.

- Disease Free
- Immunity Rich

GROBER
NUTRITION
Available through:
Grober Nutrition
800-265-7863 x210
www.GROBERNUTRITION.com

Manufactured by:
The Saskatoon Colostrum Company Ltd.
www.saskcolostrum.com

Bronze Sponsor of the OSMA AGM

How to Stop it Before it Starts

Every farm operation has a different financial position. We've broken down the fire prevention tips into three categories, based on their cost: high, medium and low.

High – all low and medium items, plus

- Sprinkler system
- On-site water storage
- Hose cabinets
- Monitored fire alarm system
- Video surveillance

Medium – all low items, plus

- Ionization smoke alarms
- Regular TSSA/ESA inspections
- Removal of all extension cords – replace with professionally installed outlets
- Installation of lightning rods

Low

- Installation of fire extinguishers
- Maintenance routine/schedule that includes checking wiring, clearing dust and cobwebs, looking for signs of corrosion, etc.
- Develop and implement a fire safety plan for your facilities (you can work with your local fire department)
- Develop and practice an evacuation plan for your facilities (this includes human and livestock evacuation – involve your local fire department whenever possible)
- Enforce a strict “no smoking” policy in and around your structures
- Ensure all family/staff members are trained on safe use of equipment, especially actions such as ensuring vehicles/equipment are cool before storing and welding tasks are handled properly and safely.

Fire Safety for Everyone

Regardless of financial position, there are a number of things you can do to ensure you have a more fire safe farm:

1. Do not allow smoking in or around barns or near any flammable farm materials.
2. Situate manure piles at least 10 meters away from barns to reduce the chance of combustion.
3. Ensure hay and straw are properly dried before storing it in the barn and monitor its temperature.
4. Keep dust and cobwebs to a minimum.
5. For horse barns, leave horses haltered or hang halters and leads on stall doors, should evacuation be required.
6. Question and/or remove unknown, unlicensed and unauthorized persons from the premises.
7. Regularly check all appliances, wiring, electrical equipment and heat-producing materials and equipment to ensure everything is in safe, working order.

8. Repair/replace any frayed or damaged wiring as soon as it is identified.
9. Never refuel engines inside a building or while the engine is running or hot.
10. Extension cords should only be used temporarily and should be removed after use.
11. Park equipment/vehicles indoors only after they have cooled down.
12. Ensure all buildings and vehicles have fire extinguishers and that everyone who frequents your property knows how to use them.

Help Is Available

Does your farm have a fire safety plan? Do buildings containing livestock have an evacuation plan? Are you, your family members, employees or frequent visitors trained in fire safety? Do they know what to look for when touring the barn or operating equipment/vehicles? If a fire started, would everyone know what to do?

Your local fire department can help you answer those questions “yes”. Most fire departments will have fire prevention and/or public education personnel that can work with you to address those questions. Many will do so for a reasonable fee or at no charge at all.

If your local fire department doesn't have a farm fire safety program, they can adopt one easily! For farm fire safety information, or for information on fire department program resources, visit our website at www.pertheast.ca/ffsc.

Let's all help in building a farm fire safe community; remember, there's more at stake than the barn!

Barn Fire Resources

In an effort to provide our producers with as many resources as possible we have posted several barn fire resources to our websites, including:

- a [Producer Factsheet](#),
- [Dealing with the Aftermath of a Livestock or Poultry Barn Fire](#),
- [Reducing the Risk of Fire on Your Farm](#),
- and a [Factsheet for First Responders](#)

All of these resources can be found on our Resources pages on both the [Veal Farmers of Ontario](#) and [Ontario Goat](#) websites.

Ontario Investing \$6 Million to Bring More Local Food to the Table

**NEWS**

Office of the Premier

Ontario Investing \$6 Million to Bring More Local Food to the Table Support of Greenbelt Fund Will Encourage Consumption of Ontario-grown Food

October 8, 2015 4:45 P.M.

Ontario is providing \$6 million over three years to increase sales of local food by making it more widely available and building awareness of the variety of food grown and produced in Ontario.

Premier Kathleen Wynne announced this investment today, during Ontario Agriculture Week, while visiting Fresh City Farms in Toronto's Downsview Park. The government will provide the funding to the Greenbelt Fund, a non-profit organization that helps encourage consumption of local food in the Greenbelt and across Ontario.

The investment announced today will support:

- Projects for institutions in the broader public sector, including schools and hospitals, to buy and use more Ontario foods
- Marketing activities, such as workshops and advertising in print and trade media, to celebrate local food champions for their success, leadership and innovation
- Projects to improve food literacy and access to local food
- New tools on Ontariofresh.ca, the Greenbelt Fund's online platform, to help connect local food buyers and sellers.

The economic and health benefits of a thriving agriculture sector and locally produced food were two of the reasons that led the province to create the Greenbelt in 2005. The Greenbelt permanently protects almost 2 million acres of environmentally sensitive land and farm land in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) from urban development. As the GTHA continues to grow, the government is committed to enhancing and expanding the Greenbelt to protect this resource, helping to ensure that Ontario continues to grow fresh food to be served at tables across the province and around the world.

Supporting local food, the agri-food sector and Ontario's Greenbelt is part of the government's plan to build Ontario up by investing in people's talents and skills, making the largest investment in public

infrastructure in Ontario's history, creating a dynamic, innovative environment where business thrives, and building a secure retirement savings plan.

QUOTES

" Agri-food is one of Ontario's great success stories. Our farmers produce an extraordinary variety of fresh, local food that helps make Ontario a great place to live. This investment will help sustain the vibrant farm economy we are so proud of — while helping more people enjoy fresh, local food."

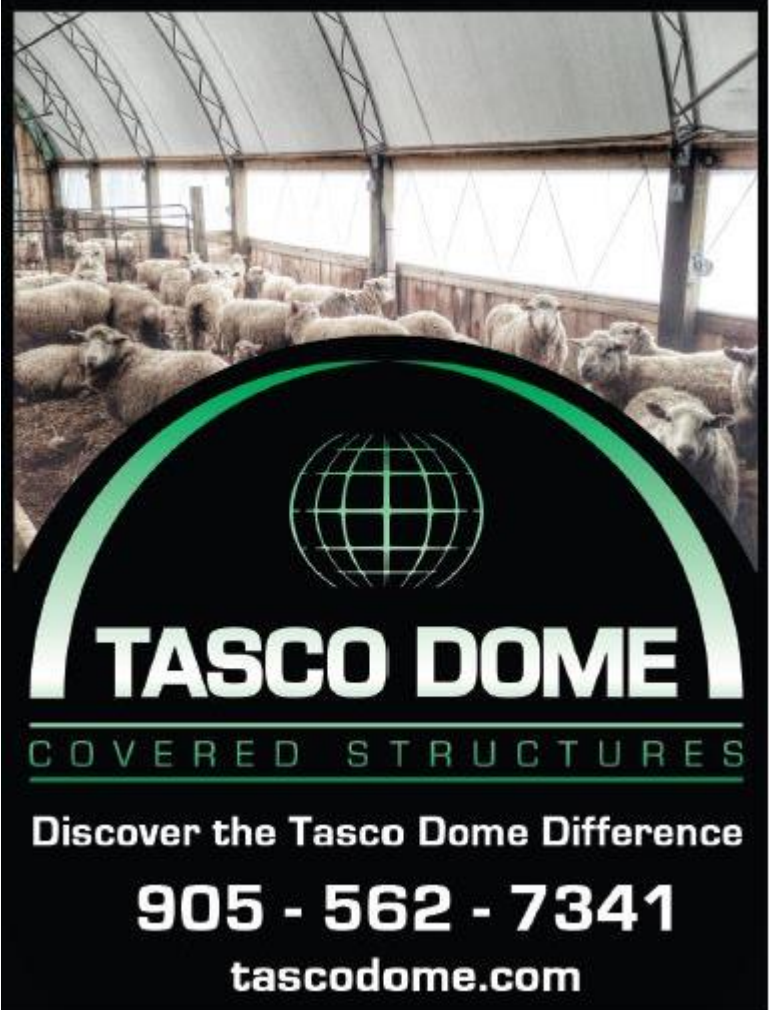
- Kathleen Wynne
Premier of Ontario

" When we invest in projects that support Ontario's agri-food sector, we are helping strengthen our communities, create jobs and boost our economy. The broader public sector spends an estimated \$745 million on food per year. Expanding local food purchases by our municipalities, hospitals, long-term care homes, schools, colleges and universities represents a significant opportunity for our farmers and food processors and strengthens Ontario's food systems."

- Jeff Leal
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

" In partnership with the Province, the Greenbelt Fund delivers results: for every \$1 invested, we've seen a return of \$13 worth of purchases of Ontario-grown food. We're pleased to build on this momentum and continue making strategic investments to grow our economy."

- Burkhard Mausberg
CEO, Greenbelt Fund



TASCO DOME
COVERED STRUCTURES

Discover the Tasco Dome Difference
905 - 562 - 7341
tascodome.com

Bronze Sponsor of the OSMA AGM

QUICK FACTS

- Agri-food is one of Ontario's key economic sectors, contributing \$34.8 billion to the GDP and supporting 780,000 jobs — about one in every nine jobs in the province.
- Since 2003, Ontario has invested about \$170 million in local food initiatives.

- Ontario's Greenbelt, the largest permanently protected Greenbelt in the world, is home to more than 5,500 farms.
- This year, Ontario Agriculture Week runs from October 5 to 11.

LEARN MORE

- [The Greenbelt Fund](#)
- [Bringing local food to more tables across Ontario](#)
- [Helping Ontario businesses buy and sell more fresh food](#)

OSMA AGM and OMAFRA Sheep Seminar Wrap-up

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 and 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.

For the Foodies

Ontario Lamb & Eggplant Cannelloni

Preparation time:
15 minutes

Cooking time:
40 minutes

Makes:
6 - 8 Servings

Directions

Pre-heat grill to medium (or preheat broiler). Peel eggplants and cut top-to-bottom slices, 1/4 inch thick (12 slices). Grill slices 1 minute per side, marking nicely in a grid pattern. Season with salt and pepper, set aside to cool. In a medium skillet over medium heat, saute garlic and onion in oil until lightly browned, about 2-3 minutes. Add ground lamb, and saute until no longer pink. Remove from heat and stir in goat's milk cheese, mint, and Dijon mustard. Mix well. Season with salt and pepper and let cool. Preheat oven or barbecue to 375°F. Spread approximately 1/4 cup lamb mixture evenly over each of the 12 slices of grilled eggplant. Beginning from narrow end, roll up "cannelloni". Place, seam side down, on foil-lined baking sheet. Roast in preheated oven, or on barbecue with lid down, for 5-10 minutes, until heated through. Serve drizzled with warm tomatoe sauce.

Recipe from www.lambrecipes.ca

Ingredients

1 lb ground Ontario Lamb
2 eggplants
1 tsp olive oil
6 colves garlic, finely chopped
1 cup onion, finely chopped
3.5 oz goats milk cheese
1/2 cup fresh, mint finely chopped
1/4 cup grainy Dijon mustard
salt and pepper to taste
3 cup jar tomatoe sauce



Communications Survey

As part of my role as the new Communications Coordinator for OSMA, I am developing a Communications Strategy, and I would like to know what you, as producers, feel is the best way for OSMA to communicate with you. Please answer the following short questions either by email (mchan@ontariosheep.org) or by following the link to [complete the survey online](#), and feel free to provide us with any extra comments.

1. How often would you like to receive the Messenger newsletter?
 - a. Once per month
 - b. Twice per month
 - c. Once a week

2. Do you like receiving a paper copy of the Ontario Sheep News, or would you prefer that it is only available online and we alert you via email/Facebook/Twitter when it is posted?
 - a. Yes, I prefer to receive a paper copy by mail
 - b. No, I prefer to read it online and be notified when it is posted

3. What do you feel is the most effective method of communication between OSMA and producers?
 - a. Phone (auto-dialer)
 - b. Email
 - c. Website
 - d. Social Media (Facebook/Twitter)
 - e. Other, please specify

4. If you have any other suggestions or comments that we haven't covered in the questions, please feel free to include them below or email Meggy at mchan@ontariosheep.org

Upcoming Events

For more information on any upcoming events please visit the OSMA website at: www.ontariosheep.org/Events.aspx or contact the OSMA Office at 519-836-0043.

- Nov 5-7 **Dairy Sheep Symposium:** This year's symposium will be held at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin. Visit www.dsana.org for more information.
- Nov 6-15 **Royal Agricultural Winter Fair:** Breeding Sheep Show will take place on Nov. 12 & 13.
- Nov 17-19 **Canadian Forage and Grassland Association 6th Annual Conference:** "Capture the Intensity". This event will be held in Saskatoon, SK. For more information, contact conference@canadianfga.ca.
- Nov 18 **District 4 Monthly Meeting:** 7pm at the Ancaster Fairgrounds (630 Trinity Rd. S., Jerseyville, ON, L0R 1R0. Please note the **EARLY START of 7pm** instead of the usual 7:30pm.
- Nov 19 **District 8 Monthly Meeting:** John Molehuis from OMAFRA will be giving us a presentation on financial record keeping and cost of production. 7pm at Napanee District Secondary School, Rm. A1. For more information please contact Michelle at [613-848-8972](tel:613-848-8972) or secretary@osmadistrict8.ca
- Nov 20 **District 5 Potluck and Social:** Join fellow producers for a potluck and social time starting at 7pm at Hereward Farms (Heather and Kevin Little), 032511 9th Line, East Garafraxa, L9W 6Z3. Call (519) 843-1675 for more info or directions.
- Dec 11 **District 8 Christmas Social:** Come join us for dinner to celebrate the holiday season. Drinks and social time at 6pm and Dinner at 7pm. The Waterfront River Pub and Terrace. 22 Water St W, Greater Napanee, ON K7R 1V3. Please RSVP to Michelle at 613-848-8972 or secretary@osmadistrict8.ca

District Information

Note: For further information and details about your District please contact your District Secretary

DISTRICT	CONTACT	INFORMATION
Dist 1	Dave DeKay at 519-666-0626 or dmdekay@isp.ca	District 1 “Breakfast Connections” We are hosting a series of monthly “Breakfast Connections” around the District. These breakfast gatherings hope to connect producers and industry players for discussion and fellowship in an informal setting. For more information, please contact Dave DeKay at 519 666 0626. http://osma_district_1.tripod.com/
Dist 2	Matt Zehr at 519-363-2029 zehr.matt@gmail.com	
Dist 3	Sandi Brock at 519-263-2325 brocksandi@hotmail.com	
Dist 4	Jay Mycroft at jay.mycroft@xplornet.com or 905-957-1114	District 4 Meeting District 4 meetings tentatively to be held the 3 rd Wed. of the month at 7:30 at the Ancaster Fairgrounds (630 Trinity Road, Ancaster). Please note the EARLY START for the November meeting (see upcoming events section).
Dist 5	Dianne Orr at 519-928-5302 or orr7@sympatico.ca	Check out the District 5 Facebook Page!
Dist 6	Karen Harvey at 905-729-3196 or pkharvey@zing-net.ca	
Dist 7	Judy Dening at 705-324-3453 or theshepherdsgate@xplornet.com	
Dist 8	Michelle Voskamp at 613-848-8972 or secretary@osmadistrict8.ca	Our monthly meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of every month at 7 pm at Napanee High School, Napanee. For more information visit: www.osmadistrict8.ca/
Dist 9	Tyler Armstrong at 613-433-8255 or pinnaclehaven@gmail.com	
Dist 10	Christine Power at 613-816-0846 or msloboda2003@gmail.com	Check out our Facebook website page: https://www.facebook.com/OSMAD10
Dist 11	Debra Garner at 705-563-2761 or bill.debgarner@gmail.com	

Other Organizations and Reference Information

Victoria County Sheep Producers

Third Wednesday every month starting at 7:30 Oakwood Elevators (Taylor Road, Oakwood)
Membership is \$20 per farm per year. Contact: Peter Craig at pdcraig@outlook.com

Western Ontario Lamb Producers

District 2 and 3 area

For more information email westernontariolambproducers@gmail.com

Southwestern Ontario Sheep Farmers

Formerly known as Middlesex Sheep & Lamb Producers

Meetings 4th Thursday of the month: January to April

Coldstream Community Centre; 10227 Ilderton Road, 519-666-2423

Chair – Wendy McGowan, 519- 657-5197,

Secretary – Geraldine Pennings, 519-764-2455

Grey Bruce Sheep Management Club

Location: Grey Gables in Markdale

Ontario Suffolk Sheep Association

www.facebook.com/ontariosuffolk