



*For immediate release*

## **New suite of farm management tools available for Ontario sheep farmers**

April 20, 2021 (Guelph, ON) – A complete list of the latest innovation technologies and safe health practices will soon be available to Ontario sheep farmers, along with key decision-making tools and educational videos to enhance on-farm management. [Ontario Sheep Farmers](#), with support from the [Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs](#) (OMAFRA) and [AgSights](#), have researched and compiled this latest set of [resources](#) to support farmers in the investment and long-term planning of their operations as they navigate new biosecurity and health concerns like COVID-19.

“We know that upgrading equipment, adding new technologies and improving health and safety are constantly on the minds of our members, but they are often limited by the time it takes to research new innovations or management concepts,” says Jennifer MacTavish, Ontario Sheep Farmers General Manager. “That’s why we teamed up to research new opportunities and recommended health and safety practices to help farmers in their decision process. The information will be presented using practical resources, like comparison charts, videos, webinars, informational graphics and interactive decision models.”

This new series of information and educational materials was researched and developed with the support of AgSights and OMAFRA. “Partnering with Ontario Sheep Farmers to assess new tools was a natural fit for members of both of our organizations,” explains Betty Jo Almond, AgSights General Manager. “We know first-hand that evaluating and adding new farm management tools can be a daunting and time-consuming task. And while every new solution chosen will be unique to each farm, it will likely have to address the immediate needs of meeting flock or operational goals and adding value to the bottom line, and we’ve factored that into our evaluation.”

The resources will be released throughout April and May, and available through a variety of channels, including the Ontario Sheep Farmers and AgSights websites, *Ontario Sheep News* magazine and an upcoming webinar series.

“We’re proud to support the health and sustainability of our industry through this project,” explains MacTavish. “Our goal is to provide farmers with a selection of options to enhance their farm businesses, maintain biosecurity, manage health risks and ultimately, support Ontario sheep farmers as they navigate continual changes, expansions and improvements to their operations.”

### About Ontario Sheep Farmers

Ontario’s 3,000 sheep producers are represented by the Ontario Sheep Farmers organization. With a focus on profitability and sustainability, the organization works in the areas of advocacy, industry capacity, research, and market development. Its goal is to provide consumers with premium lamb and sheep products.

### About AgSights

AgSights is a not-for-profit cooperative dedicated to making data capture along the food supply chain as easy as possible. With a focus on livestock, AgSights uses innovative techniques and adds value through every step of the food system by providing linkages and analysis.

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