



Ontario Sheep Farmers say Thank You

For immediate release

January 28, 2025 - Guelph (ON) - Ontario Sheep Farmers (OSF) is extremely pleased by the announcement of an additional \$100 million into Ontario's Risk Management Program (RMP), which was announced today by Rob Flack, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agri-Business (OMAFRA), Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance, and John Jordan, Parliamentary Assistant, OMAFA.

Ontario's RMP helps producers manage risks beyond their control and is available to sheep, cattle, pork, veal, grains and oilseeds and edible horticulture.

"The Risk Management Program is very important to our members, especially those who are newer to our sector and farmers growing their flocks," says Art Alblas, Chair of OSF. "Lamb production enrolled in this program has doubled since 2020 and continues to increase. This investment by the government will support sheep farmers as we expand production to meet the growing demand for lamb in Ontario."

Today, Ontario's 3,000 sheep farmers are only fulfilling 30% of our domestic demand for lamb. As a result of increased immigration, domestic consumption of lamb per capita is increasing at a rate of 5.7% annually. The market opportunity for Halal lamb and goat meat is projected to grow from \$214 million to over \$300 million in the next five years. The first choice in meat for a significant number of new immigrants is lamb.

OSF is committed to ensuring sheep farmers have access to risk management tools to stabilize market volatility due to factors outside their control and positioning them for success.

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. For more information visit www.OntarioSheep.org.

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