

ONTARIO SHEEP
FARMERS

ANNUAL REVIEW

2021/2022



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ONTARIO SHEEP FARMERS



By Producers, For Producers

For over thirty years, Ontario Sheep Farmers (OSF) has been an advocate for the 3,000 sheep farmers in the province of Ontario.

As an organization, OSF uses license fees to support programs and deliver services that help sheep farmers, and to provide solutions to issues affecting the sheep industry.

Bringing passion and wisdom to the business of providing a voice for the 3,000 plus Ontarians raising sheep and lambs for a growing market.

Embracing diversity with a broad industry cross-section representation around the board table.

Progressively, finding new ways to help Ontario sheep farmers prosper.

Nurturing great partnerships to help grow our market.

Tenaciously, embracing the challenge of leading in a time of change.



Ontario Sheep Farmers moved forward with several industry-leading initiatives such as:

- Launched the Building Strength for a Better Future OSF Strategic Plan
- In partnership with Scotiabank, launched the Yield More Financing TM Program for sheep which offers approved OSF producer members access to a \$50,000 line of credit to expand their flock by purchasing ewes
- Provided input to the federal and provincial governments on the development of the Next Policy Framework
- Actively participated in the Livestock Guardian Dog Standards of Care development with Ministry of Solicitor General which developed Standards of Care for Livestock working dogs.

Ontario Sheep Farmers (OSF) moved forward this past year with several industry-leading initiatives supporting the OSF Strategic Plan such as:

Community

- Supported a Joint statement along with many other commodities recognizing National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- Advocated for the new Strategic Agri-Food Processing Fund (\$25M) earmarked to support projects that will enhance processing capacity and food security
- Supported OSF District Executives by improving the OSF Director and OSF District Executive Portal and offering additional training courses
- Supported the Ontario Enhanced Agri-food Workplace Protection Program to keep our agri-food workers safe

Prosperity

- Continued working with partners to assist with the Northwestern Ontario Drought Assistant and Northwestern Ontario Livestock Emergency Assistance Initiative to ensure impacted sheep producers had access to the funding
- Improved the price & profit predictability tools for Ontario sheep producers and started working with OMAFRA on updates to the Ontario Sheep Farmers Profit Predictability Tool
- Worked with the College of Veterinarians of Ontario (CVO) to change their policy to ensure that veterinarians were not the only ones who could provide pregnancy ultrasound services
- Advocated for changes to parts of the Nutrient Management Act achieving immediate removal of the need to recertify every 5 years, saving time and money, and reducing red tape
- Advocated for investments into the wool sector resulting in approximately \$150,000 for the Canadian Wool Council to help build a more sustainable wool industry in Canada and spread awareness of the beneficial qualities of Canadian wool
- Engaged with abattoirs to gain a better understanding of their concerns and needs
- Made revisions and improvements to the MV program



Mastery

- 29 farmers completed the full Master Shepherd's Course and an additional 21 participated through 37 single module registrations
- Hosted the Fall Speakers Series webinars which covered Market Outlook, Breeding for Resilience and Longevity, Improving the Water Cycle and Drought-proofing your farm
- Hosted a series of webinars for producers on topics such as: Forage harvest/storage feed-out/Obtaining samples for analysis, How to Read a Feed Analysis, Standards of Care for Outdoor Dogs, Cost of Production, Preparing for Lambing, Transport Regulations, Coyote Information, Improving the Water Cycle and Drought Proofing your Farm, Regenerative Agriculture, Selecting Ewes for Resilient Lamb Production, North American & Canadian Market situations
- Initiated the Genetics Breeder Group discussions with GENOVIS for Dorset and Suffolk breeders
- Provided updates to the online producer education courses such as Parasite Management and Introduction to Small Ruminant Production
- 16 producers attended the online Parasite Management Course
- 77 participants completed the online Introduction to Small Ruminant Production Course
- Invested over \$17,200 memberships with industry organizations
- Invested over \$91,000 in industry focused research projects
- Hosted and organized an OSF educational day at the 2022 All Canada Classic
- Continued to sponsor the Ontario Forage Council and other grazing and pasture management initiatives such as OMAFRA Grazing Cover Crops webinars
- Continued to provide staff support for the Ontario Soil Network #letstalksoil and timing matters campaigns to further promote best practices for manure management

Operations

- Consulted with producer members on the types of information, news and updates they would like to receive from OSF including how they would like to receive it
- OSF Board, staff and some producers participated in leadership development training on topics such as Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training, as well as, Workplace Violence and Harassment training to improve professional development within the sector
- Continued updating the OSF membership database

LOOKING FORWARD



2021-2022 By the Numbers:

- Issued more than 50 market reports which are available on website and tapeline recordings
- Improved the market reports provided in The Messenger with more details
- Ontario Sheep News (OSN) circulated to over 2,400 individuals four times per year
- The Messenger circulated to over 1,100 subscribers every week
- @OntarioSheep has over 2,600 followers
- @OntarioLamb has over 1,100 followers
- Processed over \$50K in Yield More Financing payments since the program launched
- Offered over a dozen educational webinars reaching over 500 people across Ontario, Canada and internationally

As we begin the 2022-2023 year the Board of Directors will focus on:

- Implementation of the new OSF strategic plan

COMMUNICATIONS



On the communications front, Ontario Sheep Farmers is working hard to find and develop new ways to stay in touch including Ontario Sheep News and @OntarioSheep

- Revamped the OSF consumer website www.lambrecipaes.ca. In addition to including new recipes and producer profiles, the site can also be translated into 106 different languages
- Continued with the weekly digital circulation of The Messenger (OSF's digital newsletter)
- Sought producer feedback in a variety of surveys such as a Sheep Financial Protection Program and a Risk Management Program
- Created an info phone line extension where producers may call the OSF office and hear a recording of industry news and upcoming events
- Continued updates to the new producer and mental health pages on the OSF website
- Provided updates to the new producer page on the OSF website and new producer package
- Continued to support and update online professional development programs offered by OSF

2021/2022 OSF SPONSORS



Ontario Sheep Farmers would like to once again express our continued gratitude to our 2020 Industry Sponsors for their dedication to Ontario Sheep.

Sponsors



Thank you!

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