

The Messenger



August 24, 2017

In this issue

Upcoming events	2
Out and about	2
August OSMA board meeting notes.....	3
Provincial director elections information.....	5
District annual meeting information.....	6
Ontario Sheep Convention.....	7
Ontario hay and straw listings -a free service	8
2017 OSMA undergraduate scholarship	8
Grey Bruce Farmers Week Livestock Day	9
2017 Ontario Sheep Photo Contest	10
Mental health in agriculture	11
OSMA seeking awards nominations	12
Other organizations and reference information	13

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www.OntarioSheep.org

Please send all submissions to Heather Hargrave at

hhargrave@ontariosheep.org, or call (519) 836-

0043 ex. 29 with any questions.

Upcoming events

Have an upcoming event that you would like help promoting? Send an email to hhargrave@ontariosheep.org.

August 24	Twilight Pasture Tour – Alvinston http://bit.ly/2wFOPol
August 24	Middlesex Lamb Producers barbecue http://bit.ly/2fF6OVj
September 5	District 3 annual general meeting http://bit.ly/2rktfQo
September 6	District 4 annual general meeting http://bit.ly/2ss64an
September 7	District 11 annual general meeting http://bit.ly/2qd3l0K
September 9	District 10 annual general meeting http://bit.ly/2rdDiKQ
September 11	District 6 annual general meeting http://bit.ly/2s4C18i
September 13	District 7 annual general meeting http://bit.ly/2s4z738
September 14	District 2 annual general meeting http://bit.ly/2rkoZAs
September 20	District 1 annual general meeting http://bit.ly/2vMDqIS
September 21	District 8 annual general meeting http://bit.ly/2rjVI9e
September 25	District 9 annual general meeting http://bit.ly/2rzE0xl
September 26	Livestock emergency response training workshop – Listowel http://bit.ly/2u3lzUr
September 26 to 28	Sheep shearing school for beginners http://bit.ly/2ivlanJ
September 27	Livestock emergency response training workshop – Glencoe http://bit.ly/2sW07CE
October 26 & 27	Ontario Sheep Convention http://bit.ly/2oCEaa1
October 30	Livestock day with Dr. Temple Grandin – Elmwood http://bit.ly/2umZDae
October 30 & 31	Advancing Women in Agriculture conference – Niagara Falls http://bit.ly/2nXI8HT
November 21 to 23	Agricultural Excellence Conference – Ottawa http://bit.ly/2qDp6qY
November 30 to December 2	23 rd Annual Dairy Sheep Symposium – Quebec http://bit.ly/2sUpL8k

Out and about

August 14	AGgrowth Coalition conference call
August 14	Canadian Sheep Identification Program working group conference call
August 17	OSMA board of directors meeting
August 21	AGgrowth Coalition conference call
August 23	Presentation Metzger Vet Services sheep producer day

August OSMA board meeting notes

The OSMA board of directors met August 17, 2017.

2017 Ontario Sheep Convention

The board began the August meeting with a review of the agenda for the upcoming Ontario Sheep Convention. The focus of the Convention will be on the work that OSMA's growth strategy (EweGROW). Additionally, a panel discussion is being planned that will bring together a producer, processor, and retailer to discuss what the consumers are looking for and updates will be provided on the work that has been done this past year investigating the feasibility of a Sheep Finance Program.

Northern expansion opportunities

How the sheep industry can take advantage of the support that OMAFRA is giving to northern expansion opportunities was also discussed. There was agreement that if flock expansion in the north is to be successful, OSMA needs to do some homework. Therefore, the board has decided to travel up to northern Ontario to talk to sheep producers to find out what challenges they see to expansion, what kind of help they need, and where they would like to see OSMA focus its efforts.

Federal Provincial Territorial Agriculture Ministers meeting

Marc Carere provided an update on the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Agricultural Ministers meeting in Newfoundland in July. Agriculture ministers from Quebec and Ontario were both very supportive of a comprehensive review of the national Business Risk Management (BRM) programs. It was a valuable event for OSMA to be at for relationship building, especially with the Minister Leal and his staff.

Rob Scott has been speaking with Minister Leal's staff to discuss both the BRM review and stress the importance of the Risk Management Program for the sheep industry.

National sheep meeting

A meeting with sheep producers from across Canada has been set for September 6 and 7 to discuss what the industry needs in terms of national representation. The Institute on Governance has been selected as the facilitator of the meeting.

Food fraud

Recently there has been an increase in media attention given to the issue of food fraud. The board reviewed potential risks to the sheep industry. This included a discussion around brand claims.

2017-2018 OSMA budget

The draft 2017-18 budget was reviewed by the board. Licence fee revenue is forecasted to drop in the next fiscal year. Other highlights include:

- The advocacy line item has been reduced. A key learning from last year's budget was that the cost of advocacy to board expenses and staff travel were under estimated.
- Board and staff travel expenses have increased to reflect increased advocacy.
- Budget has been included for amortization of a new phone system.
- AGM expenses have increased.

biotracks Go360 program

Mike McMorris from BIO came into talk to the board about their biotracks Go360 program. This could be part of the EweGROW program that OSMA is developing out of the findings of the Growth Strategy. The board is reviewing management and record keeping tools that are available to producers. The Go360 program has been built to aid producers not only in record keeping, but also data management and traceability. The program does allow producers to keep track of key benchmarks such as:

- Lambs born per ewe
- Lamb mortality
- Ewe mortality
- Marketable lambs per ewe

The Go360 program has also been designed to help producers with traceability and movement reporting.

Update on Sheep Finance Program

The Wheeler Group presented follow up information on their work investigating the feasibility of a Sheep Finance Program. In addition to providing the board with their recommendation, they also provided other ideas on work that can be engaged in to facilitate flock expansion. The board will finalize their position on this at the October board meeting. The Wheeler Group will provide an update to producers at the Ontario Sheep Convention in October.

Towards Increased Profits (TIP) report update

John Molenhuis from OMAFRA came in to discuss information that is provided to producers in the Towards Increased Profits (TIP) report. Producers receive this information if they indicate “yes” to the TIP question on page 2 of their AgriStability program application form. This information can be used to help producers benchmark their financial performance. It provides producers with comparisons to other farms that are the same type and in the same sales range.

OSMA will be making the TIP commodity profile available to the industry.

Committee updates

Predation

Recently claims have been denied because a premises identification number was declined and the photos submitted were of poor quality. There is a sense that not enough credence is to the opinion of the investigators.

Marc Carere attended the Algonquin Wolf Recovery Strategy meeting. The goal is to have the recovery strategy in place by June 2018. They stated that they used premises IDs to map out where livestock farms were. There will be farms, especially in the northern corridor, that will be impacted. Two major risk factors for the wolves are hybridization and human intervention (hunting/trapping).

Programs

The last meeting dealt with GenOvis and how to move GenOvis forward and increase participation. The committee would like to set up a user committee that focuses on engaging commercial flocks.

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) held two GenOvis meetings to allow their summer students to update users on the work that they had been engaged in. Key messaging relayed back to OSMA included the need for ultrasounding, issues with technology, and the need for more education on how to use GenOvis for management.

An update on the Maedi Visna Advisory Committee meeting was given. The board was informed that since January 2016 almost 9,000 samples have been tested with 88% being negative. The committee did discuss the idea of pooling samples to help manage the cost of testing. A key concern is the fact that weak positives (which could test as negative) could be missed. An animal that is a weak positive is still capable of shedding the virus and infecting the flock. It was reiterated that samples should only be retested if the flock is already an A status and has less than 5% of their results as positive.

Wool

The wool committee met to plan how they can contribute to the Convention. They want to do a wool demonstration and have the Nottawasaga spinners guild attend the Convention.

The next OSMA board of directors meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2017.

Provincial director elections information

Elections for provincial directors for the OSMA board will take place in districts 3, 6, and 9 in 2017.

The provincial directors are elected to three year terms on OSMA's board of directors. The role of the provincial director is to promote the best interest of Ontario's sheep industry and work to fulfill the mission statement of OSMA.

If you would like to submit a nomination of an individual to fill the position and sit on the OSMA board of directors:

- 1) Contact Jennifer MacTavish at the OSMA office by emailing jmactavish@ontariosheep.org or by calling (519) 836-0043, AND
- 2) Contact your district secretary (see list on page XX).

Nominations must be received no later than 15 days prior to your district annual general meeting.

District annual meeting dates and details can be found in this issue of *The Messenger* and in the calendar on the OSMA website (www.OntarioSheep.org).

District annual meeting information

For the most up to date information visit the event calendar at www.OntarioSheep.org.

District	Date	Location	Meeting topic	Contact
1	September 20, 2017 6:00pm dinner 7:00pm speaker 8:00pm annual meeting	Arrowwood Farm & The Harvest Table - 6460 Riverside Dr., Melbourne	Speaker: Marc Carere Topic: Building relationships – American Sheep Industry annual convention	RSVP by September 10 to: Dave Dekay – (519) 666-0626 Sandra Alblas – (519) 637-0050
2	September 14, 2017 7:30pm	Sprucedale Agromart (between Walkerton and Hanover)		Barb Zettler (519) 392-6549
3	September 5, 2017	To be announced		Sandi Brock (519) 263-2325 brocksandi@hotmail.com
4	September 6, 2017 7:00pm	To be announced		Jay Mycroft (905) 957-1114 jay.mycroft@xplornet.com
5	August 1, 2017 6:30pm			
6	September 11, 2017	To be announced		Grant Cowan (705) 436-2236
7	September 13, 2017	To be announced		Kevin Hutchings (705) 437-4441
8	September 21, 2017 7:00pm	Napanee Secondary School	Ontario Sheep Update Guest Speaker: Rob Scott, OSMA	Linda Huizenga (613) 477-2314 fhuzenga@xplornet.ca
9	September 25, 2017 7:00pm	Rocky Mountain House, Renfrew		Lyndsey Smith (204) 807-5897 realloudlyndsey@gmail.com
10	September 9, 2017 7:00pm	Grenville Mutual Insurance Board Room 380 Colonndade Dr, Kemptville	Digital wiring for barns (tentative)	Laurie Maus (613) 527-1897 Lauriemaus@xplornet.com www.facebook.com/OSMAD10
11	September 7, 2017 7:30pm	Kerns Township Fire Hall 279279 Milberta Rd, New Liskeard		Amy Oriet (705) 563-8484 Jim Johnston (705) 647-7160

Ontario Sheep Convention

Ontario Sheep invites you to attend the 2017 Ontario Sheep Convention in Alliston.

Our Thursday program will feature speakers and discussions on how to grow the Ontario sheep industry. Presentation topics include an update on Ontario Sheep's growth strategy and a panel discussion on the opportunities and challenges of marketing Ontario lamb and sheep.

Thursday evening will be the annual Ontario Lamb Banquet, where we'll celebrate the industry and recognize the winners of the GenOvis performance awards, the Outstanding Shepherd Award and the Long Service Award.

The Ontario Sheep annual meeting will take place on Friday morning. In addition to updates about OSMA's projects, programs and advocacy efforts, presentations about the new Sheep Finance program and producer mental health will also be included.

A draft agenda is now available (subject to change):

http://ontariosheep.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=wwTB_qlgUuQ%3d&tabid=194.

You can register by completing this form

(http://ontariosheep.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=sMjL0_OydNQ%3d&tabid=194). Online registration will be available shortly.

Ontario Sheep has secured a discounted room rate at the Nottawasaga Inn Resort of \$139 +HST/night. To book accommodations please call (705) 435-5501.

Ontario hay and straw listings -a free service

From a press release

During this current growing season, many forage producers are facing challenges associated with the unusually wet conditions. As a result, the Ontario Forage Council feels that there is an increased urgency to spread the word about the Ontario Hay Listings Service. This website continues to be a FREE, efficient and effective way of buying or selling hay and straw.

To view the ads, select the Hay Listings Menu located on the right side of the screen, or click the Ads tab at the top of the page. You can view the complete list of ads by scrolling to below the map, or customize your search by clicking your desired area on the map. This will limit search results to the desired area only. You do not need to register with the system to view the hay listings. Buyer and seller ads can be searched by many parameters using general or advanced searches. To optimize the security of the users of the site, you must log in to obtain contact information.

To post an ad, registration is required. This has been done to make the site more secure, and to protect our users. Registration provides buyers and sellers with a user ID that allows them to easily create and then revise the ads as time goes on. To register and begin posting ads, please click on "Register" on the right side of the screen. Please note that none of the contact information collected on this website will be sold, or shared by Ontario Forage Council to other organizations.

Postings will stay on this site for 60 days. Ontario Forage Council may delete or alter any listing deemed to be inappropriate. To access the listings visit www.ontariohaylistings.ca.

2017 OSMA undergraduate scholarship

2017 OSMA Scholarship Award

One \$500 scholarship available

To be eligible you must

- Be a registered producer or have a parent/guardian who is a registered producer with OSMA, or be a member of a 4-H Ontario sheep club.
- Enrolled in your first or second year at an accredited university, college or apprenticeship program.
- Complete and submit your application by September 8, 2017.

The awarding of the scholarship will be based upon school and community involvement, and quality of the applicant's article submission.



For an application form and complete details, visit
www.OntarioSheep.org.

Grey Bruce Farmers Week Livestock Day

The Grey Bruce Farmers' Week Committee is excited to present:

Livestock Day

**October
30th, 2017**

Registration - 9:15 am
Speakers Start - 10:00 am
Adjournment - 3:15 pm

Follow us on Twitter & Facebook
@GBFarmersWeek #GBFW18
#GBFW #DrTempleGrandin



Photo Credit: Rosalie Winard

**Elmwood
Community
Centre**

(#38 Queen St. W.,
Elmwood)

Featuring:

Dr. Temple Grandin

Importance of Good Stockmanship & Design of Livestock Handling Facilities

Other Presentations Include: *What Is Your Cow Signals Score?* - Barn Walk Through, Amelie Mainville Nadon & Darryl Smith, Purina Cargill; and *Proudly Canadian; Our Codes of Practice for the Care & Handling of Farm Animals*, Dr. Tina Widowski, University of Guelph

Registration Price - \$40.00 Hot Roast Beef Dinner Included

Registration at Eventbrite.ca by Oct 20th –

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/livestock-day-featuring-dr-temple-grandin-tickets-36308344235>

For more information contact Grey Ag Services:

519-986-3756, info@greyagservices.ca, www.greyagservices.ca



Major Event Sponsors



Special thanks to our other Sponsors and Supporters: Metzger Veterinary Services; Chesley Veterinary Services; Miller Veterinary Services; Ukal Canada; Coles; and Ice River Springs

2017 Ontario Sheep Photo Contest

WE'RE LOOKING FOR **THE BEST PHOTOS** OF SHEEP, SHEEP FARMERS, AND THEIR FARMS

Enter to win great prizes in the 2017 photo contest.

CATEGORIES

- **Farm Scenes** – capture the beauty of the scenery on the farm.
- **Farm Faces** – who takes care of the sheep. Photos must contain at least one person with sheep.
- **Show me your sheep** – photo must contain at least 20 sheep.

Cash prizes for top photos in each category plus the overall fan favourite photo.

Entry deadline: October 13, 2017

Winners will be announced in early November.

For full contest details and rules visit www.OntarioSheep.org.

Contest entrants do not have to be members of OSMA to be eligible for prizes. Any submitted photos become the property of OSMA, to be used and/or reproduced. Where possible, credit will be given to the photographer.



Mental health in agriculture

The Ontario Veterinary College is researching agricultural producer mental wellness. They are looking for agricultural producers, agricultural industry support staff, and veterinarians working with livestock producers to participate in a one-on-one interview. Interviews will last approximately 60 minutes, and the survey about 5-10 minutes. Participants will receive a \$100 honorarium. Additional details are contained in the flyer below.

For more information

Briana Hagen bhagen@uoguelph.ca or (306) 381-8927

Dr. Andria Bitton-Jones ajones@uoguelph.ca or (519) 824-4120 x54786

The Ontario Veterinary College is researching agricultural **producer mental wellness, and we need your help!**



We are seeking agricultural producers, agricultural industry support staff, and veterinarians working with livestock producers to participate in a one-on-one interview. The interview will be conducted in a location of your choice.

You will be asked to discuss your thoughts and experiences with respect to mental wellness and resilience in the agricultural community and to complete a brief survey. Interviews will last approximately 60 minutes, and the survey about 5-10 minutes.

In appreciation for your time and valuable insight, you will receive a \$100 honorarium.

Interviews can be scheduled at your convenience.

Please contact Briana Hagen (bhagen@uoguelph.ca or 306-381-8927) or Dr. Andria Jones-Bitton (ajones@uoguelph.ca or 519-824-4120 ext. 54786) if you are interested in participating



REB # XXXXX

OSMA seeking awards nominations

Do you know an outstanding sheep farmer? Someone who has made a significant contribution to the Ontario sheep industry?

OSMA is now accepting nominations for its Outstanding Shepherd and Long Service Awards as well as the 2017 Pasture Award, presented in partnership with the Ontario Forage Council and MAPLESEED.

For more information, and nomination forms, visit:
<http://www.ontariosheep.org/AWARDSPHOTOCONTEST.aspx>.

**SEEKING NOMINATIONS
FOR**

2017 Awards

**OUTSTANDING SHEPHERD
AWARD**

Submission deadline:
September 29, 2017

**2017 MAPLESEED PASTURE
AWARD**

Submission deadline:
September 29, 2017

LONG SERVICE AWARD

Submission deadline:
September 29, 2017

ONTARIOSHEEP.ORG @ONTARIOSHEEP

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, for more information email westernontariolambproducers@gmail.com

Southwestern Ontario Sheep Farmers

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

DISTRICT	CONTACT	INFORMATION
1	Dave DeKay at 519-666-0626 or dmdekay@isp.ca	http://osma_district_1.tripod.com/
2	Matt Zehr at 519-363-2029 zehr.matt@gmail.com	
3	Sandi Brock at 519-263-2325 brocksandi@hotmail.com	District 3 Facebook Page
4	Marusha Kostuk at 519-865-6874 or mushie.mk@gmail.com	Meetings tentatively to be held the 3 rd Wed. of the month at 7:30 at Ancaster Fairgrounds (630 Trinity Rd, Ancaster)
5	Lisa de Kleer at 519-994-1499 or dldekleer@gmail.com	Check out the District 5 Facebook Page!
6	John Hemsted at 705-487-2466 or sheep@vanam.com	
7	Jenny Carnaghan at 905-986-5120 or jenny@durhamlamb.ca	
8	Linda Huizenga at 613-477-2314 or fhuizenga@xplornet.ca	Meetings are normally held on the 3 rd Thurs of every month at 7 pm at Napanee High School. District 8 Facebook Page
9	Lyndsey Smith at 204-807-5897 or realloudlyndsey@gmail.com	
10	Christine Power at 613-686-1892 or christine.power@ic.gc.ca	Check out our Facebook page!
11	Amy Oriet at 705-563-8484 or gaoriet@hotmail.com	