

# MAPLESEED®



The Ontario Sheep Farmers are pleased to partner with Mapleseed and the Ontario Forage Council in sponsoring the “MAPLESEED Pasture Award” This is an excellent opportunity to recognize individual producers who are doing an outstanding job of pasture management. The Mapleseed Pasture Award is also a way of encouraging producers to implement pasture management strategies that maximize production per acre.

Mapleseed contributes a cash award of \$250 to the winner, plus a 25kg bag of their choice of a Mapleseed Forage Mix. The winner will be announced at the Annual Meeting of the Ontario Sheep Farmers, which will take place in October 2024.

To submit a nomination for this award, complete the application form below. Feel free to include pictures and or diagrams.

Application Deadline: September 30, 2024

Send completed applications c/o Ontario Forage Council, Box 463, Markdale, ON, N0C 1H0

**Nominating Group or individual (if applicable).**

Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Township: \_\_\_\_\_ Lot: \_\_\_\_\_ Concession: \_\_\_\_\_

Soil Type(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Livestock Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Head: \_\_\_\_\_

Lambing date(s) if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

Pasture Acres Owned: \_\_\_\_\_ Rented: \_\_\_\_\_

Pasture Classification:

TYPE	# ACRES
Improved tillable	_____
Unimproved tillable	_____
Improved Roughland	_____
Unimproved Roughland	_____

Management of Regular Pasture (land used just for pasture):

- Strip Grazed: # \_\_\_\_\_ acres - How often moved? \_\_\_\_\_
- Rotationally Grazed: # \_\_\_\_\_ acres - # of fields/paddocks? \_\_\_\_\_
- Continuous Grazed: # \_\_\_\_\_ acres  
(access to same pasture all season)
- Unimproved Pasture: # \_\_\_\_\_ acres

**\*\* Please Use Separate Paper to Answer Questions 1-8 \*\***

1. How is pasture utilized in your operation?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Describe your pasture management program (species, overseeding, re-seeding, fertilizing, grazing management, watering facilities, recording system, etc.) How does this management work towards a philosophy of "best use" of available resources?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How do you capitalize on strengths and minimize weaknesses of your pasture?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What are the unique features of your pasture system (riparian areas, rough terrain)? How are these features an advantage for you (or how do you turn them to your advantage?)

5. How long is your pasture season? How do you extend your spring and fall seasons?

6. List your five top Pasture Management Practices to best utilize your resources.

7. If you could change one thing about your operation, what would it be?

8. What research would you like to see done in pasture management?

I understand that I may be contacted by the media, asked to host farm tours or to speak about pasture management at my convenience as a result of this competition. Pictures and/or production information submitted with the application may be used for news articles and extension purposes.

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nominating Group or individual (if applicable).

## ANIMAL UNITS PER ACRE

Complete the following tables and formula to determine the animal units per acre.

**TABLE I - TOTAL ANIMAL UNITS**

Record the number of each type of livestock under “Number Pastured.” Multiply by Animal Unit Equivalent Number to get number of animal units in terms of 1,000 pound cattle. One (1.00) animal unit is equivalent to 1,000 pounds of live weight. This figure may be adjusted up or down for the various breeds by adding or subtracting .10 animal units for every 100 pounds over or under 1,000 pounds live weight. For example: a 1,400 pound Charolais cow = 1.40 animal units while a 900 pound cow = .90 animal units.

Type of Livestock Carried	October 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2023 to October 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2024		
	Number Pastured	Animal Unit Equivalent	Animal Units
Sheep, breeding aged ewes for meat, includes lambs and rams		.125	
Feeder Lambs 75-125 lbs		.05	
Sheep, milking aged ewes for milk production, (includes lambs, replacements and rams)		.17	

**TABLE II - TOTAL ACRES PASTURED**

Record the acres of each type of pasture used from October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 to October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

Types of Pasture Used	Number of Acres	Number of Days	Number of animal units
Regular pasture (field used only for pasture in that year)	_____	_____	_____
1. Continuous grazing (access all year)	_____	_____	_____
2. Rotational grazing (# paddocks _____)	_____ _____	_____ _____	_____ _____
3. Strip grazing	_____	_____	_____

Hay and silage aftermath, pasturing after 1 <sup>st</sup> cut hay crop			
1. If all aftermath following June cut is pastured	_____	_____	_____
2. If 2nd cut hay removed and 3rd cutting pastured	_____	_____	_____
Annual/Supplementary pasture			
1. Sudan grass, rape, and kale	_____	_____	_____
2. Oats or rye pasture,	_____	_____	_____
- seeded for fall pasture	_____	_____	_____
- seeded for summer and fall pasture	_____	_____	_____
Oat companion crop and new seedings pastured in the year of seeding	_____	_____	_____
Roughland pasture	_____	_____	_____
Crop Residue, i.e. cornstalks	_____	_____	_____
TOTALS	_____	_____	_____

**TABLE III - ANIMAL UNITS PER ACRE**

Complete the following formula and enter the animal units per acre.

$$\text{Animal Units} \times \text{Days} \div \text{Acres} = \text{Animal Unit Days per year}$$

$$\text{Total Animal Units (divided by) Total Acres Pastured} = \text{Animal units per acre} \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

Were animals from more than one species grazed on the same pasture? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

If yes, please specify: Type \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Head \_\_\_\_\_

**COST OF PASTURE PRODUCTION**

Pasture Input Costs for Maintenance, Establishment or Renovation

\* Use actual amount paid if done by custom operator or use 2018 Custom Rates to calculate cost if done by applicant: i.e. Harrowing: \$7.00 per acre Clipping: \$13.00 per acre

Show costs for 2022

Pasture costs:

	Acres	Dollars
Establishment:		
Tillage	_____	_____
Planting	_____	_____
Seed	_____	_____
Fertilizer	_____	_____
Spray	_____	_____
Fencing:		
Perimeter	_____	_____
Internal	_____	_____
Repairs	_____	_____
Fertilizer	_____	_____
Spraying	_____	_____
Clipping	_____	_____
Over Seeding	_____	_____

**PASTURE RENTAL RATES:**

If you rent pasture, please specify rental rates paid over the past three years. Indicate per head, per lb gain, per acre or per season.

## **Livestock Production Information**

### **A. LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION**

Please indicate number and type of animals grazed and typical production levels, i.e. weaning weights, finisher gains, etc.

### **B. LIVESTOCK HEALTH COSTS ON PASTURE**

Please comment on Fly Control, Vaccinations, Parasite Control, Implants, Disease Treatments i.e. foot rot.

**2023 FARM SKETCH**

Use this page to sketch an overview of your farm(s).

***Include location of:*** buildings, laneways, field boundaries (pasture field crops and approximate acreage), wetlands, woodlots, ponds, creeks, water access points, mineral/salt feeders on pasture, etc.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a hand-drawn sketch of a farm. The box occupies most of the page below the instructions.