MARCH 7, 2012

SPECIAL SECTION OF THE WINCHESTER PRESS

85th edition

Ottawa Valley FARM SHOW

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

March 13, 14, 15

New location

CE Centre, Ottawa

OTTAWA-VALLEY SEED GROWERS

WE AIM AT THE BEST

A message from OVSGA president Bruce Hudson

OTTAWA

This year marks the 85th anniversary of the Ottawa Valley Farm Show (OVFS), sponsored by the Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association (OVSGA), a major non-profit agricultural trade show created by farmers for farmers.

The association has been one of the mainstays of Eastern Ontario agriculture, recognizing the annual efforts of seed growers across the region and offering them an opportunity at the farm show to showcase those efforts, while shopping for the latest in machinery and other products to help them get through the new season in fine style.

This edition of the farm show marks a major milestone. Not only is it the 85th anniversary, but also for the first time in more than 50 years, we've changed locations. Our new home is the recently completed CE Centre opposite Ottawa International Airport. The 150,000 square-foot trade show facility features the latest in mechanical, and technological services.

In addition to the seed component, the association is proud to host more than 350 top quality exhibitors of tools, machinery, livestock accessories, financial, and other services, and, of course, seeds – everything that will be needed for the upcoming growing season.

As usual this year, we will have an official opening at 12 pm on Tues., March 13. Other highlights are the Seed Growers' Hall of Honour, livestock breed association information booths, and seminars sponsored by exhibitors in the meeting rooms prominently located at the front of the new building.

A feature on day two at 12 pm is the Seed Growers' Awards Ceremony, which recognizes Eastern Ontario's top seed producers. Day three at 12 pm, we will feature our annual Pedigreed Seed Sale with proceeds directed to the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome in advance all of our visitors to the 2012 show from across Ontario, Western Quebec, and from Northern New York State. Not only is the farm show a place to shop, it's a place to visit and catch up on the winter's news. We invite you to do plenty of both.

As somebody who has spent a lifetime in the agricultural business with members of my family, active in many farm organizations including 4-H and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, it's a pleasure to serve as president of the OVSGA. It's a matter of pride for me that my father, Graham, also held this position.

I am always impressed at how the Ontario agricultural industry, and the community it supports continue to show an amazing resiliency, and an ability to rebound. The farm show is one place where, annually, we witness that ability first hand.

See you at the show!

> ***This edition of the farm show marks a major milestone. Not only is it the 85th anniversary, but also for the first time in more than 50 years, we've changed locations.***
>
> *— Bruce Hudson, OVSGA president*



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A message from OVFS general manager Tom Van Dusen

OTTAWA

Ontario's longest running agricultural trade show marks its 85th year of operation Tues., March 13 to Thurs., March 15. It's one of the longest continuous records in Canada of farmers organizing for farmers, other rural residents, and businesspeople, an annual display of goods and services useful – often indispensable – to them in the coming year.

Some 350 highly reputable exhibitors will be on hand for the three-day OVFS at Ottawa's new CE Centre, which features 120,000 square-feet of exhibit space under one roof. Directors of the Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association (OVSGA), sponsors of the farm show, President Bruce Hudson, Secretary-Treasurer Mary Joynt, and myself, look forward to seeing you at the show.

As well, this year marks a milestone in the history of the OVFS, as it celebrates the 85th anniversary of what began as a little rotating seed fair in Renfrew County before moving to Lansdowne Park more than 50 years ago, and growing into the premier trade exhibition we know today.

We are a member of the prestigious Farm Show Council dedicated to giving exhibitors and visitors a memorable experience.

Among features of the 2012 show will be a cattle breed information display and the Seed Growers' Hall of Honour located in a prominent position on the exhibit floor. The official opening, seed growers' awards, pedigreed seed sale, seminars, 4-H display, antiques presented by the Vintage Iron and Traditions club, broadcasting from the site by Valley Heritage Radio, and more will all be part of the show.

As usual, show dates coincide with March Break in Ontario schools. Children – who are the future of farming – are welcome at the show, with no charge for those 12 years old and under accompanied by an adult. General admission is $10.

> ***Some 350 highly reputable exhibitors will be on hand for the three-day OVFS at Ottawa's new CE Centre, which features 120,000 square-feet of exhibit space under one roof.***
>
> *— Tom Van Dusen, OVFS general manager*



Other event notes:

• **Moving in, and out –** For exhibitors, the move-in day this year is Mon., March 12. Please remember that we have to get the entire set up done in a single day in the brand new location. Please co-operate by paying close attention to your move-in times as we try to limit backup and confusion. Move out begins at 4 pm on the final day of the show (March 15). We ask all exhibitors to remain at their booths until closing time. Exhibitors are urged to book their electrical and curtaining requirements in advance with Freeman, as rates increase substantially after the show opens. Curtains and signage should not block visibility for adjacent booths, and exhibitors must keep their displays clear of traffic aisles so as not to create congestion and a possible breach of fire regulations.

• **Parking –** CE Centre management charges $7 to park on the grounds. The farm show organizing committee has no control over this fee.

• **Official opening –** As always, everyone is invited to our official opening at 12 pm on March 13.

• **Awards ceremony –** The annual seed awards ceremony will take place Wed., March 14 in the afternoon. The occasion is used to recognize Eastern Ontario growers judged earlier to have the best entries in several crop categories. The OVSGA hosts 16 different trophies in various seed categories. Final judging will take place Sat., March 10 at the Vernon Community Centre.

• **Pedigreed Seed Sale –** Please join us March 15 at 12 pm for the annual Pedigreed Seed Sale, with proceeds going to the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario.



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Heather Metcalfe-Griffith returns as feature artist

OTTAWA

After contributing an impressive commemorative painting to last year's Ottawa Valley Farm Show (OVFS) auction, Heather Metcalfe-Griffith has been invited back as guest artist at the 2012 show, the first at the new CE Centre near Ottawa International Airport.

This year's offering from Metcalfe-Griffith is a cool winter landscape, a scene typical of Eastern Ontario farm country. She calls it "Crisp Winter Scene," and it measures 30 by 24 inches.

An active artist for more than 20 years, Metcalfe-Griffith did an outstanding job last year in reflecting what the show was all about at the former Lansdowne Park location in Ottawa. This time, she's evoking the country the show serves, while in its dormant state, before its rebirth for another growing season.

You can add this new work to your collection by bidding high enough on it Thurs., March 15, starting at 12 pm, during the annual Pedigreed Seed Sale. The event raises funds for the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario with close to $100,000 donated to date.

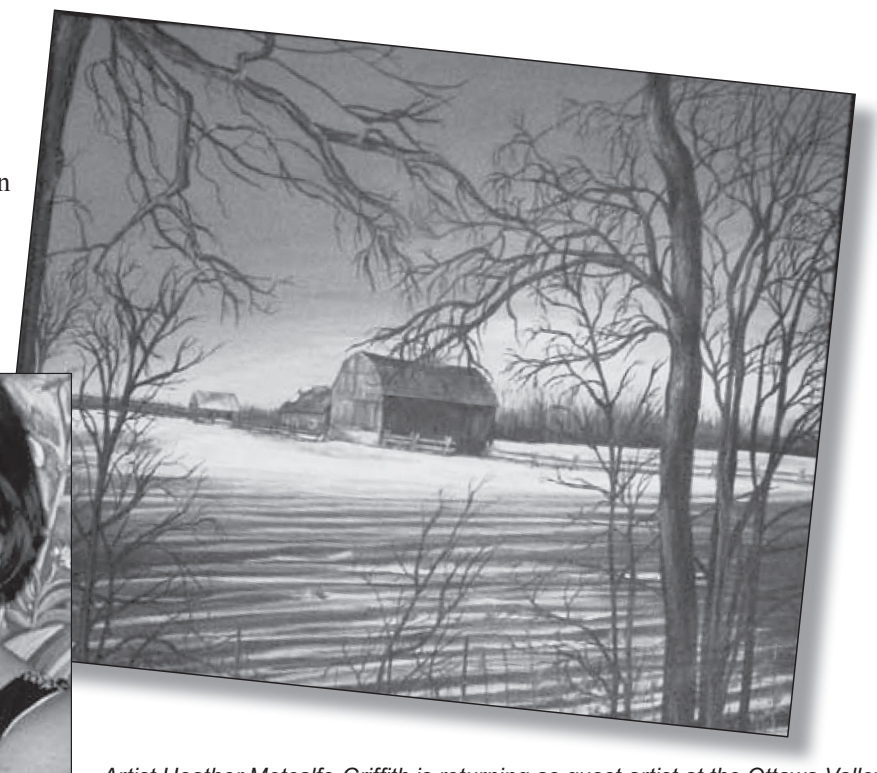
You'll likely have to take on Phyllis MacMaster from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs who has acquired almost all of the auction paintings since the event was introduced as a way of showcasing and supporting rural artists in Eastern Ontario.

The Seed Growers would like to thank Secan, a show exhibitor, for once again donating $300 toward purchase of the auction painting.

Metcalfe-Griffith graduated from St. Lawrence College in 1981 with a diploma in fine arts, following which she completed a certificate in ceramics and received a Bachelor in Arts and Science from Queen's University.

She has participated in various shows, including at the Balderson Art Gallery. She resides at Motts Mills with her husband, William, where they operate a 600-acre farm raising cows, sheep, horses, and emus.





Artist Heather Metcalfe-Griffith is returning as guest artist at the Ottawa Valley Farm Show. Her painting "Crisp Winter Scene," will be on the auction block on Thurs., March 15.



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85th anniversary

Farm show set to take place in new CE Centre



OTTAWA

For better or for worse, this year's Ottawa Valley Farm Show (OVFS) has vacated its traditional home at Ottawa's Lansdowne Park.

Following 52 years of the annual celebration at the historic confines, located on Bank Street, the Eastern Ontario agricultural event has packed up and moved to the Capital Exhibition (CE) Centre on Uplands Drive, adjacent to the Ottawa International Airport.

The move was brought on by the Ottawa Sports and Entertainment Group (OSEG)'s desire to redevelop the Lansdowne location.

Through a partnership between the City of Ottawa and OSEG, both sides would like to add more green space to the Lansdowne area, revitalize Frank Clair Stadium and the Civic Centre, while also making room for retail development.

The decision has been met with swift opposition from many residents on both sides of Rideau Canal, while heritage experts have also come forward to object the plans.

Meanwhile, with the redevelopment expected to get underway sometime this year, many of Lansdowne's mainstay attractions, such as the OVFS, have had to find new places of operation. (Others have chosen to cease to exist, including the Central Canada Exhibition.)

However, the farm show's organizers have decided to take the move for what it is, and see the best in the new opportunity.

"For the first time, we'll be totally contained under one roof," Tom Van Dusen, OVFS general manager, said. "Loading docks and doors right across the back of the building – including a 20 x 20-foot door – should make moving in and out a snap… Once we all get used to the new setup."

The CE Centre offers 150,000 square-feet of space, of which 120,000 square-feet is the exhibit floor itself. The building can be divided into four halls, each with its own services, while the OVFS will be using all of the halls and some outside space, making it one of the centre's biggest customers.

"We could use more floor space," Van Dusen said. "But we'll fit in our existing exhibitors plus a few new ones with no room to spare… And we'll still have a fairly long waiting list."

Another bright spot for organizers was the fact that exhibitors weren't turned off by the need to increase booth fees in order to help compensate for the CE Centre's higher rental rates, he added.

SHOW DATES & HOURS

Tues., March 13:
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Wed., March 14:
9:00 am - 8:00 pm

Thurs., March 15:
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

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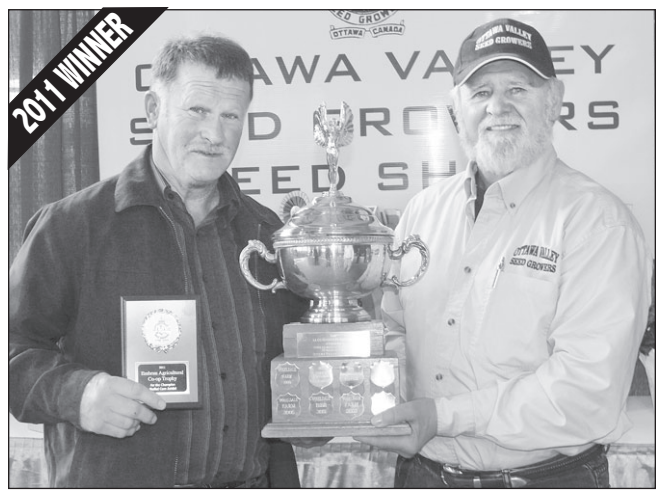
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Brinston's Francis Henderson (left) was the winner of the 2011 OVSG challenge for the champion exhibit of haylage. Jim Arbuckle, president of the Ottawa Valley Seed Growers (OVSG), presented the award.



The 2011 Bennie Vance Memorial Trophy for the champion grain sheaf in the 4-H section was awarded to Derek Lillico. Barb Vance (right) presented the prize to Lillico, whose sister, Christina, won this award in 2009 and 2010.



Tibben Farms of Brinston was the winner of the 2011 Embrun Agricultural Co-Op Trophy for the champion shelled corn. Ralph Tibben (left) accepted the prize from Robert Dessaint, a director at large with the OVSG.



Crysler's Wenalt Holsteins was the winner of the 2011 C&M Trophy for the champion wheat in the open classes. Barry Gordon (left), of C&M Seeds in Palmerston, Ont., presented the award to Ian and Diane Powell.



The 2011 Special Export Hay Class Award, sponsored by South Mountain's JED Express, was presented for both the first and second cuts. The first cut prize went to Normand (right) and Denis Leger and was presented by Jim Arbuckle (left).

Seed show judging to be held in Vernon

VERNON

For the first time, annual seed judging for the Ottawa Valley Farm Show (OVFS) – scheduled for Tues., March 13 to Thurs., March 15 at Ottawa's CE Centre – will be held off the show site to facilitate the move-in process, and make participation less complicated for judges and those delivering entries.

Judging will be held this year at the Vernon Community Centre on Sat., March 10. Entries must be submitted by 10 am that day, and each entry makes up the top submissions determined at county shows previously held throughout Eastern Ontario.

While the OVFS is a farm machinery, equipment, supplies, and rural services exhibition featuring approximately 350 companies, the core remains the presentation of the year's seed and forage winners. Now one of North America's premier farm shows, the OVFS grew from a rotating seed competition launched 85 years ago.

Judging has traditionally been held at the show site on the Monday set-up day prior to opening day of the show, and winning entries are featured in the Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association (OVSGA) booth throughout the three days. The winners are then recognized at a lunchtime reception on the event's second day.

With this year's move by the OVFS to the new CE Centre, appropriate space for judging was limited, leading to the decision to shift over to Vernon.

"We think it will make things easier all around," said Bruce Hudson. OVSGA president. "Vernon is very accessible for everybody dropping off entries, there's plenty of room in the rec centre for judging, and by going to Saturday, we'll get a head start on the main show."

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More than 90 structures installed by researchers in watershed

SNC technology on display at 2012 show

OTTAWA

The annual Ottawa Valley Farm Show is approaching – and with it comes the opportunity for the Eastern Ontario agricultural and rural community to learn about South Nation Conservation's environmental services and grant programs.

SNC will occupy booth 2504 in the new home of the farm show, Ottawa's new CE Centre on Uplands Drive near the Ottawa International Airport. The show opens at 9 am each morning. It closes at 5 pm on Tues., March 13; 8 pm on Wed., March 14; and 4 pm on Thurs., March 15.

While information will be available on initiatives like the tree-planting program and the Woodlot Advisory Service, the focus this year will be on SNC's role as a leader in introducing new environmental technology to the agricultural community in the South Nation Watershed.

"Through our many partnerships, a great deal of research into agricultural beneficial management practices has been conducted in the South Nation watershed," said SNC communications director Angela Coleman. "Controlled Tile Drainage (CTD) is one of the most encouraging recent innovations, and we'll be demonstrating how the structures work."



South Nation Conservation's Controlled Tile Drainage (CTD) device is to be on display at the 2012 Ottawa Valley Farm Show.

More than 90 CTD structures have been installed by researchers in the South Nation watershed. Results over the past five years indicate that CTD not only reduces nutrient loading, but also increases crop yields. Through funding provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), SNC has acquired a number of CTD structures that will be provided free of charge to interested farmers to promote this best management practice. Details will be available at the South Nation booth.

In addition to displays of farm machinery, equipment, seed, and various technical services, the OVFS is used by many organizations such as SNC to get their message across to the rural market.

"We're always pleased to have South Nation Conservation as part of the show," said OVFS manager Tom Van Dusen. "They make an important contribution to the lineup of environmental and educational information available at the show."

> ***"Controlled Tile Drainage (CTD) is one of the most encouraging recent innovations, and we'll be demonstrating how the structures work."***
>
> *— Angela Coleman, SNC communications director*

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2011 A LOOK BACK





Auctioneer Jim Joynt (right) called out bids, while ringmaster Roy Carver (above) watched the audience closely for bids.



Ringmaster Ivor Williams (above) attempted to entice audience members to bid on some balls of wool.





Owen Wilson was ready to test drive this Landini tractor at the B&G Loughlin exhibit.



Above: GreenTech Ag and Turf employee Randy Strader (centre) at the Winchester business' booth.

Left: OVSG director Kathy Hardy showed off the sheep hide blanket that was up for auction. Photos — Uhrig

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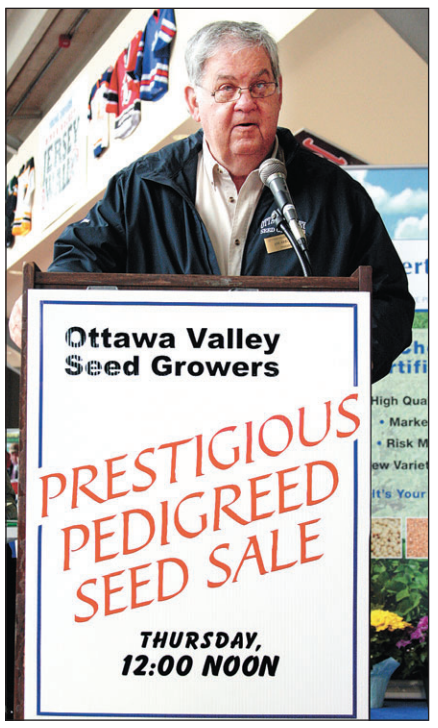
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2011 A LOOK BACK







John Posthumus spun wool throughout the three days.

Above: *Ottawa Valley Seed Growers (OVSG) president Jim Arbuckle welcomed guests to the annual Pedigreed Seed Sale on March 17, 2011.*

Right: *Sue Hamilton and her granddaughter, Madelyn, made a new friend.*

Photos — Uhrig





Chris Hart, Winchester-area manager with Allied Associates Chartered Accountants, made some new customers during the event.



Reis Equipment Centre employee David Pickett (right) speaking with customer Peter Eastman.

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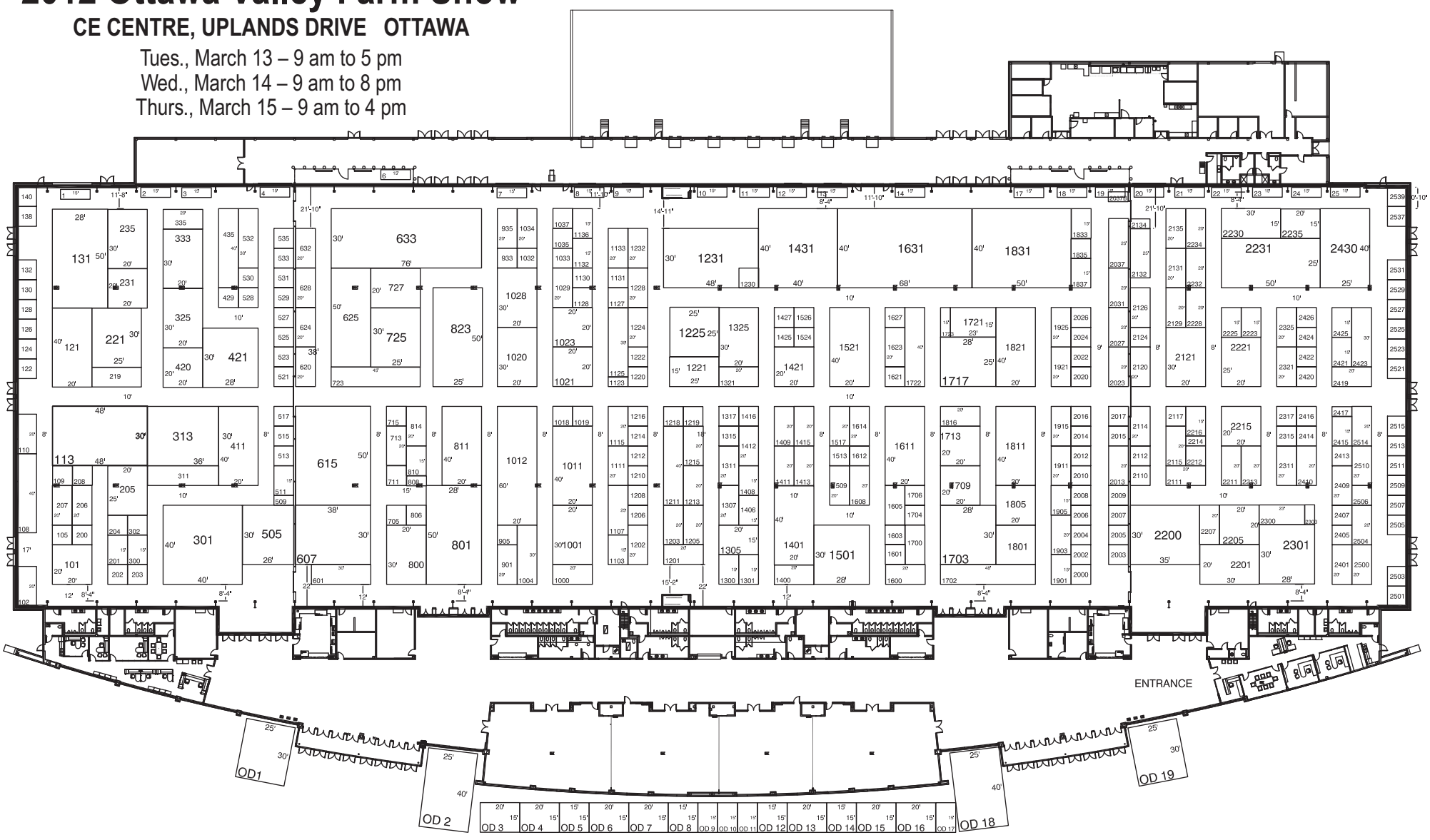
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Booth # 528

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Booth # 2513

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Booth # 1325

Ag Dealer
Booth # 2506

Agribrands Purina Can. Inc.
Booth # 1623

Agricorp
Booth # 110

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
Booth # 2401

Agri-Trac Inc.
Booth # 513

Agri-Trend Agrology Ltd.
Booth # 1212

Agro Trend Mfg.
Booth # 1215

Agrocentre Belcan
Booth # 1427

Agrodrain Systems Ltd.
Booth # 201

AGSourcing International Ltd.
Booth # 2232

Agtrek Nutrition Inc.
Booth # 2117

Allied Associates LLP, Chartered Accountants
Booth # 1208

Alpine Plant Foods Ltd.
Booth # 1201

Alta Genetics Inc.
Booth # 2212

AM Machinery Inc.
Booth # 2205

American Farm Products
Booth # 1412

Argis 2000 Ltd.
Booth # 1415

Armtec Ltd.
Booth # 1605

Artix Distribution
Booth # 517

Ayrshire Ontario
Booth # 2014

B&B Small Engines
Booth # 411

B&G Loughlin Tractors Inc.
Booth # 1011

Bahler Building Inc.
Booth # 1837

BearBrook Game Meats
Booth # 705

Belisle Solution Nutrition
Booth # 1601

Bishop/Speare Seeds
Booth # 1216

Black Dog Lubricants
Booth # 132

Blacks Creek Innovations Inc.
Booth # OD12

Bluewave Energy Ltd.
Booth # 624

BMO Bank of Montreal
Booth # 2420

Bourbonnais Equipment (2003) Inc.
Booth # 2230

Boyd Bros.
Booth # 1816

Boyd Bros.
Booth # OD10

Brister Group (Bush-Armstrong Ins.)
Booth # 2425

Britespan Building Systems
Booth # 2228

Bromley Farm Supply Ltd.
Booth # 1717

Buhler Trading
Booth # 335

Buhler Trading
Booth # OD5

Bulls Eye Genetic Services
Booth # 23

Byers Tractor Supply
Booth # 2135

C&M Seeds
Booth # 1409

CAA North & East Ontario
Booth # 2416

Cadman Power Equipment Ltd.
Booth # 1001

Can. Farm Business Management
Booth # 2405

Can. Piedmontese Assoc.
Booth # 2008

Canada's Fruit & Veg Tech X-change
Booth # OD4

Canada's Outdoor Farm Show
Booth # 2419

Canadian Co-Operative Wool Growers Ltd.
Booth # 1915

Canadian Food Inpsection Agency
Booth # 2525

Canadian Foodgrains Bank
Booth # Room D

Canadian Imp. Bank of Commerce
Booth # 2311

Canarm BSM Agri Products
Booth # 2129

Canwest DHI
Booth # 2234

Casselman Farm Equipment Ltd.
Booth # 1421

Casselman Tire Inc.
Booth # 1004

Central Boiler Inc./ Verch Furnace Sales
Booth # 231

Centre de Criblage Marc Bercier/ Valley Bio
Booth # 1111

CH-Four Biogas Inc.
Booth # 1130

Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario
Booth # 2511

City of Ottawa/Drainage Superintendants of Ont.
Booth # 124

Clark Ag Systems
Booth # 1501

Clearly Solar
Booth # 525

Cleave Energy Inc.
Booth # 713

Comptoir Agricole St. Anne
Booth # 1805

Conception
Booth # 2214

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Booth # 620

Cordna Twine & Cordage Inc.
Booth # 531

Costco Wholesale
Booth # 1019

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Booth # 1210

Countryman Electric Ltd.
Booth # 1136

Crary/Huron Tractor
Booth # 1034

Cuisine Sante International
Booth # 806

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Booth # 2315

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Booth # 1835

Dairy Lane Systems Ltd./ DLS EnviroSolutions Inc.
Booth # 2215

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Booth # 2211

Davon Sales Inc.
Booth # 1722

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Booth # 1901

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Booth # 823

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Booth # 521

Dispro Machinery & Parts
Booth # 333

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Booth # 1706

Distributions GMB
Booth # 1603

Dow AgroSciences/Mycogen Seeds
Booth # 1228

Dundas Agri Systems Inc.
Booth # 2231

DuPont Canada
Booth # 1214

East-Can Equipment Sales
Booth # 811

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Booth # 2417

EastGen
Booth # 1925

Eco-Light
Booth # 1222

Elliott Farm Equipment
Booth # 235

EMB Mfg. Inc. (Wallenstein)
Booth # 1021

Empire Construction
Booth # 311

Energrow Inc.
Booth # 2115

Engage Agro
Booth # 1801

Equine Valley Centre
Booth # 1833

Equipements PFB Inc.
Booth # 205

Etcetera Publications Inc./ Eastern Ontario Agrinews
Booth # 2509

Evergreen Liquid Plant Food Ltd.
Booth # 1315

Farm Business Consultants Inc.
Booth # 207

Farm Credit Canada
Booth # 101

Farm Fleet Inc.
Booth # 1831

Farmers Farmacy
Booth # 2126

Farmers of North America
Booth # 2531

Farmers Sealed Storage Inc.
Booth # 2430

Faromor Ltd.
Booth # 901

Fawcett Tractor Supply Ltd.
Booth # 523

Fellowship of Christian Farmers Canada
Booth # 2521

Ferguson Forest Centre
Booth # 511

Fibres Vaudreuil Fiberglass
Booth # 2134

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Booth # 2017

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Booth # 2421

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Booth # 601

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Booth # 1400

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Booth # OD14

Gagne, Isabelle, Patry, Laflamme & Associes Notaires, Inc.
Booth # 2223

Gallagher Animal Management Systems
Booth # 1700

Gay Lea Foods Co-op
Booth # 2120

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Booth # 1220

Genervations Inc.
Booth # 102

Genex Cooperative Inc.
Booth # 2131

GEOShack Canada
Booth # 527

GPS Ontario
Booth # 1301

Grain Farmers of Ontario
Booth # 2510

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Booth # 24A

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Booth # 933

Green Tech Ag & Turf Inc.
Booth # 725

Green Tech Ag & Turf Inc.
Booth # OD1

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Booth # 628

Greenfield Ethanol Inc.
Booth # 1232

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Booth # 505

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Booth # OD15

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Booth # 1903

Hakmet Ltd./Ltee.
Booth # 2213

Hakmet Ltd./Ltee.
Booth # OD17

Harco Ag Equipment
Booth # 625

Harco Ag Equipment
Booth # OD16

Hardi North America Inc.
Booth # 935

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Booth # 715

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Booth # 1307

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Booth # 1600

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HJV Equipment
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Booth # 3

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Booth # 113

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Booth # 1611

JAZZ Solar Solutions
Booth # 4

JB Enterprises
Booth # 24B

Jean Claude Cayer Enterprises Ltd.
Booth # OD6

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Booth # 429

Jersey Ontario
Booth # 2012

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Booth # 130

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Kuhn North America, Inc.
Booth # 1631

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Booth # OD19

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Booth # 1631

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Booth # 1416

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Booth # 2124

Marcrest Manufacturing Inc.
Booth # OD13

MarketBook
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Booth # 2321

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Booth # 2002

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Booth # 126

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Booth # 801

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Booth # 20

Penergetic Canada
Booth # 2300

Penta TMR Inc.
Booth # 325

Peter Chase Enterprises
Booth # 1128

Pickseed Canada Inc.
Booth # 1202

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Booth # 1517

Poettinger Canada Inc.
Booth # 1012

Port of Prescott
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Booth # 2422

RBC Royal Bank
Booth # 2325

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Booth # 221

Reis Equip.Centre
Booth # OD18

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Booth # 2

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Booth # 202

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Booth # 1413

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Booth # Room D

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2012 National Farm Machinery Show

Farm show delegation returns from 'fact finding mission'

OTTAWA

A delegation from the Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association (OVSGA) returned from Kentucky in February after a visit to the 2012 National Farm Machinery Show in Louisville, America's largest indoor agricultural trade exhibition.

The OVSGA sponsors the annual Ottawa Valley Farm Show (OVFS), this year celebrating its 85th anniversary in a new venue, the CE Centre located outside Ottawa International Airport.

The Kentucky show and the Ottawa show are both members of the Farm Show Council, which groups several prominent agricultural trade events across North America and beyond. The objective is to improve the presentation of council members through education, communication, and evaluation.

The contingent of 35 Eastern Ontario residents made the return trip by chartered coach over four days; they included OVSGA president Bruce Hudson, several members of the board and various committees, and spouses. Most of the cost was covered by the association.

"It was a fact-finding mission," said OVSGA director John Joynt, who organized the trip. "We like to

Kentucky event plants ideas with Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association

see how others operate their events and we hope to pick up a few useful ideas along the way."

Although it's several times bigger than the Ottawa show, Joynt noted it was particularly helpful to view Kentucky's sprawling layout, as the Ottawa show is about to set up at the CE Centre, the first time the OVFS will be contained under one roof.

"We came away convinced we're on the right track with our layout and we spotted a few things we might be able to incorporate," he said.

The Kentucky show boasts 850 exhibitors in eight halls for a total of 1.2 million square feet of space; last year, combined with its championship tractor pull, the event drew more than 300,000 visitors. The Ottawa show will have 350 exhibitors in one hall for a total of 120,000 square-feet of display space; it draws 10,000-12,000 visitors annually.

"There's definitely a marked difference in size," said OVFS general manager Tom Van Dusen. "But I believe both shows deliver to their markets equally well. In Kentucky, agriculture rules and you can feel it right across Louisville when the show is underway."

During a recent meeting, the OVSGA put the finishing touches on the upcoming OVFS, including finalizing seed judging, the annual seed auction, 4-H judging competition, official opening, exhibitor move-in, and other details.

They also named the OVFS guest artist for this year, Heather Metcalfe-Griffith, who also filled the role in 2011. Her landscape "Crisp Winter Scene" will be included in the seed auction, with proceeds to be directed to the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario.

In other business, directors allocated a maximum of $500 to the Ottawa Rideau Regional Soil & Crop Committee, and granted $300 to three Eastern Ontario students at Nova Scotia Agricultural College to help them attend a judging competition at the University of Guelph.

Royal set for March 9-10

KEMPTVILLE

The dates for the 2012 Kemptville College Royal have been set.

Scheduled for Fri., March 9 and Sat., March 10, the annual celebration of all things agriculture will split event sites between the college campus and the A.M. Barr Arena.

The Royal is a student run organization, which involves more than 75 volunteers from within the college, and the surrounding community.

The two-day event will include the annual pancake breakfast on March 10, which helps to raise money for the Kemptville College Foundation.

Also to be featured is the King and Queen competition, the student milking competition, an English horse show, calf sale, Western horse show, power and equipment games, fitting competition, farmers' Olympics, student and 4-H livestock shows, celebrity milking competition, a polo demonstration, awards banquet and dance, food and nutrition displays, kids' activities and petting zoo, plant sale and greenhouse tour, and much more.

Hitting the ice

One of the significant events planned for this year's Royal is the Kemptville College Alumni Hockey Tournament. Scheduled for March 9, the event is to take place at the North Grenville Complex. Former students and staff are asked to enter a team, and participate.

For more information, contact one of four organizers: Joe McGahey (613-258-5867 or 613-258-3544), Randy Seguin (613-489-2717), Lincoln Tym (613-258-1653), or Paul Mussell (613-826-2959).

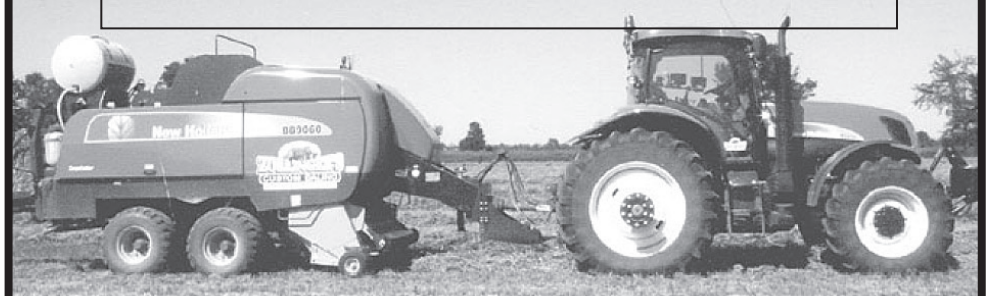
Royal committee

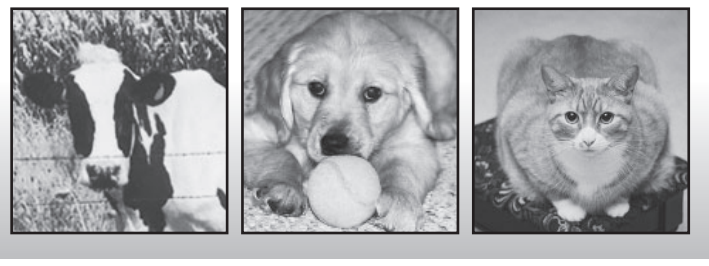
This year's Kemptville College Royal committee includes: Beth Weir (president), Ashley Pulver (treasurer), Tim Rennie and Trevor DeVries (staff/faculty), Jess Wales (Kemptville Classic calf sale), Cody Dickson (livestock events), Brittany Jackson (horse show), Anneke Miedema (entertainment), Kathy Vincent (sponsorship), and Andrew Ritchie (farmers' Olympics).

For more information, visit www.kemptvillec.uoguelph.ca/royal.

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Farmers' Conferences report 2012

That's a wrap

2012 farm conference season concludes

KEMPTVILLE

With spring on its way, the season of agricultural conferences, trade shows, and fairs has come and gone.

As far as the conferences go, every year, industry specialists run educational seminars — most of which take place at the W.B. George Centre, located within the University of Guelph - Kemptville Campus complex.

Events held at the centre this year included: the second instalment of the Eastern Ontario Dairy Days on Thurs., Feb. 16 (after the first one took place in Maxville the day prior); the Kemptville Winter Woodlot Conference on Wed., Feb. 22; and the Thurs., Feb. 23 Eastern Ontario Crop Conference.

Eco Farm Day 2012 wrapped up the 2012 conference spree on Fri., Feb. 24 and Sat., Feb. 25 at the Ramada Inn in Cornwall.

In the proceeding pages, check out the *Winchester Press'* coverage of the three events held in Kemptville.

Kemptville's woodlot conference celebrates 25 years

KEMPTVILLE

For two and a half decades, the Kemptville Winter Woodlot Conference has been the region's source for all things wood.

The 2012 event – held on Wed., Feb. 22 at the W.B. George Centre at the University of Guelph - Kemptville Campus – was no different. However, this year's conference marked a landmark achievement.

The recent sessions coincided with the 25th anniversary of the winter woodlot conference, which is today organized by the Eastern Ontario Model Forest (EOMF).

Discussions at the day-long event included an update on the emerald ash borer's effects in the region, as well as other news associated with the invasive pest.

Scott Davis, forest certification co-ordinator with the EOMF, led a talk on private land forest certification in Eastern Ontario, including steps on how to get certified, why owners should, who to contact, and where more information can be found.

John Gulland of the Wood Heat Organization was also on hand to showcase information on firewood burning techniques, which will help improve heat and health, while providing cost savings.

The Invasive Plant Council also led a session, in conjunction with Agriculture Canada's Arboretum, about infestations that are threatening local woodlots and forests, while offering tips to combat the onslaught of these species.

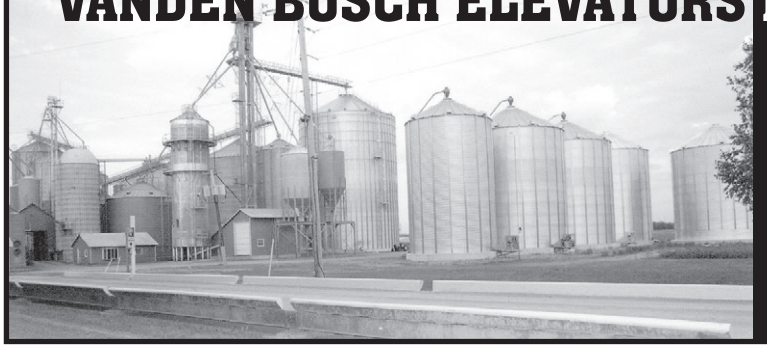
Lastly, Ken Elliott from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources was on hand to showcase the government agency's new publication, *A Land Manager's Guide to Conserving Habitat for Forest Birds in Southern Ontario.*

For more information about the EOMF or the annual conference, visit www.eomf.on.ca.

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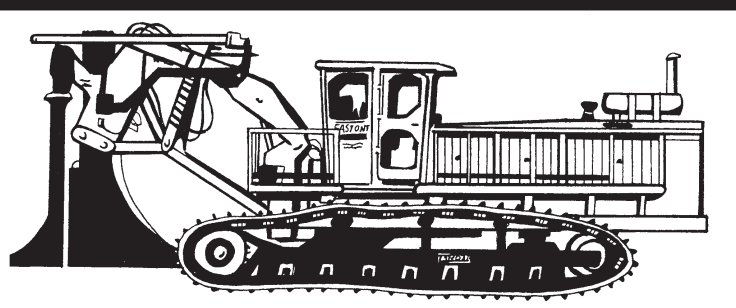
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Farmers' Conferences report 2012

The hazards of improper tractor operation

OMAFRA engineer breaks down leading causes of catastrophe

by Matthew Uhrig

KEMPTVILLE

Like operating a motor vehicle, it's a rare occurrence that the machinery is the leading cause of an accident.

Often, the fault lies with the operator.

The same can be said for mishaps involving farm equipment, most notably, tractors.

"Let's face facts," Helmut Spieser, an engineer with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), said. "Farmers consider themselves to be a bit invincible."

Spieser was on hand at the University of Guelph - Kemptville Campus on Thurs., Feb. 23 as part of the institution's annual Eastern Ontario Crop Conference.

His lecture, entitled "Tractors Don't Cause Fatalities," featured a series of comprehensive scenarios in which tractors were involved in a catastrophe.

"Things happen… And it can happen quickly," Spieser said. "Often, common sense is the key. Drivers need to know their terrain, and know where they are going."

Safe tractor operation requires careful, controlled movement as the machine is moving doing various tasks, he continued.

"Jack rabbit starts, quick turns, panic stops, inattention or insufficient knowledge can lead to drastic, and sometimes fatal consequences," Spieser said. "[Everyone] should study and understand the limitations of their tractor as it pertains to operational stability."

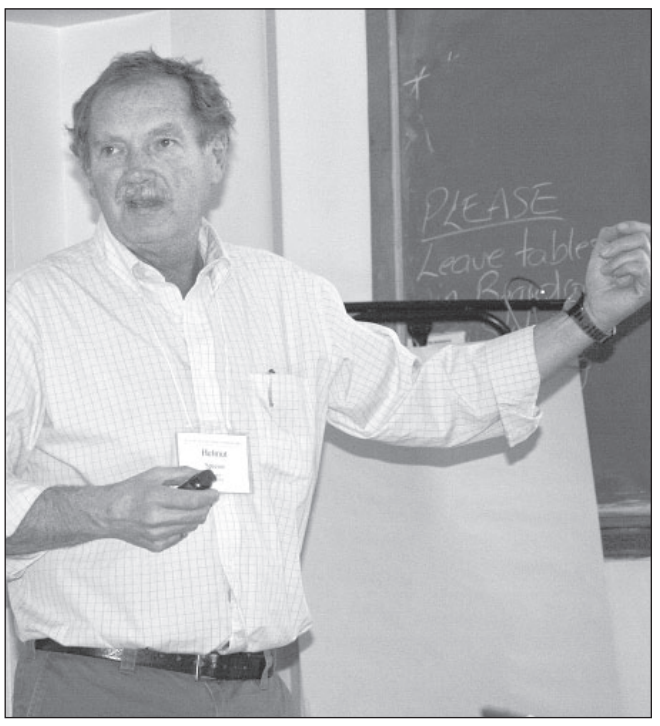
As well, he added, more than 50 per cent of tractor related deaths are caused by tractor rollovers, while most incidents can be prevented by making the right decisions behind the wheel, and not allowing the machine to be put into an unstable situation.

"Things do become unstable very, very quickly," Spieser said. "It's crucial to know what's out there, and know your potential."

As a case study, he spoke of a scenario in Ridgetown, Ont., where an employee at the town's University of Guelph campus was involved in a serious traffic accident while operating a rented tractor.

"It was a sunny day in July, and the road was dry," Spieser said. "The operator knew how to run the machine, yet, an accident still took place that day."

He continued, saying the wagon the tractor was pulling outweighed the machinery, and began to weave on the highway.



Helmut Spieser, an engineer with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs, led a lecture on tractor safety during the Eastern Ontario Crop Conference on Thurs., Feb. 23. The event was held at the W.B. George Centre, located on the University of Guelph's Kemptville campus.

Press Photo – Uhrig

"The item being pulled threw the tractor on its side," Spieser said. "It was extremely tail heavy."

Quite simply, he continued, it was a matter of the operator not knowing the size and weight of the wagon, and misjudging its ability to overpower the tractor.

"My biggest pet peeve is when I see wagons going down the road weaving side to side," Spieser added. "There are excuses made every time, but there is no reason for it to happen."

In the end, he added, the driver was knocked unconscious, but was otherwise fine.

"The lesson here is, when you're taking things down the road, be prepared," Spieser said. "And, wear your seatbelt... I really don't know how many people use them, but it can save your life."

Run at the W.B. George Centre (at the University of Guelph – Kemptville Campus), the Feb. 23 conference invited area producers to attend various workshops about the region's crop industry.



How can a driver reduce the occurrence of tractor rollovers?

Reducing rear rollovers

- Always hitch loads to the drawbar
- Add front weights to increase stability
- Accelerate and change speeds gradually
- Avoid backing downhill
- Back out or be towed backwards when stuck
- A tractor can flip backwards in a matter of seconds

Reducing side rollovers

- Set tractor wheels as wide as possible
- Lock wheel brakes together for road travel
- Match travel speed to road conditions and load
- Take corners slowly
- Use engine braking when traveling downhill
- Avoid crossing steep slopes, watch for depressions or bumps
- Turn downhill if stability becomes unsteady
- Keep away from ditch banks or cliffs at a distance equal to the depth of the ditch or height of the cliff
- Keep loader buckets low while moving

Reducing front rollovers

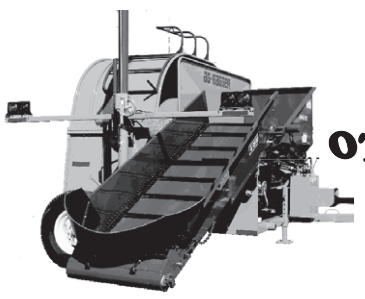
- Front rollovers usually occur when a tractor unexpectedly drives into a ditch or over an embankment
- Be aware of your surroundings and potential hazards

Information and picture courtesy Helmut Spieser, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs

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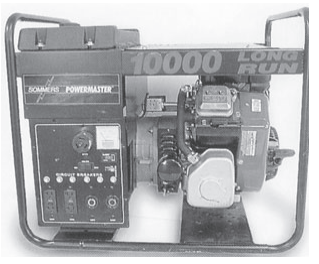
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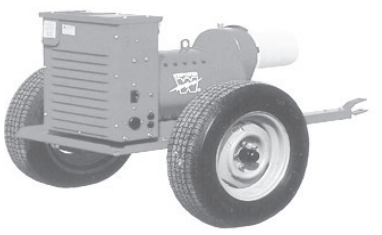
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Farmers' Conferences report 2012



Industry moooovin' in a new direction

say 2012 Dairy Day lecturers

by Amanda Smith-Millar

KEMPTVILLE

The Canadian dairy industry is facing some problems – and there's no black-and-white solution in sight.

However, a more effective public communications strategy and improved co-ordination among Canada's milk marketing boards emerged as central goals identified by the keynote speakers during the 2012 Kemptville Dairy Day talks.

The lecturers at the Thurs., Feb. 16 conference were: Jim Wert, dairy producer of Stanlee Farms, Avonmore; Tom Kane, president of the Ontario Dairy Council; and Wally Smith, president of Dairy Farmers of Canada.

The lecturers were asked to identify positive and negative trends to be faced by the industry in the years ahead. Media relations and marketing, supply management, animal rights, co-ordination among the various milk boards in Canada, and other topics were addressed by the three speakers.

Sustainability and success

Wert talked about supply management and the program's strength as an accountable, managed food system. He urged the audience to understand and improve upon the dairy industry's connections to the rest of the world.

"More and more, these connections will be defined by sustainability: Is it going to be sustainable economically? Is it going to be sustainable environmentally? And is it going to be sustainable ethically?"

Wert noted that the next generation of farmers must be entitled to bring their own skill sets to modernize the industry.

"If you really want a good indication of how healthy our industry is, take a look at the energy that's in this room right now," said Wert.



Wally Smith, Dairy Farmers of Canada. Press Photos – Smith-Millar

Flexible, strong system

Kane stressed that a more flexible management system must be developed to allow dairy farmers to produce more milk. He noted that the system must allow producers and processors to find creative ways to use leftover milk, so it doesn't go to waste.

"We have a rigid milk allocation policy in Ontario, and there is also a similar one in Quebec," Kane said.

Decision-making at the pool and national level is complex and needs to improve, he said.

"It is my humble belief that we need to have a national strategy for our industry, with input from all parties," said Kane. The government and various agencies have tried to fix problems throughout the years by using 'Band-Aid solutions,'" he argued:

"There is no vision and no strategy for where we want to go. It is very difficult to figure out a solution to a problem if you haven't already identified where you want to end up, or what you want to accomplish in the long run."

Reaching out

Smith, meanwhile, noted that consumers are increasingly interested in the dairy industry and where their food is coming from. Smith expressed dissatisfaction with the mainstream media's coverage of the agricultural industry but added that social media (such as Twitter) allows farmers to get their own story out in the public.

Biosecurity, research, and traceability programs are important to preserving the industry and meeting consumers' needs for more information.

Canadians want to know that what ends up on their plate can be traced back to the farm, he noted.

"Consumers are concerned about animal welfare," he said. "'Animal welfare' doesn't necessarily mean 'animal rights.' But the two go very closely together. The animal rights people have a really big target amongst livestock centres that really don't manage their animals in responsible ways."

Run at the W.B. George Centre (at the University of Guelph – Kemptville Campus), the Feb. 16 event invited producers to attend various workshops.

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