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Waiting for winter

As harvest season looks to its last month, the loom of winter settles over rural Eastern Ontario, including this farm encompassed by the rich jewel tones of autumn in the United Counties of Prescott and Russell. The Canadian Farmers' Almanac released their winter predictions and warn, "for much of Ontario, expect to see wide swings in the weather pendulum, from very mild to very cold, and periods of tranquil weather mixed with occasional spells of tempestuous conditions." Despite these weather warnings, Ontarians, like their hearty landscape, will brave the storm and continue with business as usual.

Carruthers photo



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Crop Report

by Candice Vetter
AgriNews Staff Writer

CHESTERVILLE – FINDING SOMEONE TO SPEAK TO ABOUT CURRENT HARVEST CONDITIONS WAS DIFFICULT THIS MONTH, AS PRETTY MUCH EVERYONE IS OUT IN THE FIELD AND TAKING ADVANTAGE OF GOOD WEATHER WHICH MAY NOT LAST MUCH LONGER.

However, Rutters Elevators reports that corn and soy are later than usual, with soy coming into the elevators now and corn barely started. Rutters just added a new silo to their operation, increasing their capacity.

Greg Vanden Bosch of Vanden Bosch Elevators informed *AgriNews* that although crops are later

than normal about 90 per cent of soy has been harvested. He also reports that almost all of it is coming off dry, thanks to the dry, warm spell this autumn. Yields are at the long-term average of low to mid-40s bushels per acre.

Corn harvest has just begun, and early results indicate moisture in the low 20s. “Test weights are okay,” said Vanden Bosch, “but not great. It’s a bit light.”

Meanwhile OMAFRA

reminds farmers that those requiring access to Class 12 pesticides, neonicotinoid-treated corn and soybean seeds must submit an Inspection of Soil Pest Assessment Report to their seed vendor prior to purchase. An online version at <https://omafra.secure.force.com/PAR> can be filled out and sent directly to the seed vendor, and once accepted, will be sent to OMAFRA, eliminating the need for the vendor to submit by Oct. 31 of each year.



Just in time for harvest
Rutters Elevators' new grain bin near Chesterville is ready to accept this year's harvest. Vogel photo

Making a Case for Growing New Crops

GUELPH – ONTARIO FARMERS WHO ARE THINKING ABOUT GROWING A NON-TRADITIONAL CROP HAVE A VALUABLE NEW TOOL TO ASSESS WHETHER IT'S A PROFITABLE IDEA.

Making a Case for Growing New Crops is an online learning resource developed by the Agri-Food Management Institute (AMI) to help farmers engage in business planning before planting.

Developed in partnership with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, who surveyed members earlier this year to gauge interest in growing new crops, as well as the best method of delivering information, it is available in the Resources for Farmers section of www.takeanewapproach.ca and features 5 interactive modules. The end product is a personalized and confidential report that includes a business model as well as an action plan to share and use to communicate with advisors and lenders.

The main reasons farmers chose to try something new included: changing markets and emerging opportunities, crop rotation and environmental benefits, and reducing overall risk through diversification. And 27% of farmers said they develop a business plan before beginning a new crop opportunity.



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OCPA Plowing Fore A Cure presents \$16K to The Ottawa Hospital Foundation

THE OTTAWA CARLETON PLOWMEN'S ASSOCIATION (OCPA) PRESENTED A CHEQUE FOR \$16,000 TO THE OTTAWA HOSPITAL FOUNDATION ON OCTOBER 16 AS PROCEEDS FROM THE 14TH ANNUAL PLOWING FORE A CURE GOLF TOURNAMENT HELD ON JULY 26, AT ANDERSON LINKS GOLF CLUB.

The donation was dedicated to the Ottawa Hospital Foundation Cancer Clinic to buy a bench top centrifuge. Guest speaker and Clinical Research Associate Carol Stober of The Ottawa Hospital explained that the specialized equipment purifies DNA from patients participating in clinical trials. Once purified, the DNA can be 'sequenced' so that researchers can determine if certain genetic vari-



OCPA presents cheque to OHF

The Ottawa Carleton Plowmen's Association (OCPA) presents a \$16,000 cheque to The Ottawa Hospital Foundation (OHF) to go towards buying a bench top centrifuge to be used in clinical trials for cancer treatment. From left are Meghan Maack, OHF Community Engagement Development Officer; Sharen Armstrong, OCPA Chair; Carol Stober, OHF Clinical Research Associate; and Don and Leslie Brennan, OCPA.

Courtesy photo

ations may make people more or less likely to respond to a certain therapy. This kind of research is essential for the development of more personalized treatments that are tailored to an individual's DNA.

The tournament was held in memory of Don Kemp and Gerald Laplante, both of whom were local

farmers and OCPA enthusiasts who passed away in the fall of 2016. Don Kemp was an avid plowman, always seeking to learn more about the art of plowing. Gerald Laplante was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for Community Service in Cumberland Township by then Mayor Brian Coburn,

a recognition he was extremely proud of – as was the rest of the community.

Next year's golf tournament is scheduled for July 25, 2018 at Anderson Links.

Failing to fix shore lands results in 10 days in jail

PETERBOROUGH – THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND FORESTRY RELEASED A STATEMENT ON OCT. 24 THAT A STITTVILLE MAN HAD BEEN SENTENCED TO 10 DAYS IN JAIL AND ORDERED TO REHABILITATE SHORE LANDS AFTER FAILING TO FOLLOW A PREVIOUS ORDER TO REHABILITATE THE SAME SHORE LANDS.

Kevin Cornell was found guilty of breach of a probation order issued under the *Provincial Offences Act*. A new probation order was issued for a year with the condition that he rehabilitate shore lands he filled on Christie Lake, west of Perth.

The Court heard that Cornell was previously convicted for filling shore lands on Christie Lake without a work permit

and failing to obey a stop work order in April 2015. He had been fined \$25,000 and ordered to rehabilitate the filled area. Since then, Cornell failed to submit a rehabilitation plan to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and rehabilitate the shore lands as required by the condition of the previous probation order.

Justice of the Peace Claire Winchester heard the case in the Ontario Court of Justice, Brockville, on Oct. 12, 2017.

To report a natural resources violation, call the MNRF TIPS line at 1-877-847-7667 toll-free any time or contact your local ministry office during regular business hours. You can also call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).



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The Editorial Page

Editorial

Credit is due

Farm Credit Canada is a big agricultural money lender that would keep doing business even if it just collected interest and ignored the community.

But like some other major financial corporations – Scotiabank comes to mind immediately – FCC chooses not to do that. It chooses to give back in a number of ways, most notably through its annual Drive Away Hunger campaign, its flagship community investment program; since 2004, the effort has provided more than 40 million meals to the hungry.

The 14th edition of the fall campaign recently concluded. Canada’s leading agricultural lender, FCC launched it by contributing \$100,000 to school meal programs across the country, followed by its tractor and wagon collection of items and cash for local food banks.

Once again, Eastern Ontario was a focal point with FCC staff circulating to pick up locations such as North Dundas District High School near Chesterville where students gathered 770 pounds of non-perishable food. Similar collections were made at other area schools and the process was repeated throughout Ontario, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Quebec and Nova Scotia.

Prior to the 2017 launch, FCC president Michael Hoffort said the goal was to collect the equivalent of five million meals for food banks and other programs. Instead, the final tally was more than 7.2 million meals, clearing show both the determination of FCC and the generosity of Canadians. Hunger touches more than 860,000 Canadians each month, many of them children, Hoffort emphasized.

“Every meal is a step toward a better future for someone who truly needs a helping hand,” said Hoffort in a statement that would sound maudlin if it wasn’t true. He thanked partners such as producers, students and other donation collectors, and food bank volunteers for making the project so successful.

“Our employees are dedicated to the future of Canadian agriculture and its role of feeding an ever-growing world.” Once again, corny but true.

This newspaper has attended many phases of the FCC food drive over the years and has always been impressed by the enthusiasm all concerned, from corporation staff, to student and teacher volunteers, working together for a common cause.

Sure, it can be dismissed as a PR stunt. However, the next time you unthinkingly blast big business as usurious and uncaring – and there are plenty of examples – remember the Drive Away Hunger campaign.

Forces for good

This is a short note to acknowledge the good deeds for Eastern Ontario agriculture of two often unsung organizations despite setbacks, limited volunteers, and the time and work involved.

First, the Kemptville College Alumni Association continues to soldier on in the face of adversity – some might say hopelessness – trying to maintain the memory of the venerable institution which would have been 100 years old this year. However, three years ago it was declared expendable by the University of Guelph.

Already described in previous issues, the association is establishing a centre on the Lombardy Fairgrounds to store college artifacts that would have ended up in the dumpster. In its latest announcement, it’s offering two \$500 scholarships even though Kemptville College is no more.

Instead, the scholarships will go to unspecified college or university students currently enrolled in their second year of study in an agriculture or food-related program, with a relative that’s a graduate of Kemptville College. That proviso opens the doors to many applicants.

The application form can be accessed at www.kcalumni.ca; there’s a question section regarding the student’s activities and responsibilities, and a 250-page essay must be submitted. Application deadline is next Jan. 8.

Continued on page 8

AgriGab

Really big show

By all accounts, Blackrapids Farmfest Oct. 14 was a resounding success, drawing hundreds of supporters and earning thousands of dollars for dairy barn fire victim Peter Ruiter and family.

I say “by all accounts” because I didn’t make it to the gala at the North Gower Community Centre. I had a long-standing commitment and have relied on media reports and first-person experiences to get a feel for the special shindig.

At this point, I almost feel like I was there. Down the road, as my memory fades even more than it has, I’ll probably convince myself that I was present in body and not just in spirit. I particularly liked the photo of 6-ft., 9-in. Peter holding up auctioneer Stew James – who has got to be a foot shorter – to provide a better view of bidders. Stew took it all in stride.

Among many things, Farmfest has proven once again that that country folk – and city folk too – can be extremely generous in helping out a neighbour in a time of need, that the agricultural community sticks together like flies in a warm autumn window, and that Wyatt McWilliams’ failing eyesight doesn’t slow him down one iota when it comes to organizing charitable events.

It also demonstrated that Ontario’s self-proclaimed Biggest Farmer has a lot of friends both inside and outside of agriculture. That fact has never been more obvious since the \$1-million fire at his Blackrapids Farm Sept. 8 destroyed his dairy setup, killing 80 cows.

Peter’s fans – and there are many – say he’s big in a way more important than physical stature, in his heart, in that he’s always there to help when needed, particularly by fellow members of the Eastern Ontario agricultural community.

This wasn’t your standard, modest community gathering intended to put cash in the depleted coffers of a rural family struck by tragedy. Setting Farmfest at the North Gower Community Centre was a message in itself. It’s the largest hall in the general vicinity of the

Ruiter farm in south rural Ottawa, an agricultural social and political focal point, and organizers knew they could fill it.

While the Ruiter barns were largely insured, the family faces expenses from related damages. The primary goal of Farmfest, Wyatt has explained, was to raise as much money as possible to help recoup the fire losses. A related goal was to demonstrate support from people the Ruiteres have supported so much over the years.

“They’ve always been there whenever the community needed something and now it’s our pleasure to be there for them.”

The Ruiteres are getting the message loud and clear. Ten days after the fundraiser, letters of support were still arriving in the mail, Peter said, and strangers are still driving up the lane with offers of cash and free labour should rebuilding be in the cards. Calls were coming in from across the province.

“We thought it would all end with Farmfest but support keeps building,” Peter said, adding that he’s running out of adjectives to describe his feelings.

As much as the community wants to pay back the Ruiteres, Peter insisted that Farmfest provided an opportunity for wife Rosemary and himself to offer their thanks to family, friends and total strangers for stepping up in such numbers.

Proceeds from the Oct. 14 event will be added to more than \$55,000 already raised through a GoFundMe campaign; the auction portion of the North Gower event was expected to easily raise another \$50,000 before general donations were counted.



by Tom Van Dusen

Continued on page 8

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Blackrapids Farmfest brings rainbow to Ruiters

NORTH GOWER –‘IGNORE THE RAIN, LOOK AT THE RAINBOW.’ THESE INSPIRING WORDS WERE CERTAINLY EVIDENT WHEN PETER AND ROSEMARY RUITER AND THEIR FAMILY WERE OVERCOME WITH EMOTION AT THE COMMUNITY SUPPORT IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE DEVASTATING FIRE ON SEPT. 8 THAT DESTROYED THEIR THREE BARN, AN 80-COW DAIRY HERD AND THE LIVELIHOOD OF THE FAMILY. ACCORDING TO A RELEASE FROM MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS EXPERT THERESA WHALEN, “THE LANDMARK FARM ON PRINCE OF WALES IN NEPEAN WAS CONSIDERED BY MANY AS A BEACON OF AGRICULTURAL EXCELLENCE FOR THE COMMUNITY.”

The community from near and far certainly came through on the Saturday evening to show incredible support for the Ruiters in their time of need. The ‘Blackrapids Farmfest: An evening with the Ruiters’ celebration took place on Sat., Oct. 14, at the North Gower Community Centre.

“The outpouring of generosity and help has been overwhelming. My family and I are so grateful,” said Peter Ruitter, in the initial release, but his message of appreciation was reiterated at the event. “I just consider myself to be a regular guy who has always helped my neighbours and community as best I can. But this response has been... Well, it’s been humbling to say the least.”

The evening started with coffee and desserts. There were tables for the family

and older people, but the community centre was at capacity with a full house, with standing room only. A heated tent was on the east side for the overflow and a quieter area for talking. An evening lunch of pulled pork and beef served on a bun, with beef and pork donated by two farms, was served.

Although a final tally of the numerous donations and items sold in the live and silent auctions has not yet been determined, the live auction alone raised about \$30,000 and the GoFundMe page has reached over \$50,000.

The event was very well organized by a committee made up of representatives from the many service organizations that the Ruiters have been and are involved with, including the Ottawa-Carleton Milk Committee, Ottawa Federation of Agriculture, Junior Farmers Association, and St. Monica’s Church, among others.



Paul Mussell, local farmer and comedian, assisted with the auction for Blackrapids Farmfest in North Gower on Sat., Oct. 14. The proceeds are to support Peter Ruitter and family after fire destroyed their dairy barns and cattle. Vogel photo



James Auction Services builds the excitement in the room as the auction begins for Blackrapids Farmfest. Stewart James grabs bids as they pour in at the auction held in North Gower on Sat., Oct. 14. Over 700 people attended to support through various events as live auction, silent auction and dance all in support of Peter Ruitter and family as they await the fate of their dairy farm. Vogel photo



An emotional gathering of support

Peter Ruitter and family stand emotional in front of over 700 attendees to the Blackrapids Farmfest held in North Gower on Sat., Oct. 14. “I love my kids but after my kids I love my cows!” Strong words coming from a man who does many little things to help others not ever realizing the impact he has had on so many lives until this humbling support from city and rural alike. “In my heart I want to rebuild.”

Vogel photo

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My name is Ron Ashmore, Mortgage Agent. As a lifelong farmer, I have extensive knowledge and passion for all agriculture. Our families dairy herd and farm won the top Quality milk award for Kawartha Lakes in 1998. I know first-hand that farming is a very demanding profession. I

have experienced rough times myself in agriculture from 24% interest rates in 1981 to dealing with weather, new regulations, debt loads and cash flow. When we needed help the bank and crown corporation that were designed to help farmers let us down. I will never forget this .

Presently we still raise dairy and beef cattle. I am a registered active farmer belonging to organizations such as OFA, Agricorp, Holstein Canada.

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VITEO wraps up 2017 touring schedule

by Tom Van Dusen
AgriNews Staff Writer

VANKLEEK HILL – NOBODY WAS MORE SURPRISED THAN PRESIDENT HANK BAKKER WHEN SOME 40 MEMBERS AND FRIENDS TURNED OUT FOR THE FINAL VINTAGE IRON & TRADITIONS OF EASTERN ONTARIO ROAD TRIP OF 2017.

“I was expecting a smaller crowd,” Bakker told participants Oct. 15 at Allen Dandy Farms near Vankleek Hill which boasts a John Deere collection. It was the second stop of the day, the first being at Bev MacLennan’s chock-a-block shed near Apple Hill. In between, the group had lunch at Herb’s Travel Plaza at the intersection of Highways 417 and 34.

Bakker explained he thought fewer would participate because of late notice and the time of year. He was encouraged by the turnout when interest in other machinery clubs is waning. VITEO is doing more than holding its own... paid membership continues to increase and is well above the 200 mark.

At both stops, VITEO presented hosts with a custom tractor seat, a tangible thank you for going out of their way to receive guests and let them prowl through their collections. It’s another way the club creates a positive profile and encourages membership.

Devoted to preserving and promoting the rural way of life and its artifacts, one of VITEO’s main attractions for members is the road trip schedule which takes them across the eastern region, with the occasional foray into Quebec and the United States.

Starting with the Ottawa Valley Farm Show in March followed by the Cumberland Heritage Power Show in May, VITEO’s 2017 touring schedule covered a handful of rural museums, fairs and festivals where antiques were featured. In addition to a regular mailed-out bulletin, another draw for the club is the \$5-million liability insurance umbrella covering all members and their machines when at a show or demonstration.

It’s a bit of a challenge to describe the Bev MacLennan



VITEO executive member Mary Montgomery admires part of the Dandy collection. Van Dusen photo

collection. One part of it is easy; managed mainly by MacLennan’s nephew, it’s a grouping of bright yellow Vintage Skidoos. Contained in the shed, the other part is a lot of everything, mostly a jumble of kitchen utensils and tools from another time. Visitors picked their way carefully through the maze, stopping frequently to examine something they’d never seen before.

In one breath, MacLennan says he has no idea of how many items he owns; in the next breath, he reveals he has precisely 147 egg beaters.

At the Dandy farm, mostly bigger pieces made for a more orderly display. The core Deere display was enhanced by other large items brought in by VITEO members Francois Latour and Gord Hadley. One of the stars of the show was Latour’s fully operational, 1920 refurbished Massey Harris steel-wheeled tractor; another was miniature tractor-drawn hay wagons made from flat steel and spare parts.

VITEO will soon begin preparing its 2018 schedule, beginning Feb. 11, with the annual meeting starting at 12 p.m., west of North Gower at Pierce’s Corners Community Hall. All are welcome.



Bev MacLennan reclines among part of his collection during the VITEO October road trip. Van Dusen photo



Francois Latour takes a friend for a ride on his 1920 Massey Harris. Van Dusen photo



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New Executive Director at Chicken Farmers of Canada

OTTAWA – CHICKEN FARMERS OF CANADA

ANNOUNCED AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER THAT MICHAEL LALIBERTÉ HAS BEEN SELECTED AS THE INCOMING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, REPLACING MIKE DUNGATE, WHO HAS HELD THE ROLE FOR OVER 20 YEARS.

“The Board of Directors undertook a robust, external recruitment process to find the right candidate...We are pleased that Michael Laliberté will be bringing his vast experience to the role and we look forward to working with him.”

*Benoît Fontaine
Chair*

LALIBERTÉ ASSUMED THE POSITION ON OCT. 2, WITH OUTGOING DUNGATE REMAINING IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY UNTIL THE END OF 2017.

With 26 years’ experience at Chicken Farmers of Canada, most recently as Director of Operations, Laliberté brings a wealth of corporate knowledge and experience. In this most recent role, he has managed the Finance Unit, the Human Resources and Administration Unit, and the information systems within the Market Information and Systems Unit. He has been serving as the second in command to the Executive Director and has provided leadership and strategy on the financial affairs to support the Executive Management Team, the Finance Committee and the Board of Directors.

A graduate of the Queen’s University Executive Management Program, who also holds a Management certificate from the Sprott School of Business, Laliberté will be the chief staff person reporting to the Board of Directors, and serve the same

role with the Executive Committee and the Governance Committee. In addition, he will oversee a 25-member staff complement that promotes the consumption of chicken, develops and audits on-farm food safety, animal care and specialty

production programs on 2,800 farms across Canada, and has an active government and public relations program.

“The Board of Directors undertook a robust, external recruitment process to find the right candidate,”

explained Chair Benoît Fontaine in the news release. “We are pleased that Michael Laliberté will be bringing his vast experience to the role and we look forward to working with him.”

Chicken Farmers of Canada represents the 2,800

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The AgriNews November, 2017 Page 7

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ROUNDUP READY 2 XTEND SOYBEANS + **Roundup XTEND VaporGrip**
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Federal government responds to pressure on tax changes

OFA commentary

by Mark Wales, Director
Ontario Federation of Agriculture

GUELPH – THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT GOT AN EARFUL ABOUT ITS PROPOSED TAX CHANGES THAT WOULD HAVE DEVASTATING IMPACTS ON INCORPORATED FARM BUSINESSES IN CANADA. IT APPEARS THEY HAVE LISTENED AS FINANCE MINISTER BILL MORNEAU HAS NOW ANNOUNCED A REDUCTION IN SMALL BUSINESS TAX RATES, AS WELL AS THE ABANDONMENT OF OTHER PROPOSALS THAT WOULD HAVE IMPACTED FAMILY FARM TRANSFERS.

When the proposed changes were announced in July, with consultations open until Oct. 2, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) encouraged members to let the federal government know the serious implications many of the tax changes would have to the estimated 25 per cent of farm businesses in Ontario and Canada that are incorporated. And members responded in droves – a signal of the devastating impact these changes would inflict. More than 600 people submitted a letter to local MPs through OFA's Act Now website.

OFA welcomed the statement by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) on Oct. 16 reacting to the joint announcement by Prime Minister Trudeau, Minister Morneau and Small Business and Tourism Minister Bardish Chaggar about small business tax changes.

CFA President Ron Bonnett stated that reducing the 10.5 per cent small business tax rate to 10 per cent in 2018 and 9 per cent in 2019 will help drive growth agriculture and boost the competitiveness of Canadian farmers. It should be noted that this tax reduction was actually following through on a campaign promise by the Trudeau government.

Other changes appear to indicate that the voice of Canada's farmers and farm groups were heard over recent months. Minister Morneau has announced all capital gains rules are being removed from the draft legislation and this is good news for agriculture. They heard our concerns and aren't changing the existing family farm transfer rules.

These tweaks to the proposed changes to private corpora-

tion taxes are an encouraging first step, and demonstrate how vital it is to work together with strong messages to ensure the voice of agriculture is clearly heard in the halls of government.

OFA is also encouraged because these announcements have positive implications to the rural small businesses that support our agricultural industry.

P5 quota increase announcement

ONTARIO – THE P5 BOARDS HAVE APPROVED A ONE PER CENT PRODUCER SALEABLE QUOTA INCREASE EFFECTIVE NOV. 1, 2017.

The P5 Boards have approved that one additional incentive day be issued per

month on a non-cumulative basis to all producers for the months of November 2017 to March 2018, inclusive.

The P5 Boards have also approved that three incentive days be issued per month on a non-cumulative basis to Ontario and Quebec certified organic

shippers whose milk is marketed as organic for the months of April 2018 to March 2019, inclusive.

This decision is intended to ensure P5 milk production continues to fill all current demand, as butter stocks have not reached their target level of 35,000 tonnes. Demand for dairy products and P5 processing capacity continue to increase and will be closely monitored.

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Big show

Continued from page 4

As for the final total, Peter said it won't be revealed. He prefers to keep it private seeing that he's negotiating with insurers and the National Capital Commission about possible rebuilding.

Although the NCC has stated publicly it backs the family all the way, Peter repeated that rebuilding plans are uncertain, partly because he doesn't own the 440 acres he works. The NCC owns them and, ultimately, its goal is to provide an uncluttered natural Greenbelt around

the Capital.

Farmfest was an occasion for members of the Eastern Ontario agricultural community to come together in solidarity, to reflect upon the hazards and benefits of their chosen profession. As Peter would confirm, the potential hazards are many – including fire, debilitating accidents, and even death due to machinery mishaps, lethal gases and other causes.

But the benefits outweigh the downside, one of the main ones being the deeply entrenched feeling of family that runs right through the industry.

Good deeds

Continued from page 4

Down for the count, the alumni association could have stayed on the mat. Instead, it pulled itself up and remains a force for good across the region. The same can be said for the Plowing Fore a Cure Project which has rebounded more than once to continue delivering cash for cancer research.

Plowing Fore a Cure efforts have also been extensively covered in these pages over the 14 years the group has been active, an offshoot of the 2001 International Plowing Match at Navan. On Oct. 16 at Anderson Links Golf Club, group members handed over its latest contribution, \$16,000 in proceeds from its 2017 golf tournament. The money will go towards purchase of a bench top centrifuge for the Ottawa Hospital Foundation Cancer Clinic to purify DNA from patients participating in clinical trials. Next year's tournament will be held at Anderson Links July 25.

It's groups such as these two, quietly toiling to make this area a better place to live, that set the standard for the rest of us to follow.

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Living Soils Symposium looks to agriculture as the future of climate change

by Kalynn Sawyer Helmer
AgriNews Staff Writer

MONTREAL – VIVIAN KALOXILOS IS A SOIL ECOLOGIST AND ONE OF FIVE VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED ORGANIZE AND PLAN MONTREAL'S FIRST LIVING SOILS SYMPOSIUM, OCT. 13 TO 15. THE AIM OF THE EVENT WAS TO BRING TOGETHER MULTIPLE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SECTORS TO DISCUSS "THE IMPORTANCE OF LIVING SOILS FOR AGRICULTURE, WATER REGENERATION, DISEASE SUPPRESSION AND CLIMATE CHANGE," SAID KALOXILOS. "WE FOUND THERE WASN'T ENOUGH OF A DISCUSS BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE SECTORS AND AGRICULTURE SECTORS THAT HAD REVOLVED AROUND SOILS AS A PRIMARY PROBLEM AND PRIMARY SOLUTION. SO IT WAS ABOUT BRINGING OVER A PLETHORA OF DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS FROM FARMERS TO SCIENTISTS, POLICY MAKERS AND CONSUMERS TO DISCUSS FOOD, WATER, HEALTH AND CLIMATE. ALSO TO TOUCH ON POLICY AND RURAL ECONOMY, ELEVATING THE GENERAL CONSCIOUSNESS AND TO FOSTER CROSS POLLINATION AND INNOVATION TO GET ALL OF THESE PEOPLE IN THE SAME PLACE TALKING ABOUT THE SAME THINGS."

Kaloxilos, who founded the soil consulting service and laboratory DocTerra, works with agriculture producers across the country to implement regenerative soil practices on the farm. "Agriculture was a major theme of the symposium because the agriculture sector has such an impact on the environment but is also having such problems trying to meet demands of a growing global population," she explained. "I work with farmers across Canada who are running into brick walls, seeing yields decline per acre while the need for inputs are increasing. By regenerating soil health and re-inoculating the right sets of micro-organisms into our agriculture fields, not only do we have higher yield production and higher nutrient density, but we have a way of eliminating the need for chemical

inputs and high nitrogen-based organic fertilizers which are costly and the costs keep going up."

The symposium was one way for Kaloxilos and others like her, to foster conversations that promote biology over chemistry for in-field practices. "We are trying to bring up the point that biology can be the driver of the chemistry and physics in the soil," she continued.

However, getting the true message across is not always easy. The symposium organizers were met with some negativity when they brought up agriculture's effect on climate change during the promotion of the symposium. "There are those who think we want farming to be stopped because it's bad for the environment and that's not what we intend,"

explained Kaloxilos. "The message we intended to put out was actually farmers can become climate heroes by switching to regenerative land practices. Not only can they decrease their cost of production while increasing their yield but they can also be sequestering greenhouse gases. What we would like to see is the carbon market accommodating and rewarding landowners and food producers for their tremendous contribution to the global community, which is their regenerative soil practices. The way we see this is all positives; lowering the need for inputs, lowering cost, lowering irrigation, increasing yields, increasing quality and hopefully allowing producers to sell the carbon they're sequestering on the voluntary carbon market for a passive second income."

Luckily for producers changing to soil regeneration practices are easily retrofitted into current practices and programs. "We are hoping the agriculture sector will open up to practices that encourage the appropriate microbial life in the soil. The people in the field [like Kaloxilos] who are working with this realize it is a large cognitive jump, but in practice it doesn't involve a lot of extra equipment. It's essentially taking out chemicals and substituting biology. We can use the same equipment for all of this," said Kaloxilos.

Currently Canada does not offer much incentive to make the switch and soil ecologists are not trained in universities but in private labs. So while the symposium worked to further the

Continued on page 10

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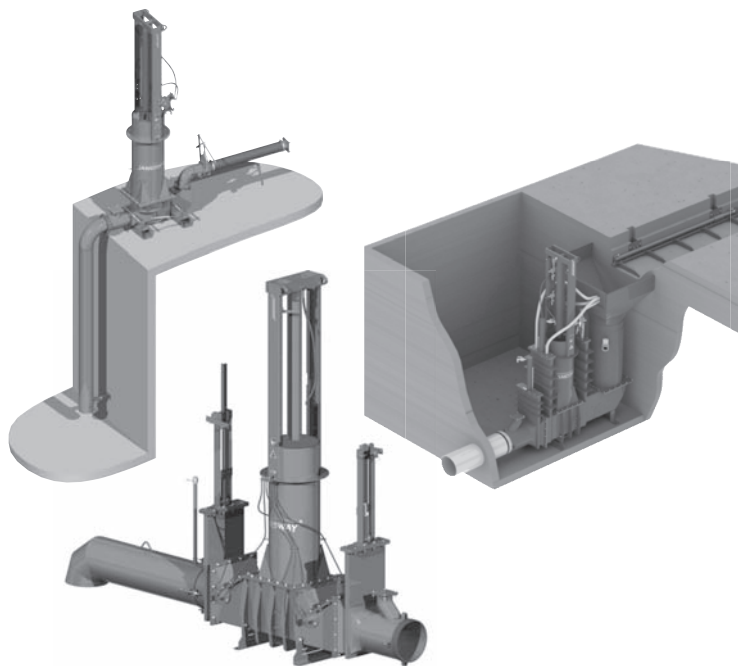
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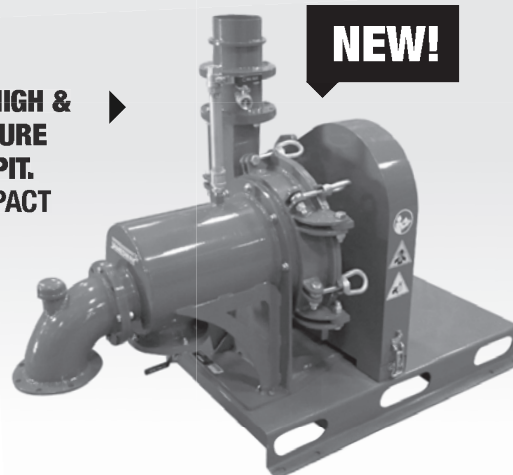
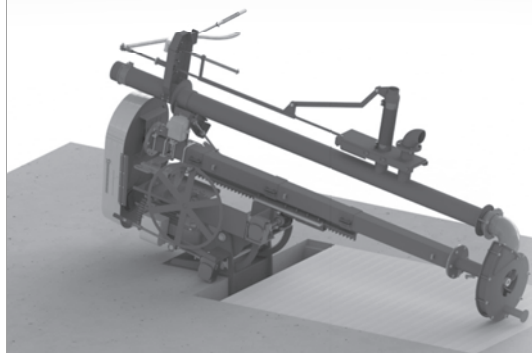
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Living Soils

Continued from page 9 discussion for in-field practices, policy must also be considered as high priority. To start, the symposium organizers have founded the nonprofit Regeneration Canada. "There was a need for a network between producers and people who are interested in regenerative land management practices. While we are still unclear of Regeneration Canada's exact role, we hope to provide some sort of network base for people interested in this. Perhaps connections to farmers already using these practices. It is our hope the symposium planted some seeds to support, through policy, producers who want to make this transition and who will need assistance to do so. Farmers are happy to be talking to other farmers and I see some who start taking courses in soil regeneration to apply on their farm. The demand is there, the interest is there. What we need right now is the support of societal structures and policy to move it forward to help offset costs for farmers and train people in the field," she explained.

Kaloxilos has been consulting with some large scale conventional farmers in Canada who turned to soil regenerative practices as a last resort. They are already seeing positive results said Kaloxilos, whose work is the difference of keeping these family farms' legacy alive. If more producers start to turn to these practices before it becomes a last resort, the results will spread and policy will follow. Not to mention, Kaloxilos believes it may encourage younger people to reconsider farming as a future. "The average age of a Canadian farmer is 65 and this poses a problem for our country because young people are just not interested in that way of life. But there is a big movement of young people who want to get connected and want to grow food but it is rare for them to be considering conventional options. So in order to support the farmers that already exist and the farmers of the future that will feed our population we hope to see some kind of support coming from policy to ease in this transition," she said.

While the future steps may still be unclear, there is no doubt that people like Kaloxilos and the Living Soils organizers will not slow down in their work as champions for soil regeneration.

FCC Drive Away Hunger provide over 7-million meals

by Candice Vetter
AgriNews Staff Writer

REGINA – FARM CREDIT CANADA, ALONG WITH INDUSTRY PARTNERS, PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS AND VOLUNTEERS, HAVE PROVIDED OVER 7.2-MILLION MEALS FOR FOOD BANKS NATIONWIDE, FAR SURPASSING THIS YEAR'S GOAL FOR FCC DRIVE AWAY HUNGER.

"Every meal is a step toward a better future for someone who truly needs a helping hand," said Michael Hoffort, FCC president and CEO, in announcing the results of this year's collection in support of Canada's food banks. "We are proud of those who work every day to produce food, partners who donate and help us collect food, and of those who volunteer at food banks and school meal programs across Canada," Hoffort said. "We are all connected to the common cause of reducing hunger in our communities and making a difference in Canadians' lives."

FCC Drive Away Hunger involves driving a tractor and trailer through communities to collect food and cash donations for food banks across the country. During the week of Oct. 9, FCC teams drove tractors through communities in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia.

Partners are a major contributor to the success of FCC Drive Away Hunger. Platinum partners were BDO Canada, The Meat Factory Limited, Courchesne Larose, Chenail Fruits and Legumes and Dedicated Harvesters. Eight national partners also played an important role by committing cash and collecting donations in helping FCC achieve its goal: Parrish and Heimbecker Limited, Windset Farms, Co-op, BroadGrain Commodities Inc., SWT, Ray-Mont Logistics and Nutrigroupe.

In addition to its annual food collection tractor tour, FCC contributed a total of \$100,000 in support of food programs offered at 100 schools across Canada. In September, each school received \$1,000 to feed hungry children at school.

"We're especially thankful to the students who took the time to collect items from home to donate to their local food banks," Hoffort said. "Their generosity and caring toward those in need is truly inspiring."

In Ontario alone over 1.5-million meals were provided. Since 2004, FCC employees, customers and community partners have provided over 40 million meals to food banks in Canada. To learn more, visit www.fccdriveawayhunger.ca.

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Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec Holstein Show results

by Candice Vetter
AgriNews Staff Writer

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FOLLOWS:

Baby June Calf – born after June 1, 2017: 1. Abbedale Azalea, Lilyking Farm, Trekili Holsteins; 2. Riverdown Atwood Jiggarrific, Riverdown Holsteins, 3. Delcreek Dont Wash Your Hands, Peter Rylaarsdam; 4. Winright V Doorman Bubbly, Brian Joseph Enright; 5. Cherry Crest Snowball Fight, Cherry Crest Holsteins.

Junior Calf – born between March 1, 2017 and May 31, 2017: 1. Riverdown Doorman Brooklyn, bred & owned, Reserve Junior Champion, Riverdown Holsteins; 2. Winright Beemer Baby Enthem, Brian Joseph Enright; 3. Glennholme Mario Merciless, Glennholme Holsteins, Kingsway Farms; 4.

Vinbert Beemer Army, Ferme Vinbert Inc, Mary Inn Holstein; 5. Signature At Gucci, Signature Holsteins.

Intermediate Calf – born between Dec. 1, 2016 and Feb. 28, 2017: 1. Bonnie Brae Ape Quinn, Junior Champion, Bruce & Susan Mode; 2. Winright Gold Chip Explosion, Brian Joseph Enright; 3. Burmania Doorman Janika, Velthuis Farms Ltd.; 4. Bonnie Brae Mario Emery, Bruce & Susan Mode; 5. Lilyking Doorman Anais, Bonnechere Holsteins, Lilyking Farm, Trekili Holsteins.

Senior Calf – born between Sept. 1, 2016 and Nov. 30, 2016: 1. Lilyking Ahead By A Century, Junior Honorable Mention, Bonnechere Holsteins, Lilyking Farm, Trekili Holsteins; 2. Shearoad High Octane Becka, Velthuis Farms Ltd.; 3. Winright V Doorman Behati, Brian Joseph Enright; 4. Delcreek Bacardi And Botox, Peter Rylaarsdam; 5. Glennholme Jacoby Jazz, Glennholme Holsteins.

Summer Yearling Heifer – born between June 1,

2016 and Aug. 31, 2016: 1. Vertdor Jacoby Altitude, Velthuis Farms Ltd.; 2. Cherry Crest Donaldson, Cherry Crest Holsteins; 3. Lewisdale Byway Amaze, Erica Neville, Sunnylodge Farms Inc.; 4. Winright Doorman Reckless, Brian Joseph Enright, Jaquemet Holsteins, Sunnylodge Farms Inc., Vicki Fletcher Photography; 5. Bentens Aurabel Lennon, 1st 4-H, Ferme Bentens S.E.N.C.

Junior Yearling Heifer – born between March 1, 2016 and May 31, 2016: 1. Glennholme Doorman Reggae, 1st 4-H, Emma Farlinger, Glennholme Holsteins, Todd Edwards; 2. Harmony View Elisha, 2nd 4-H, Breeze Hill Holsteins, Harmony View Farms, Riverdown Holsteins; 3. Winright V Windbrook Bazinga, Brian Joseph Enright; 4. Glennholme Extreme Lasso, Glennholme Holsteins; 5. Boaview Mccutchen Layla, Gordon Boa.

Intermediate Yearling Heifer – born between Dec. 1, 2015 and Feb. 29, 2016: 1. Hendercroft Gold Chip

Gooley, Herbert Henderson; 2. Riverdown Doorman Adelight, Riverdown Holsteins; 3. Signature B Spectra, Emma Farlinger, Rob Heffernan, Signature Holsteins; 4. Riverdown Doorman Adarling, Riverdown Holsteins; 5. Delcreek Recharge My Iphone, Peter Rylaarsdam.

Senior Yearling Heifer – born between Sept. 1, 2015 to Nov. 30, 2015: 1. Crestlea Chippy Chirp Ashlenn, Brian Joseph

Enright; 2. Delcreek Kamouraska Kisses, Peter Rylaarsdam; 3. Delcreek Shake Senorita, Peter Rylaarsdam; 4. Winright Brokaw Slam dunk, Brian Joseph Enright; 5. Riverdown Kingpin Pastel Lynn, Riverdown Holsteins.

Breeder's Herd (Junior): 1. Riverdown Holsteins, Metcalfe; 2. Brian Joseph Enright, Winchester; 3. Jessica Brown, Elginburg; 4. Delcreek Holsteins, Morewood; 5. Kyle, Brian & Jill Rivington, Carp.

Milking Senior Yearling

– born between Sept. 1, 2015 to Feb. 29, 2016: 1. Cherry Crest Doorman Uranium, Best Udder In Class, Cherry Crest Holsteins, Crackholm Holsteins, Lookout Holsteins; 2. Kay-Ben-I Cg Cheezie, Velthuis Farms Ltd; 3. Hendercroft Doorman Kiara, Herbert Henderson; 4. Winright Brokaw Estrada, Brian Joseph Enright; 5. T-Triple-T-Ent Paparazzi-Et, Velthuis Farms Ltd.

Junior 2 Year Old – born

Continued on page 22

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- Develop realistic action plans
- Learn about cost-share funding opportunities

GYFP Workshop Schedule

Sharon (Newmarket)	Day 1 - Nov. 1	Day 2 - Nov. 8
Belleville	Day 1 - Nov. 15	Day 2 - Nov. 22
Avonmore	Day 1 - Nov. 29	Day 2 - Dec 6
Casselman (français)	Day 1 - Dec. 5	Day 2 - Dec. 12

Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)

Producers are invited to attend FREE EFP (Fourth Edition) Workshops to:

- Learn about best management practices
- Develop an action plan for their farm
- Learn about cost-share funding opportunities

EFP Workshop Schedule

Peterborough (Douro)	Day 1 - Oct. 30	Day 2 - Nov. 6
Kemptville	Day 1 - Nov. 1	Day 2 - Nov. 15
Milton	Day 1 - Nov. 9	Day 2 - Nov. 16
Lanark	Day 1 - Nov. 20	Day 2 - Nov. 27
Casselman (français)	Day 1 - Nov. 23	Day 2 - Nov. 30
Belleville	Day 1 - Nov. 28	Day 2 - Dec. 5

Biosecurity Workshop

At this one-day workshop, an experienced veterinarian or certified crop advisor will show you the benefits of having an on-farm biosecurity program, and identify key practices which will enhance biosecurity measures on your farm.

Food Safety

Sharon	Day 1 - Nov. 22	Day 2 - Nov. 29
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Maximizing Your Traceability Investment Workshop

This in-class workshop will focus on how you can gain a competitive advantage and improve your bottom line with your traceability system. Real life examples and business profiles focused on traceability best practices will be examined throughout the workshop.

Bio-security

General Livestock	Manvers (Bethany)	Dec. 14
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Food Safety Workshops/Webinars

Looking to keep up to date on the latest food safety practices and help strengthen your Growing Forward 2 application? The Food Safety Workshop is a two-day in-class workshop to help you formalize your food safety program, or you can take advantage of a series of six, 1.5 hour webinars which cover the same topics (see schedule online).


Traceability

Sharon (Newmarket)	Day 1 - Jan. 11	Day 2 - Jan. 18
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Horse sense leads to successful Lansdowne Equine Festival

by Tom Van Dusen
AgriNews Staff Writer

LANSDOWNE—TWO YEARS AGO WHEN LIANE SALMON AND OTHERS WERE SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING NEW TO BRING ATTENTION TO LANSDOWNE VILLAGE WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF LEEDS & THOUSAND ISLANDS, HORSES REARED AS A POSSIBILITY.

For one thing, there are a lot of “horse people” in the area, Salmon explained and, for another thing, the Lansdowne Fairgrounds where the first Equine Extravaganza was held Oct. 14 is one of few in the province that still has an active harness racing track. It was a natural fit.

The logic proved correct, with hundreds of visitors to the Eastern Ontario village for the free admission Extravaganza... also known as the Lansdowne Horse Festival.

For their first outing, Salmon and her committee did a masterful job of organizing what turned out to be a major event. A light drizzle hardly dampened spirits as visitors from the area – and even cottagers from the United States – stampeded to the fairgrounds to be entertained and educated.

Other than total numbers, one indication the committee was right about horses as an attraction was the long lineups at three food stands for most of the day. In addition, the small grandstand was filled for demonstrations and for musical entertainment on the race track stage.

A wide variety of breeds was on hand, including Morgans, Canadians, Drafts, Minis, Spotted Mountain Horses, Gypsy Vanners, Arabians, and Paso Finos. Their versatility was demonstrated in gaming, driving, jumping and distinct gates; wagon and sulky rides were offered to visitors.

There was a parade with full description of the breeds, dressage demonstration, information on equi-health and nutrition, Equimania sponsored by the University of Guelph, and fortune telling for laughs under the banner “Horseyscopes”.

There were children’s activities including crafting bracelets and bookmarks out of leather, horse tail braiding, and leg wrapping. There were farrier demonstrations, a horse ambulance, and a special appearance by the Ontario Mounted Special Services Unit. Displays and vendors

covered tack and other equipment, and clothing.

The horse festival was part of a bigger mission under the auspices of the Lansdowne Association for Revitalization aimed at rural community improvement through village beautification, healthy living, and special events. An annual plant sale, a textile festival, and ceremonial Christmas tree lighting are among events already on the annual calendar.

The group’s mission statement is to foster community pride and promote sustainable economic and cultural devel-



Liane Salmon

opment through planning that builds on local values and unique assets. Volunteer members of LAFR meet once a



Part of the Horse Parade

month. Assisted in part by federal Canada 150th funding, while expensive, the success of the

festival may lead to a repeat next year, Salmon said. If so, a small admission fee may be introduced to help cover costs.

Nation NFU Convention comes to Ottawa

OTTAWA – THE 48TH ANNUAL NATIONAL NFU CONVENTION TITLED, FARM RENEWAL, WILL BE HELD ON NOV. 23-25 IN OTTAWA AT THE HOLIDAY INN EAST. THE NFU’S WEBSITE EXPLAINS, “WE HAVE LOST MORE THAN A QUARTER OF THE FARMS ACROSS CANADA AND THE AVERAGE FARMER’S AGE CONTINUES TO CLIMB. MANY FARMERS ARE LOOKING FOR WAYS TO PASS ON THEIR OPERATIONS TO A NEW GENERATION OF FARMERS. WE HAVE ALSO LOST, OR ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING, MANY OF THE INSTITUTIONS THAT WERE AND ARE VITAL TO RURAL CANADA. RENEWAL CAN MEAN MANY THINGS BUT WHAT THE NFU WILL BE

EXPLORING AT THIS YEAR’S CONVENTION IS HOW WE CAN RE-IMAGINE, RESTORE AND REINVIGORATE RURAL CANADA.”

Open to the public, the keynote speaker on Thurs., Nov. 23, at 7 p.m., is Janine Wedel. Wedel’s speech, New Influence Elites, the Corrosion of Democracy, and Trump as Trickster, will examine “the latest scholarship, hers and others, to better understand how the activities of influence elites helped give Trump and similar figures his entrée. As both a public policy professor and a social anthropologist, she will also examine Trump’s role as “trickster,” how Trump and other taboo-breaking,

system-busting leaders govern once in power, and why people turn to them.”

The three-day convention includes a number of workshops and panels to help drive the discussion of the future of Canadian agriculture forward. Workshops include Succession Planning and Convention 101 and panels include, Restoring resilience - Regenerating the farm, Renewing our relationship to the land, Generating farmer power, NAFTA 2.0: Questions of Power and Democracy, and Cultivating Communities.

For more information on speakers, panellists and transportation or accommodation discounts, visit the website at www.nfu.ca/issues/48th-annual-convention-2017.



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Two timely topics at AGM – crop insurance and MPAC assessments

by Dianne Pinder-Moss
AgriNews Contributor

LANARK COUNTY – WHILE THERE ARE MANY ISSUES THE LANARK FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE (LFA) DEALS WITH EACH YEAR, TWO MAJOR TOPICS OF CONCERN FOR MEMBERS THIS SUMMER WERE CROP INSURANCE AND MUNICIPAL LAND TAX ASSESSMENTS.

To address these subjects, representatives of Agricorp and Municipal Property

Assessment Corporation (MPAC) were invited to be the guest speakers for the annual general meeting of the LFA held on Oct. 12 at Brunton Community Hall in Beckwith Township.

The first presentation of the evening was by Wendell Joyce, regional manager with Agricorp. He provided an overview of some of the programs the provincial government agency delivers on behalf of the federal and provincial governments.

While Joyce noted that Production

Insurance (PI) – more commonly known as crop insurance – was probably the best known of the programs, he also made mention of others like the Risk Management Program and AgriInvest and how they could benefit local producers. For those who were already clients of Agricorp and have crop insurance, his suggestion was to review their coverage once the harvest season was over to determine the best fit for next year.

Joyce mentioned some of the reasons he hears for people not having crop insurance. The first one, that there cannot possibly be two bad years in a row, earned some chuckles from the approximately 50 in attendance. Another was that people pay

premiums and don't receive anything in return.

To debunk that perception, Joyce provided a sampling of 10 of 76 farm customers in Lanark County. He reported that these 10 clients had paid \$640,000 in premiums and received approximately \$1.6-million in claims during their participation in the PI program.

"(In this case), there's a ratio of \$2.60 of claim for every dollar of premium paid over the history," he stated, adding that none of the farms had paid out what they had received back in claims. In addition, he noted that only one of the 10 did not have a corn or soybean claim.

Continued on page 14



Meet the 2017-2018 LFA county directors

Gathering for a photo following the Oct. 12 AGM of the Lanark Federation of Agriculture are the 2017-2018 county directors for the LFA. From left, in front are Deb Knapton (member service representative), Ted Letts, Lillian Drummond and Dave Campbell; in the back row are Lorne Heslop, Jamie Fortune, Richard Kidd, Andrea McCoy-Naperstkow, Debra Pretty-Straathof (regional representative), Rosemary Kralic and Alvin Dobbie. Missing from the photo are directors Roy Lightbody and Bruce Nolan.

Pinder-Moss photo

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Lanark County AGM

Continued from page 13

Joyce provided a breakdown of the crops for which coverage was provided in the 179 PI contracts the 76 farm clients of Agricorp in the county have in 2017. They are as follows: Corn – 6,100 acres; Soybeans – 10,200 acres; Barley/oats/spring grain/spring wheat – 1,400 acres; Winter wheat – 1,200 acres; and Forage rainfall – 5,600 acres.

Joyce highlighted the fact that PI coverage is available for 100 different plans. That includes vegetable crops, honey and the bees themselves, fruit trees and strawberries, etc. To date this year, 31 claims totalling \$300,000 have already been paid out for just unseeded acreage benefits.

“We expect we are going to be busy again this fall like we were last fall but for exactly the opposite reason,” Joyce remarked. He made that comment after referring to a rainfall map, which showed that areas east of Belleville, including Lanark County, received “well over double” the normal rainfall from May to August of this year.

Joyce reminded the LFA members attending the AGM that the premium costs of PI are shared with the federal and provincial governments.

“You are getting (approximately) half-priced insurance,” he said.

Anyone with questions or seeking further information on the programs offered by Agricorp were invited to call the agency’s toll-free number at 1-888-247-4999.

From Agricorp, the conversation moved to farm property assessments as two regional MPAC representatives spoke at the AGM. Beverley Disney, account manager of municipal and stakeholder relations department in MPAC’s Brockville office, outlined the process used in the most recent assessment of properties in 2016, which provides a basis for taxation over a four-year period until 2020. Of the over five million properties assessed, 222,993 were farm properties with a total assessment value of more than \$100-billion.

Disney also spoke about changes that had been made to the assessment process. Among these were the redesign of the property assessment notices to make them easier to read and the province introducing legislative changes in support of the early notice mailing to allow property owners 120 days from the issue date of their Property Assessment Notice to file a 2017 tax year request for reconsideration.

As well, the AboutMyProperty online service was revamped. Whereas previously information was only available on the site to residential property owners, “for the first time we were able to welcome farm properties onto that,” she stated. Farm was among seven property groups for which customized information was added to the service.

Those attending the AGM were invited by Disney to check out the site at aboutmyproperty.ca, in which they can obtain a copy of their notice, plus information on how the property was assessed and how its valuation compares to neighbouring properties.

Her colleague, Kenneth Rennick, manager of valuation and customer relations for MPAC’s office in Pembroke, explained that, as part of the updates to the

assessment process, “a lot of” third party consultation was done. Among those consulted, he said, was the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA). He also stressed that only sales of farmland to farmers for farm purposes were used in the MPAC analysis.

“The assessment of a farm is not based on a land’s potential use – i.e., development,” he stated.

Rennick also touched on some of the farm market trends that were identified during the 2016 assessment process. For instance, demand is outweighing supply of farmland and farmers in Southern Ontario – in some areas there, land is selling for \$10,000 to \$30,000 an acre -- are looking to Northern and Eastern Ontario where land prices are considerably lower. In comparison, typical land values in Lanark County range from \$4,000 to \$5,000 an acre.

Lorne Heslop, a director with the LFA, commented that in the local farming community there was “a lot of unrest because of the increase in (assessed) value that hit us” without a lot of background information on why this occurred. As well, mention was made of some cases where a person owned what they thought were two separate farms side by side and discovered they were assessed as one farm.

“We (MPAC) wouldn’t have done that unless the *Planning Act* told us to do that,” Rennick replied, asking whether this was an isolated incident.

Heslop responded that he didn’t think it was isolated. “I’ve heard of several and another cropped up the other day,” he stated.

LFA director Andrea McCoy-Naperstkw encouraged anyone with assessment concerns to speak directly with Rennick and Disney.

“If there are specific cases you have concerns about, that’s the reason I asked MPAC here,” she said.

Disney had issued a similar invitation in her address to the LFA gathering.

“We are happy to help,” she noted. “We are happy to respond to any question you may have.”

As part of the regional portion of the meeting, Debra Pretty-Straathof, OFA director for Zone 8, which includes Lanark County, spoke about the OFA’s ongoing efforts to foster awareness among MPPs that agriculture and agri-food are “a driving economic engine” in Ontario.

With a depopulation of rural areas being experienced, Pretty-Straathof said there is a recognition that there is a need for economic growth in rural municipalities “but we don’t want them paving prime farmland. We want smart growth.”

With this in mind, a new campaign has been initiated by the OFA entitled “Producing prosperity by distributing economic development across the province.” In an email response following the AGM, Pretty-Straathof told the *AgriNews* that the federation will be working with other “like-minded” groups such as the wardens’ caucuses across rural Ontario “to bring strength to the strategy.”

“This is not a short-term goal but one that will take the implementation of many pieces of infrastructure development, clear economic strategies and public will to make it happen,” she stated in her response.

At the AGM, while stating that the LFA was doing well, president Ted Letts also acknowledged that there had been “some tough times the last two years for all of us” in the farming community. Despite these setbacks, Letts remained hopeful that they will endure

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Minister MacAulay wraps up G7 Meetings

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The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, continued his European agricultural trade mission, concluding G7 agricultural meetings in Bergamo, Italy, as well as a series of bilateral meetings with EU officials while in Belgium earlier in the week of Oct. 15.

In Bergamo, Minister MacAulay and his G7 counterparts endorsed a communiqué following two days of plenary sessions, where they discussed issues ranging from agricultural risk management practices to food security and migration – building a solid foundation for their upcoming World Food Day sessions and celebrations in Rome.

MacAulay held bilateral meetings with his agriculture counterparts from the EU, Italy and Germany. These meetings focused on discussing issues of interest to the Canadian agriculture and agri-food sector, as well as the importance of trade.

In Parma, the Minister conducted market development activities. In Belgium, the Minister met with European Commission VP for Jobs, Growth, Investment and

Competitiveness, Jyrki Katainen, as well as with EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Vytenis Andriukaitis, where he brought up opportunities and the way forward for the Canadian agriculture and agri-food sector in a post-CETA Europe. MacAulay also met with European industry associations, including European Livestock and Meat Trades Union, COCERAL and Fediol, before touring the Port of Antwerp, a major hub for Europe-bound agriculture goods from Canada.

The purposes of trade mission discussions are to make sure Canadian farmers are well represented abroad while creating more opportunities for the middle-class within the agriculture and agri-food sector.

MacAulay continued his agricultural trade mission in Rome, where he gave remarks at the United Nations' World Food Day ceremonies attended by His Holiness Pope Francis.

"The G7 Agricultural Ministers' Meeting allows us to discuss and build consensus around some of today's most challenging issues. This year, Ministers agreed that the best way to fight world hunger is to strengthen the family farm through stronger risk management for farmers; a stronger role for farmers in the food chain – especially for young farmers and women; and open, inclusive trade," said MacAulay.

Ag Excellence aims at the Capital

OTTAWA – THE 2017 AG EXCELLENCE CONFERENCE IS BACK IN EASTERN ONTARIO THIS YEAR. PARTICIPANTS CAN JOIN FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT EXPERTS ON NOV. 21 TO 23 IN OTTAWA FOR LEARNING AND NET-

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Renfrew Fair shows 4-H pride

RENFREW – THE RENFREW FAIR HELD THEIR 163RD FAIR DURING SEPTEMBER.

The five-day event boast the title of “The greatest fair in the Ottawa Valley since 1853.” Livestock shows during the Fair week included a number of 4-H and inter-club competitions in dairy, beef, showmanship and conformation. Overall winners from the 4-H shows included: Grand Champion 4-H Dairy Showperson Abby Howard, Reserve Grand Champion 4-H Dairy Showperson Kelsey Edwards, Grand Champion 4-H Dairy Heifer shown by Abby Howard, and the Reserve Grand Champion 4-H Dairy Heifer shown by Jenna Hedden.



Reserve Grand Champion 4-H Dairy Showperson Kelsey Edwards with Judge Ray Bergeron.



Grand Champion 4-H Dairy Showperson Abby Howard with Judge Ray Bergeron and Renfrew Lions club representative Jesse Billyard.



The Reserve Grand Champion 4-H Dairy Heifer was shown by Jenna Hedden who received a gift from Ray Pender of Penvue Farms.

Courtesy photos



The Grand Champion 4-H Dairy Heifer was shown by Abby Howard seen with BMO representative Mary Harris and Judge Ray Bergeron.

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Lots to celebrate at Lanark 4-H awards night

by Dianne Pinder-Moss
AgriNews Contributor

LANARK COUNTY – AS SOMEONE WHO, ACCORDING TO THE LEADERS WHO NOMINATED HIM, LIKES TO HELP OTHER 4-HERS, CONNOR DAWSON WAS ALREADY THINKING OF OTHERS BEFORE HIMSELF AS HE WAS HONOURED WITH ONE OF THE TOP AWARDS AT THE 2017 LANARK COUNTY 4-H AWARDS NIGHT ON OCT. 21.

In an interview shortly after receiving the Lanark

Federation of Agriculture (LFA) Award, the first thing he did was to express his appreciation to the sponsor of the award. “I am grateful for the people who donated it,” he stated.

While the 14 year old said he did not expect the award, which is presented to “an outstanding agricultural member” in the county, he was a deserving recipient based on the words of the leaders who nominated him.

During his five years in 4-H, he has been “an active

participant” through taking on numerous executive roles within the 25 clubs in which he has been involved and offering to work with others, the nomination stated.

“He has participated in many regional shows and is always keen to help out in any fashion,” the award introduction continued. “Younger members look up to Connor as he is patient and willing to assist them.”

Calling the award “special,” Dawson said, “4-H is something I like doing and it is fun.” Ask the award recipient what his favourite club is among the many – beef, plowing, archery, vet, square dancing, to name a few – he has taken and he’s unable to pick just one. “Basically all of them that I have participated in,” he responded.

Other “Special Awards” handed out at the awards night hosted by the Lanark 4-H Association were:

- Ivan & Margaret Dowdall Memorial Award for news reporter of the year – Tandra Drew. To be considered for the award, articles must be submitted to local newspapers for publication with copies forwarded to the leaders. According to a leader who nominated her for the award, Drew is “always willing to take on new challenges

with enthusiasm and determination” and loves to be a press reporter. “She follows through with writing articles every year and has had many published,” the nomination read.

- Ontario Plowmen’s Association (OPA) Award to a deserving member, preferably with an agricultural background – Branden Quinn. He completed 30 4-H clubs and represented his beef club at Stock Show University this year. “He is regarded as a helper to younger members who look up to him,” wrote one of his leaders. Mention was made of how he assisted and encouraged two younger members in the plowing club to complete their plot “rather than giving up under some very tough conditions.”

- Almonte Ace Country and Garden Award, at one time known as the Top



LFA award to outstanding 14 year old
The Lanark Federation of Agriculture (LFA) Award was presented to Connor Dawson by LFA director Alvin Dobbie.

Pinder-Moss photo

Member Award – Liam Silverstone, who has participated in clubs like archery, dairy and square dancing. “Although he hasn’t completed the number of clubs other members have, we feel this member needs to be recognized for what he has completed, and the behind-the-scenes work he does for his clubs,” the nomination stated.

“He is a quiet in the background kind of person.” Mention was made of how Liam, who was not in attendance at the awards night, organized a group of members from the square dancing club to attend some of the local horse dances and act as 4-H ambassadors. As well, he played the fiddle for the

Continued on page 18



The award goes to

Recipients of L&A Mutual Insurance Company Awards are congratulated by Michael Salmon, a representative of the insurance company. From left are Pyper Brandino (Outstanding Agricultural 4-H Member), Juniper Lalonde Cutler (Ambassador) and Avery Dowdall (Leadership). Absent from the Oct. 21 event but also receiving an award was Tanner Drynan (Outstanding Non-Agricultural 4-H Member).

Pinder-Moss photo

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Lanark 4-H

Continued from page 17

square dance club meetings and the achievement day. He has also competed at the Royal Winter Fair for the dairy club.

Commonwell Mutual Insurance Awards:

- **Leadership – Avery Dowdall.** According to one leader, Dowdall was an active member in many clubs “and her leadership skills this year were a huge asset” to the plowing and crops club.” Over her six years in 4-H, she has completed 42 clubs, including eight this year alone. In taking on the role of secretary of the plowing club, she was cited for her support of the leaders in tracking attendance and helping younger members with their questions, as well as initiating the design and ordering of T-shirts for club members that were distributed following the achievement day. “She went above and beyond in the role,” stated another leader in the award nomination. “...She is a strong individual and I feel deserves to be recognized for her contributions this year in the program in Lanark County.”

- **Ambassador – Juniper Lalonde Cutler,** “a young lady who puts everything she has towards the club and animals that she is working

with,” was recognized with this honour. “This member’s overall attitude, her drive and focus make her an outstanding 4-H member,” a leader said in comments for the award nomination. She has participated in a number of clubs, including beef, goat and barn quilt and qualified for the Canadian Meat Goat East National Championships on Nov. 5.

- **Outstanding Agricultural 4-H Member – Pyper Brandino,** who has completed 23 clubs in five years and started her own flock of sheep at her grandparents’ farm. Another person who goes “above and beyond” when it comes to 4-H, Pyper’s hard work in her first year with the goat club in 2016 resulted in her showing her goat at the Royal Winter Fair. “She always put so much effort into all her projects,” the nomination stated. “This year, she helped some members on their farm with how to show a sheep and prepare it for show.”

- **Outstanding Non-Agricultural 4-H Member – Tanner Drynan,** who took part in all five 4-H Clubs held at the Lanark Highlands Youth Centre this year and has completed 22 projects overall during his years in 4-H. He was described by his leaders as being someone who “is not afraid to participate in anything and he can

be the first one found jumping into anything during any given club.”

Interest in 4-H continues to remain strong in Lanark County and that was evident on Oct. 21 as the Lanark & District Civitan Club was filled with members and their families for the recognition of club achievements for 2017. New members this year who completed a project(s) received a plaque and certificate with returning members receiving a year bar to be placed on their plaque.

As well, along with the

special awards that evening, Provincial and County 4-H Awards were handed out.

During 2017, within the Lanark 4-H Association, there were 143 registered regular members, as well as 15 Cloverbuds, who will have a separate awards night in December at one of their meetings.

Including the Cloverbuds’ club, members participated in a total of 32 projects ranging from livestock-related clubs like beef, dairy, sheep and goat to rabbit to vet to square dancing to home spa. There was a long list to

choose from, of which two were new offerings – 4-H marketing and barn quilt.

Through the barn quilt project, members were introduced to the concept of quilts and to design and create a barn quilt, which were painted replicas of actual fabric quilt blocks on approximately 24 x 24-inch boards. For someone who likes to paint, being a member of the Balderson Barn Quilts, one of two such clubs within the county, was enjoyable for Robyn Fox who shared with the *AgriNews* about her experience at the awards

night.

“It was fun to actually get to paint them and see the finished product,” she stated.

In greetings from 4-H Ontario at the awards night, Cam Crogie, coordinator of volunteer support for Region 2, said Lanark County was “very fortunate” to have the level of volunteer support that it does. Currently, the Lanark 4-H Association has 40 screened volunteers. “If it wasn’t for the volunteers, this program wouldn’t exist,” he asserted. “The volunteers are the backbone of the organization.”



Big winners

Above photo: The Ivan & Margaret Dowdall Memorial Award for news reporter of the year went to Tandra Drew. Making the presentation was Barb Keith, a leader with the Lanark 4-H Association. Lower photo: Branden Quinn was the recipient of the Ontario Plowmen’s Association Award with the award being presented by OPA board member Doug Sturgess.

Pinder-Möss photos



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Stormont County Plowing Match draws crowds on Thanksgiving weekend

by Michelle O'Donohue
AgriNews Contributor

BERWICK – ON SAT., OCT. 7, CROWDS GATHERED AT THE FARM OF PATSY CASSELMAN ON COUNTY ROAD 9 TO SEE 43 COMPETITORS IN A RANGE OF FIVE CLASSES COMPETE FOR TOP PLOWING HONOURS. AN ADDITIONAL SEVEN 4-H MEMBERS COMPETED IN THEIR ACHIEVEMENT DAY AS WELL. CLASSES RANGED FROM HORSE PLOWING, TO ANTIQUE, AND MORE MODERN IMPLEMENTS. IT HAS BECOME A BIT OF A TRADITION TO HOLD THE MATCH ON THANKSGIVING WEEKEND, BUT THE BUSY WEEKEND CERTAINLY DID NOT DETER SPECTATORS FROM COMING OUT TO SHOW THEIR SUPPORT. FOR A SECOND YEAR IN A ROW, PARTICIPANTS AND SPECTATORS BRAVED RAINY SKIES TO ENGAGE IN THE FESTIVITIES.

It was a full day of activities, with registration beginning at 9 a.m. and the evening's banquet, held at the North Stormont Arena Hall, starting at 7:30 p.m. To add to the draw for families, there were wagon rides available, as well as the ever-popular Queen of the Furrow and Princess of the Furrow competitions. After a year of representing Stormont County at various events, culminating in the International Plowing March in Huron earlier this fall, 2016/2017 Queen of the Furrow Kayla Manley of Newington and Princess of the Furrow Haleigh-Jo Teplate of Finch were both re-crowned in their respective categories to represent Stormont County for another year as the 2017/2018 winners.

In addition to the standard classes, there was also VIP plowing in which Stormont, Dundas and South Glengarry

MPP Jim McDonell, Deputy Mayor of South Stormont Tammy Hart, Mayor of North Stormont Dennis Fife, and South Stormont Councillor Richard Waldroff, participated in the plowing among other VIPs.

With the oldest plower being 87 and the youngest plower being nine, it was wonderful to see the multiple generations of plowing enthusiasts involved in this event, hopefully ensuring that it will continue on for many years to come.

Plowing results were as follows;

Class 1A Jointer Horse Plowing: 1st-Samuel Bourgon (Dalkeith); 2nd-Stephane Bourgon (Casselman); *Class 1B Sulky Horse Plowing:* 1st-Ethan Jones (Brockville); 2nd-Robert Jones (Brockville); *Class 2A Antique Tractors with*

Continued on page 20



Braving the rain

From left, North Stormont Mayor Dennis Fife stands with SDSG MPP Jim McDonell, and a proud sponsor of the Stormont County Plowing Match, David Brown. O'Donohue Photos



Prepared with an umbrella

Frank Joly of Rockland drives a McCormick built in 1949. Joly joked that the umbrella may not be vintage '49, but a newer addition. Joly has been competing in plowing since 2001.



Traditional approach to plowing

Marwin Antoine of Lyndhurst competes in the Horse Plowing class, with horses Mac and Prince. When asked if the rain was much deterrent for the horses, Antoine advised it made little difference.

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Stormont Plowing

Continued from page 19

Trail Plow: 1st-Michel Calande, (Alfred); 2nd-Dean Morris (Hammond); **Class 2B Antique Plowing** – under 18 years of age: 1st-Anthony

Chevalley (Moose Creek); 2nd-Jeremy Chevalley (Moose Creek); **Class 2C Antique Plowing** – with a hydraulic mounted plow: 1st-Marc Binette (Ste-Anne de Prescott); **Class 3B Farm Standard 3-furrow plows:** 1st Raymond Grady (Crysler); 2nd Cassidy Smith (Berwick); **Class**

4-18 years and under open to all: 1st-Justin Manley (Berwick); **Class 5A 2-furrow competitive plowing:** 1st-Allen Hills (Ashton); 2nd-Joyce Buckley (Kemptville); **Class 5B 3-furrow competitive plowing:** 1st-Stephen Manley (Berwick); 2nd-Kayla Manley (Newington).



Reigning Stormont royalty

Judges of the 2017-2018 Stormont Queen and Princess of the Furrow competition stand with the competitors. Front from left are Emily O'Connor (1st Runner up, Princess), Kayla Manley (2017-2018 Stormont Queen of the Furrow), and Haleigh-Jo Teplate (2017-2018 Stormont Princess of the Furrow). Manley and Teplate were both re-crowned after serving as Queen and Princess of the Furrow for 2016-2017 as well. Back from left are Sandra Donnelly, Harrietta Bretzler and David Brown.

Courtesy photo



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FreshSpoke to help champion local food in Eastern Ontario

by Kalynn Sawyer Helmer
AgriNews Staff Writer

BARRIE – FRESHSPOKE IS A NEW TECH START-UP THAT IS THE BRAINCHILD OF MARCIA WOODS, CEO, AND HENRY QUACH, CTO. THE COMPANY OFFICIALLY TURNED ONE ON SEPT. 28 AND HAS JUST LAUNCHED IN THEIR THIRD MARKET, EASTERN ONTARIO. THE BARRIE-BASED COMPANY USES A PLATFORM TO CUT OUT THE MIDDLE MAN BETWEEN PRODUCERS AND WHOLESALE BUYERS. “THIS IS OUR

THIRD MARKET BUT OUR FIRST REGIONAL MOBILIZATION AND THEN WE WILL START MOVING WEST,” SAID WOODS.

Woods explained her belief that Millennials are causing a shift in the food market and as such making multi-layer decisions based on support of local producers, nutrition and environment. “It’s time for disruption and to bring local food into the sharing economy,” she said. To Woods, the idea of a sharing economy means individuals are finding ways to have their needs met through

other individuals rather than corporations. “The food system is largely controlled by 10 corporations who are accountable to their shareholders before the consumers,” said Woods who is appalled that 80 per cent of the food that Canadians eat is imported. This adds to Canada’s carbon footprint as well as the loss of nutritional value.

On FreshSpoke’s first year, Woods is confident that the full three sides of the market has been addressed. The most important of which is delivery. The shared delivery system works to reduce trucks on the road by optimizing delivery routes and using as much of the truck space as possible. “It’s a democratic delivery system,” said Woods. Making it more cost effective to buyers to pur-

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chase from producers as close to home as possible. Delivery pricing is based on kilometre and time. But when more buyers purchase products from producers along the delivery route, delivery costs go down. Woods added that Fresh Spoke isn’t about a race to the bottom from producers on their pricing, but for them to charge a fair price and get that. “Our mission is to put as much cash back into the producers’ pockets as possible,” said Woods.

Each producer when they subscribe will be set up with a shop, which takes approximately two weeks. The company staff includes professional media specialists who do the heavy lifting of set-

Continued on page 33



A fresh new take on local food
Marcia Woods, CEO of FreshSpoke, and Regional Sales Manager Shane Dyer launched the Eastern Ontario market during the Sprouting New Connections speaker series in Long Sault on Thurs., Oct. 19. Woods gave the keynote address to introduce the company and promote their mission for easier access and distribution of local fresh food.
Sawyer Helmer photo

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Holstein Show results

Continued from page 11 between March 1, 2015 and Aug. 31, 2015:

1. Hendercroft Atwood Harmony, Best Udder In Class, Reserve Intermediate Champion, Herbert Henderson; 2. Greenlark Doorman Spark, Bryan & Cheryl Dickson, Jamie & Petra Black; 3. Crebroek Goldchip Birthday, Brian Joseph Enright, Sunnyside Farms Inc.; 4. Blondin Sid Brittany, Rock-A-Berry Holsteins, Signature Holsteins; 5. Polestar McCuthen Robin, Polestar Farm.

Senior 2 Year Old – born between Sept. 1, 2014 and Feb. 28, 2015: 1. Trent Valley Goldchip Abra 6, Bonnechere Holsteins, Lilyking Farm, Trekili Holsteins; 2. Paramount-Mb Crvt Ashtabula, Best Udder In Class, Wenallt Holsteins; 3. Signature Goldchip Katalina, Glennholme Holsteins, Signature Holsteins, Todd Edwards; 4. Windcroft Bk Kourage, Bryan & Cheryl Dickson; 5. Aija Atwood Jack, Jaquemet Holsteins.

Junior 3 Year Old – born

between March 1, 2014 and Aug. 31, 2014: 1. Jobo Amber, Best Udder In Class, Intermediate Honourable Mention, Jobo Farms Inc.; 2. Winright Brokaw Selena, Brian Joseph Enright; 3. Signature After Kat, Glennholme Holsteins, Signature Holsteins, Todd Edwards; 4. Lolisee Linjet Boot Molly, Ferme Lolisee; 5. Hardy Aftershock Miana, Ferme Lolisee.

Senior 3 Year Old – born between Sept. 1, 2013 and Feb. 28, 2014: 1. Windcroft Brokaw Eclipse, Best Udder In Class, Intermediate Champion, Bryan & Cheryl Dickson; 2. Glennholme Goldchip Bellagio, Glennholme Holsteins; 3. Aija Atwood Sassy, Jaquemet Holsteins.

4 Year Old – born between Sept. 1, 2012 and Aug. 31, 2013: 1. Ms Dana Epic Dot-Et, Best Udder In Class, Reserve Grand Champion, Breeze Hill Holsteins, Raymond J. Smygwy; 2. Hendercroft Sid Peanut, Herbert Henderson; 3. Lochdale Zelgadis Stormy, Lochdale Holsteins; 4. Sauder Holme LauthORITY Daffy, Robert, Dale and Wendy Crawford; 5. Lolisee Sid Marie, Ferme

Lolisee. **5 Year Old** – born between Sept. 1, 2011 and Aug. 31, 2012:

1. Hendercroft Fever Bazooka, Best Udder In Class, Grand Champion, Herbert Henderson; 2. Windcroft Goldchip Indigo, Honourable Mention, Cory Dickson, Eaton Holsteins, Jamie & Petra Black; 3. Quinndale LauthORITY Mandy, Quinndale Holsteins; 4. Lolisee Aftershock Debra, Ferme Lolisee; 5. Lolisee Goldwyn Marie, Ferme Lolisee.

Mature Cow – born before Sept. 1, 2011: 1. Bonniespring Goldwyn Lynn, Best Udder In Class, Ferme Lolisee; 2. Lolisee Goldwyn Mix Up, Ferme Lolisee; 3. Lolisee Drake Lilly Sam, Ferme Lolisee; 4. Hendercroft Outbound Celebrate, Herbert Henderson; 5. Hendercroft Jasper Jawbreaker, Herbert Henderson.

60,000 Kg Production Class – 1. Altona Lea Goldwyn Ainsley, Ferme Lolisee; 2. Quinndale Talent Jetski, Quinndale Holsteins; 3. Klagvale Goldwyn Jackie, Best Udder In Class, Ferme Lolisee. **Breeder's Herd** – 1.

Herbert Henderson, Ashton, Ont.; 2. Bryan & Cheryl Dickson, Joyceville, Ont.; 3. Michel Guay, Brownsburg-Chatham, Que.

Junior Exhibitor Banner – 1. Brian Joseph Enright, Winchester, Ont. / 1. Peter Rylaarsdam, Winchester, Ont.; 2. Riverdown Holsteins, Metcalfe, Ont.; 3. Velthuis Farms Ltd., Osgoode, Ont.

Junior Breeder Banner – 1. Peter Rylaarsdam (Delcreek), Winchester, Ont.; 2. Brian Joseph Enright (Winright), Winchester, Ont.; 3. Riverdown Holsteins (Riverdown), Metcalfe, Ont.

Premier Exhibitor Banner – 1. Ferme Lolisee, Chatham, Que.; 2. Herbert Henderson, Ashton, Ont.; 3. Brian Joseph Enright, Winchester, Ont.

Premier Breeder Banner – 1. Herbert Henderson (Hendercroft), Ashton; 2. Ferme Lolisee (Lolisee), Chatham, Que.; 3. Brian Joseph Enright (Winright), Winchester, Ont.



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Cobden: Dairy farm for sale with 48 kg (adjusted) 200 acres with newer tie stall and 3 bedroom bungalow. Automatic feeder and older attached tie stall for heifers. Good land in one block and nicely set back from the road. Call for details.

Carleton Place: 158 acres of cash crop and pasture fields just outside Carleton Place. One newer bungalow and one renovated farmhouse. Also dog kennel with arena and older buildings for horses and beef cattle. Has to be seen to be appreciated. Call for details.

Chesterville: Very nice empty dairy farm with newer buildings (2007) on 108 acres of prime land. 68 tie stalls, box stalls, 2 Harvestore silos, 1 slab silo. 200 tonnes in-bin dryer, coverall and machine shed. Call for more details.

Williamsburg: 154 acres of land with 50 acres workable and the rest bush. Older 1400 sq. ft. two storey house with updates and attached garage. Call for more details.

Morrisburg: 32 acres with nice Cape Cod style home with many updates and more land available. Close to Hwy. 31 and Hwy. 401, and 50 mins. from Ottawa. Call for more details.

South Dundas: 200 acre apple orchard for sale with new equipment, good buildings with cold storage and 100 acres in trees. Rest is 40 acres cleared and 60 acres of bush. New main house with renovated second house and new house trailer, and bunk-house. Call for more details.

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Wilkridge Farm first GEA monobox installation in Eastern Ontario

by Candice Vetter
AgriNews Staff Writer

FOURNIER – KEN AND PEGGY WILKES, OWNERS OF WILKRIDGE FARM NEAR FOURNIER, HAVE BUILT A NEW DAIRY BARN WHERE THEY WERE SOME OF THE FIRST IN THE AREA TO INSTALL GEA MONOBOX ROBOT MILKERS.

The Wilkes are looking forward to showing off the new system to friends, neighbours and other dairy farmers at their upcoming open house on Sat., Dec. 2, partly because they are so happy with how well everything works together.

“We chose to use Lawrence’s Dairy Supply Inc. for the complete system,” said Ken. Everything is made by GEA, including one of GEA’s newest products, a feed pusher.

Sylvain Cheff built the new barn, and has both a good working relationship with the Wilkes’ and with Lawrence’s. The new barn is attached to the former free-stall heifer barn. “We love having everyone under one roof,” both Ken and Peggy said. “It’s been our transition that is more difficult – the cows’ transition seemed

easy.”

Wilkridge is a fifth-generation family farm, one which Ken’s father, Orville, participated in until a couple of years ago. Orville died in March of this year, which Ken and Peggy said was a shame. “He was always progressive and would have been happy to see the new equipment operating.” As it was, he got to see the beginning of the new barn going up and follow its progress.

“It was kind of a whirlwind spring,” Peggy said. Besides Orville’s passing, the barn was being built with all the details to be worked out, and their daughter was also married in June. In addition, Ken found the transition harder for him to make than for anyone else did, including the cows. “Before my cows were identified by name, even though they also had numbers, now they’re numbers, and that takes a little adjustment.”

Peggy, who also has a full-time job at Scotiabank, is used to numbers, as are their children, but she agreed that emotionally, physically and mentally, the move was probably the hardest thing they’d ever done.

“It was very exciting,” Ken said, “and very physical-

ly demanding, but for me mentally it was hard to learn how to manage the cows differently.”

However, now that things have smoothed out Ken and Peggy said they couldn’t be happier with the installation. “We moved into the barn on May 15 and the cows adapted right away.” They also had the highest praise for Lawrence’s Dairy Supply and for the GEA Monoboxes and the other robots, which include the feed pusher, which follows little magnetic pegs instead of a strip, and an automated manure system, and for Sylvain Cheff, who built their last heifer barn.

“Everyone was fantastic,” said Ken. “Lawrence’s Dairy Supply had men here 24 hours a day for the first week. We chose them for that reason, for their personal service.”

He describes the farm’s relationship with the company as a “leap of faith.” “I admit we went out on a limb a bit,” he says. “There aren’t a whole lot of GEA systems in Canada, but we have zero regrets. I love it.”

After the work and stress of the spring was over, he found his work was much easier. “Now we’ve got a



Up on the ridge

Wilkridge Farm is aptly named as it sits on Ridge Rd., which is on an uplifted ridge just north of Fournier, making for beautiful views of the picturesque farm and a high point of land for the new barn, built by Sylvain Cheff.

Vetter photos

routine, and it’s going to get even better as we go on.”

He also said the cows were happier. “The heifers were raised in free stalls, and everyone told us it would take a year for the cows to get used to it, but it was a matter of days.” Part of the reason, he thinks, is cow comfort. “Cow comfort is excellent. You go in the barn and there is no bawling, and everyone looks content.” It’s true. Inside the barn the cows are quiet and happily munching or ambling to the milkers, cow brush, waterer, or to visit their friends.

Continued on page 24



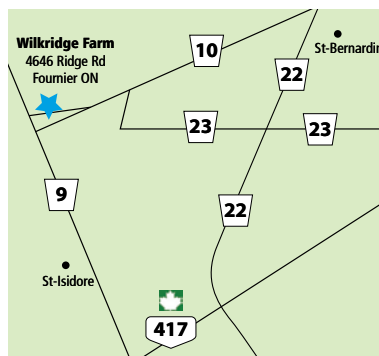
Showing it off

Ken and Peggy Wilkes in their office. An interesting innovation was to move vet supplies from the office (and its clean floor) to a dedicated area, with sink and cupboard, in the main barn.



Wilkridge Farm Open House

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Wilkrige Farm

Continued from page 23

He disagrees with the idea that sand bedding is the only way to keep cows comfortable. "We went with rubber mats throughout the barn and shavings in the stalls." Once a week, shavings get pushed out with the manure and go straight into the manure lagoon, a concrete structure which is also brand new.

Part of the reason is that sand is hard on machinery and this way they don't have to deal with a sand slinger.

He also found that the cows stayed surprisingly clean. "This is the cleanest I've seen them."

The balloon ventilation system and five fans are all run by automated weather stations. "Even during the heat this September it kept up." A diesel generator automatically kicks in during power outages and also automatically starts up briefly once a week, to keep it running smoothly.

The 75 dairy cows have an average production of 42kg/ day, with 2.75 visits/day a figure which

includes the transition period, so it is expected to go up. Besides the 75 cows, Wilkrige Farm also has 850 acres of crop, much of which they use to produce their own feed. They buy shavings at a cost of about .78/stall/day, compared to the .73/stall/day they used to pay for straw. "With shavings the cell count is good, about 110,000," said Ken.

Many friends and neighbours have asked the Wilkes why they are investing so much in the farm at their ages, which is mid-50s. "We don't have Freedom 55," Peggy answered with a laugh. "And this way we leave a good, progressive farm for the next owner."

They have three children and their son Andrew, who is the youngest, is studying Civil Engineering at Carleton University, and helps out on weekends. Their eldest daughter Leigh-Ann is in Saskatoon working as an agronomist studying canola for Bayer Crop Science, and their middle child, Hannah, is a social worker in Edmonton and married to a military man, so they don't have high expectations that their children will take over completely, and they don't intend to

pressure their kids.

"We built this barn for us," said Peggy.

Besides Andrew's help, they employ Sam Ryan-Brunet part-time, and a friend, Howard Ryan, comes over every morning to help and have a coffee. After sales, service comes from Lawrence's, and is also 24/7 according to Dan Delney there. "If someone needs help we go right away." He also recommends maintenance about four times/year and suggests that any time other maintenance or issues come up they should be called. Regarding Wilkrige Farm Delney said, "This is definitely a very nice project. Everyone is very, very happy with it."



Cow comfort

The Wilkes say cow comfort is of utmost importance to them and they've chosen rubber mats with shavings which the cows appear to be comfortable with.

Vetter photo



The way to go

At Wilkrige Farm, the new dairy barn was completely outfitted with GEA equipment, including the manure pumping system shown here.

Vetter photo



A picturesque place

Ken and Peggy Wilkes stand in front of their brick home in mid-October, set in their beautiful yard on the picturesque ridge where their farm stands. Their dog Harvey insisted on posing with them.

Vetter photo



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Krazy Dan's pickled wieners are back

by Candice Vetter
AgriNews Staff Writer

LUNENBURG – DAN SHAVER OF KRAZY DAN'S CONVENIENCE STORE IN LUNENBURG IS BACK IN THE PICKLED WIENER BUSINESS AFTER MAKING A \$70,000 INVESTMENT IN HIS CANNING FACILITY IN A BUILDING BESIDE HIS STORE.

Shaver and other family members had been buying high-quality wieners, adding tasty sauces of their own recipes, canning the results in mason jars, and selling them, for the last five years. He had the approval of the Eastern Ontario Health Unit, but early this summer he was approached by the Ministry of Agriculture, who shut the operation down. It seems the rules from the health unit and the rules by the ministry are not the same, and Shaver had to make a few changes and take a course as a Certified Meat Plant Supervisor.

In addition, the ministry ordered him to destroy 800 jars of his popular pickled wiener products. "I opened each one," he said. "There was nothing wrong, but I had to dump them."

Besides taking the course, he had to make sure his plant met all the standards of any meat facility even though, as he said with a laugh, "All I want to do is put wieners in a jar."

He already had a safe canning method down pat, and had never had any complaints about his products, but some of the changes included making sure every part of the canning room had a stainless steel surface, even underneath the counters and tables, and installing some newer equip-

ment.

Shaver buys wieners from Cardinal Meats in Cornwall and adds either mild, medium, hot or wicked sauce, wicked being Dan's own recipe. The wieners gain 2g of weight each after absorbing the sauce, then Shaver cooks them in a steel kettle at temperatures well above boiling, and pops them into jars which have been dishwasher sterilized with very strong detergent. "It's very quick and they come out gleaming," said Shaver.

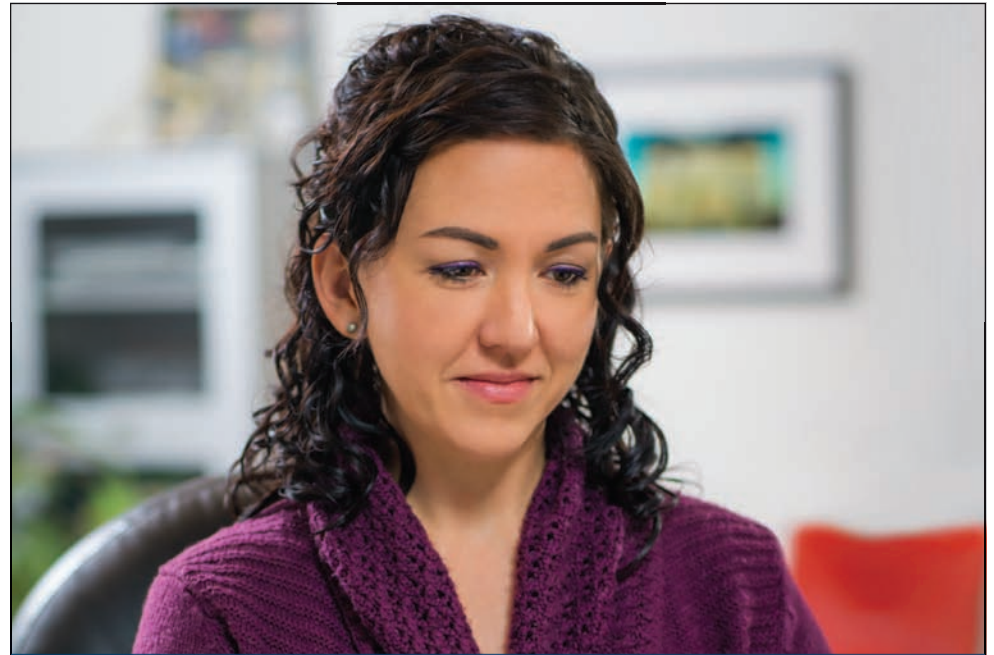
The jars then go into a blast freezer for the first part of the two-stage cooling process. In order for any canned meat to be considered safe to eat it must be cooled to a certain temperature within two hours, or the batch cannot be used. The blast freezer makes the job much easier, faster and more sure than ice-bath methods. After that, the jars go into a cooler to get down to 4°C within five hours.

Shaver seemed proud to show off his facility and is really happy to get back to making and selling his product, which was carried in 40 stores locally, most of which are pleased to sell them again, as soon as his production is sufficient.

"Cardinal Meats donated the wieners for my first new batch. That's a great help," he said. "They wanted my product for their customers."

He stressed that the recipe hasn't changed, just the process is a little quicker and he has the needed certification. "We're all licensed now," he said with a grin. "I already had a good setup, but I went and bought more tables and other stuff, and all

Continued on page 31




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EOAN inaugurates newest local market

L'ORIGINAL – ON WED., OCT. 4, THE EASTERN ONTARIO AGRI-FOOD NETWORK OFFICIALLY OPENED ITS MARCHÉ LE LOCAL MARKET, A NEW COFFEE SHOP IN L'ORIGINAL, AS PART OF ITS SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The concept of bringing together local products under one locally branded counter and ensuring product traceability has appealed to consumers eager to buy fresh locally produced food since EOAN opened four Local Food Counters in grocery stores throughout the region. This newest venture is a local shop with the addition of coffee-deli, and EOAN stated it was well received by the small community of L'Original.

Le Marché Le Local Market is a coffee shop which promotes agri-food products from producers across the Eastern Ontario region to concretely increase their sales. The new shop offers a warm and relaxed atmosphere with light and healthy meals, good coffee and delicious groceries. It has 16 producers and more than 60 products on the shelves. EOAN, which has more than 110 members, said the popularity of these counters confirms the locavore movement is in full swing.

The Eastern Ontario Agri-Food Network raises awareness about the quality and the variety of local products available within Prescott and Russell. Its team was responsible for opening the first Local Products Counter in Canada, just over two years ago. "By doing so, they bring to the forefront the

hard work of our local farmers and our agricultural sector," said Gary Barton, UCPR Warden and Champlain Township Mayor, at the ribbon cutting. "We hear all the time that consumers are interested in 'buying local,' whether it be farmers' markets or grocery stores. Now, people who live or work in L'Original, have direct access to these products thanks to our new café - with its perfect name, Marché Le Local Market! Thank you for raising the bar when it comes to promoting local food – and congratulations on celebrating another milestone today, with your sixth annual general meeting."

The Eastern Ontario Agri-Food Network is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting local foods, helping the development of the Agri-food sector in Eastern Ontario and fostering dialogue between its members and partners.



More local products

Geneviève Bougie, Mélissa Woodbury, Gary Barton, Carole Lavigne, and Réjean Ouimet cut the ribbon at the newest EOAN local products venue, at the Marché Le Local Market in L'Original on Oct. 4.

Courtesy photo



Thank You

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the overwhelming support shown to our family after the devastating farm fire that destroyed the machine shed, heifer barn and dairy barn on September 8th.

At this time, we would like to say a special thank you to the local farmers, our family and friends who helped us the day of the fire and the following Monday and Tuesday with the clean up. In addition, thank you to the farms that are generously housing our remaining cattle that have been displaced.

Unfortunately we cannot thank everyone individually as we had an amazing outpouring of support from our family, the community, fellow farmers, city folks, rural communities, parishioner's of St. Monica's, neighbouring associations, local schools our children attended and people from across the province. Thank you for the phone calls, cards, letters, visits, prayers, food, gifts and financial support given to us. We would also like to thank the organizers of the Gofundme page and the organizers of the Blackrapids Farmfest event.

We are forever grateful for the kind generosity shown to us by so many people. Thank you so very much.

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Member of Parliament for Guelph Lloyd Longfield, on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Lawrence MacAulay, announced on Oct. 13, an investment of up to \$1.31-million to the Canadian Animal Health Coalition (CAHC) to help ensure the safe transportation of livestock, develop emergency management tools for the livestock industry and improve animal care assessments.

The investment will be divided between four projects including:

- Up to \$223,929 to develop a new livestock transport on-line certification program that will simplify, standardize and provide an opportunity for truckers, shippers and receivers to more easily access the training necessary to improve handling practices;
- Up to \$160,713 to update the Transportation Codes of Practice for the care and handling of farm animals during transport;
- Up to \$813,200 to develop an emergency management plan for the Canadian livestock industry to help mitigate, to respond to, and to recover from major hazard emergencies;
- Up to \$112,180 to revise

the Chicken Farmers of Canada's (CFC) animal care assessment program to meet the new Code of Practice for hatching eggs, breeders, chickens and turkeys. The project will strengthen the poultry industry's capacity to respond to ever-increasing demand by markets to demonstrate effective animal care standards.

"Our Government is proud to support initiatives that help to ensure the welfare of farm animals in Canada. It's vital that Canada keeps its standards up to date in order to keep pace with new and emerging consumer and market demands, both domestically and globally," said Longfield, in the release.

"The Canadian Animal Health Coalition appreciates Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's continued support of Canada's farmed animal health and welfare system through project funding to develop Canada's Codes of Practice for the care and handling of farm animals and affiliated animal care assurance programs," added Jennifer MacTavish, Chair of the Canadian Animal Health

Coalition.

Canada is world renowned for high-quality livestock and poultry industries. These two sectors drive Canada's economy, generating over \$15-billion in farm-gate receipts. This investment is being made through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's AgriMarketing Program, which is a five-year, up to \$341-million initiative under the Growing Forward 2 policy framework. The Canadian Animal Health Coalition is a non-profit organization serving Canada's farmed animal industry. The organization is a partnership of cross-sectorial organizations, all recognizing a shared responsibility for an effective animal health system. Budget 2017 set an ambitious goal of growing Canada's agri-food exports to \$75-billion by 2025. Budget 2017 focused on agri-food as one of the top industries in the government's Innovation and Skills Plan, an ambitious effort to make Canada a world leader in innovation, with a focus on expanding growth and creating good, well-paying jobs.



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The rules, regulations and documents to submit your candidacy are available at the administration office of La Coopérative Agricole d'Embrun Ltée at 926 Notre Dame in Embrun, ON.

Please submit the appropriate documents to the Office of the Secretary of La Coopérative Agricole d'Embrun Ltée, Personal and Confidential, P.O. Box 189, 926 Notre Dame, Embrun, ON K0A 1W0.

The application should be received on or before **January 4, 2018 at 4:00 pm.**

Signed in Embrun, Ontario

October 25, 2017

Maurice Godard

Secretary of the Board of Directors

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Krazy Dan's

Continued from page 25

together put \$70,000 into it. I'll never make any money off wieners!"

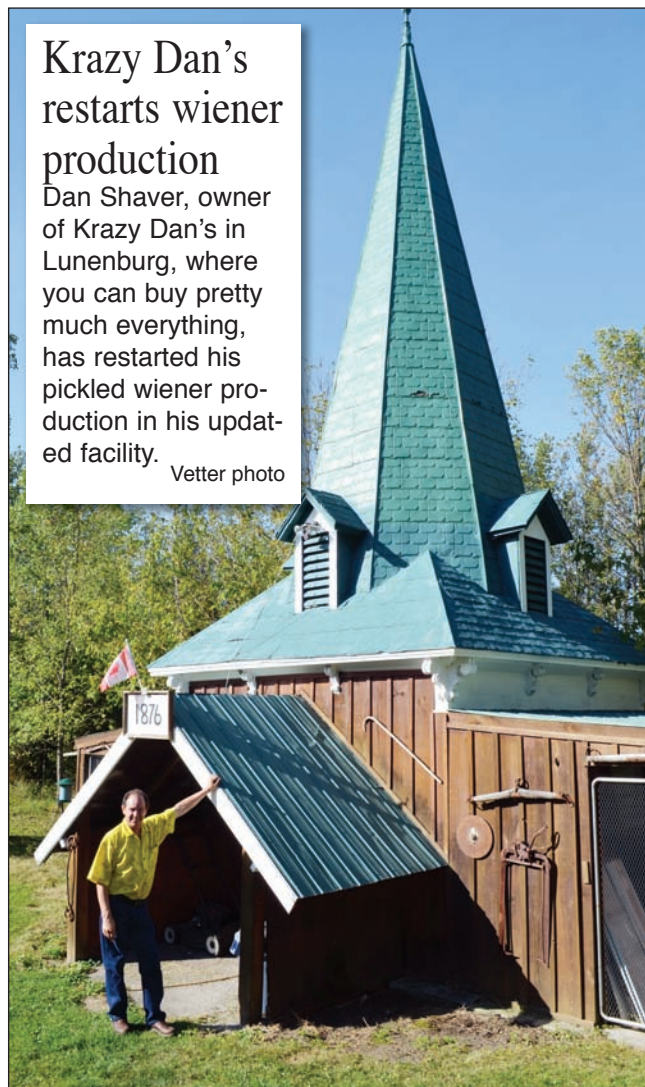
The wieners can be eaten straight out of the jar, but he suggests heating in the microwave for about a minute for two wieners for maximum flavour.

"They're great on hotdog buns, on a barbecue, with Kraft Dinner, beans, whatever you would eat hot-dogs with."

The facility is gleaming, spotless, and brightly lit. The ministry will come and take swab tests every two weeks for the first year, for about four hours at a time, then after the year is up, will come once a month.

"They're doing their job," said Shaver without complaint. He is also certified as a chip wagon operator, which he said is a totally different test. "That's more about temperature, with meat it's more about cleanliness."

He plans to add sausages to his menu soon, as well as pickled eggs and other pickles. Meanwhile the wieners are available at his store at the main intersection in Lunenburg, and will soon be available in numerous locations, including St. Albert Cheese Factory.



Krazy Dan's restarts wiener production
Dan Shaver, owner of Krazy Dan's in Lunenburg, where you can buy pretty much everything, has restarted his pickled wiener production in his updated facility.

Vetter photo

Harvest reminds us of agriculture's strength and opportunities

OFA Commentary

by Debra Pretty-Straathof, Director, Ontario Federation of Agriculture

GUELPH – HARVEST IS A SEASON OF PLENTY. IT'S A TIME WHEN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY IS MOST EVIDENT. FARMERS ARE SPENDING LONG HOURS HARVESTING IN THE FIELDS, AND CONSUMERS ARE ENJOYING A HUGE SELECTION OF LOCALLY GROWN PRODUCTS AT FARMERS' MARKETS AND ON STORE SHELVES.

Harvest is also a reminder that the agri-food sector is an important, vital business for Canada. We're fortunate to have plenty of land to grow crops and raise livestock and plenty of fresh water resources. Harvest reminds us of our responsibility to use these bountiful resources in a productive and sustainable way.

According to the federal government's Barton Report, released earlier this year, our agri-food industry has the potential for huge growth and, with the right investments, could become the second largest exporter of food in the world.

The Barton Report is a comprehensive set of recommendations from the federal government's Advisory Council on Economic Growth. The report identified agriculture as a sector where Canada has the potential for substantial growth and export improvement based on the industry's strengths as a trusted food supply backed by research and access to resources.

Canada's agri-food sector is now the fifth largest agricultural exporter in the world, contributing 6.7 per cent of our nation's GDP and accounting for 2.1 million jobs. Canada's agri-food exports have averaged annual growth of 9.5 per cent over the past five years. The report defines the sector as one of Canada's largest employers and economic engines, and poses that the sector represents a distinctive opportunity for Canada to boost inclusive economic growth.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) brings this message to the provincial government – that Ontario's agri-food sector can and will be a driver of inclusive growth across the province. OFA's vision of economic growth includes distributed development opportunities that will spread wealth across the province. It will be based on the agri-food sector's vast potential but also include other economic development across our communities.

What Ontario needs is an action plan to build on our agri-food strength and to support opportunities in our communities through strategic investment.

OFA continues to remind the Ontario government of all the reasons that investing in agriculture and our communities is an investment that will benefit all Ontarians. The Barton Report and the bounty of our harvest reminds us of Ontario's endowments and strengths as sources of inclusive growth and opportunities for producing prosperity.

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Sprouting new connections for new Agriculture Advisory Council

by Kalynn Sawyer Helmer
AgriNews Staff Writer

LONG SAULT – THE SDG, CORNWALL AND AKWESASNE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL IS A NEW WORKING GROUP OF ALL THINGS FOOD! BOUFFE360 WHICH OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED ON JULY 5. THE COUNCIL INCLUDES REPRESENTATIVES FROM AGRICULTURE, BUSINESS OWNERS, EDUCATION, HEALTHCARE, RECREATION AND TOURISM. ON THURS., OCT. 19, THE GROUP HOSTED THEIR FIRST EVENT FOR SMALL-SCALE PRODUCERS AND AGRI-FOOD BUSINESSES CALLED SPROUTING NEW CONNECTIONS.

Gina Dragone, Food and Agriculture Development Officer and Kat Rendek, Coordinator All Things Food, were two of the main minds behind the event and hope for feedback from the guests. “The goal is to advance food and agriculture and to create better connections and linkages across the entire value chain,” explained Rendek. This event is intended to be the first of many similar series to help producers and business owners in the local agri-food industry.

Along with a panel of local producers and business owners who made up the lived experience panel, guests listened to three featured speakers to gain insight into some of the challenges of scaling up. Speakers included Alex Heim, Food and Traceability Officer with OMAFRA, Clothilde Howieson, Senior public health inspector with the Eastern Ontario Health Unit, and Marcia Woods, CEO of

FreshSpoke.

Heim was first to the podium and his advice on traceability rippled throughout each presentation thereafter. This is because “knowing where your product or animal is from, is important. Traceability creates consumer confidence in food,” he explained. One reason why traceability must be considered seriously is due to the proposed changes to the Health of Animals Regulations which will be published for public comment in *Canada Gazette 1* in the spring of 2018.

“The CFIA is considering changes to the Health of Animals Regulations for livestock traceability. These changes would require all Canadian operators of premises where livestock may be loaded or unloaded from a vehicle to have a valid premises identification number for each site, and to report the number when receiving livestock,” explained the news release.

One exciting option for smaller businesses is the potential for group barcoding on GS1 Barcodes for similar small producers in one area. Heim gave the example of all the berry farmers in a collective area having the option to group together for GS1 Barcodes to reduce costs.

For those interested in testing their knowledge or evaluating their own traceability techniques, there are a number of short online courses that can be found at <http://agandfoodeducation.ca>.

Howieson followed Heim with her tips on food safety and circled back to the importance of traceability due to the high statistic that

every year more than four million Canadian suffer from foodborne illness. More often than not these cases are mild and can be due to a number of factors, including transportation, storage and preparation. A producer’s traceability can save them from massive recalls.

The keynote speaker was Marcia Woods of FreshSpoke, a company explained as, “a new game-changing platform that provides a direct purchase and delivery pipeline between commercial buyers and local food

producers using an innovative shared delivery system. (See more information about FreshSpoke on page 21 of this issue.)

After the speakers concluded their presentations, guests had the opportunity to speak to panelists and other attendees. The final note of the panelists gave an encouraging word to finish up the day, the consensus was to not give up and keep working. “There is a growing demand for local products, so don’t give up,” said Farmboy Store Manager Marc Renaud.



With experience comes wisdom
Panelists from All Things Food’s Sprouting New Connections speaker series gave advice and stories from their experiences to local producers and business owners on Thurs., Oct. 19 in Long Sault. From left, Ron Brennan, Old 4th Hop Yard; James Loucks, The Community Market; Bob Hogg, Homestead Organics; Marc Renaud, Farmboy; Josh Biemond, Upper Canada Creamery; Julie Graham, Quirky Carrot; Shelley Spruit, Against the Grain Farms, and Stephen Burgess, Cedarcroft Honey from the Glenn.

Sawyer Helmer photo

Eastern Canada Cutting Horse

Brian Kelly, ECCHA
Special to AgriNews

RUSSELL – THE ECCHA/NCHA RUSSELL FAIR CUTTING HORSE COMPETITION WAS HELD AT THE RUSSELL FAIR, SEPT. 8 TO 10.

Champions and Reserve Champions for each class at the Fair were:

Open Champion: The Reyl Slim Shady, Owner: Eric Bouchard /Rider: Brian Kelly;

Open Reserve Champion: Scarlet Cat Dancer, Owner: Ron Stelzl/Rider Brian Kelly;

Non Pro Champion: Bobby Cee Lena, Owner/Rider Greg Wilde;

Non Pro Reserve Champion: Head Cat, Owner/Rider John Koop;

25000NHNP Champion: The Reyl Slim Shady, Owner/Rider Eric Bouchard;

25000NHNP Reserve Champion: Bobby Cee Lena, Owner/Rider Greg Wilde;

25000NH Champion:

Missincattin, Owner: Katie Leung/Rider Troy Donaldson;

25000NH Reserve Champion: The Reyl Slim Shady, Owner Eric Bouchard/Rider Brian Kelly;

5000NH Champion: Wild Little Cat, Owner/Rider Shawn Minshall;

5000NH Reserve Champion: Better Moonshine, Owner/Rider Greg Wilde;

35000 Non Pro Champion: Laneys Tiny Dancer, Owner/Rider Martin Latour;

35000 Non Pro Reserve Champion: Pepto Playboy, Owner/Rider Abby Homier;

2000 Limit Rider Champion: Cat Powered, Owner/Rider Dave Hamilton;

2000 Limit Rider Reserve Champion: Pepto Playboy, Rider/Owner Abby Homier;

Ranch Champion: QB Tilly Highbrow CD, Owner/Rider Al Garniss;

Ranch Reserve Champion: Hollywood, Owner/Rider AJDavidson;

2 Handed Ranch Class Champion: Sindora, Owner/Rider Mansel Jamieson;

2 Handed Ranch Class Reserve Champion: Hollywood, Owner/Rider AJ Davidon.

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FreshSpoke

Continued from page 21 ting up the shop with just a little coordination from the producers. “Producers are very busy so there are two things we did right away. If you look at the platform, it is very visual. Our buyers wanted something as close to real as possible so right away we needed great product photography. This is why we have a full-time media specialist on site. For a small fee of about \$1,600, a producer can have professional photography done and then have a shop specialist who will quarterback the whole process of getting the product up online. We encourage the producers to do a video for an extra \$500 and they can get a professional video done which is about three minutes on average. The high-quality documentary style focuses in on the unique story of the producer and product. Buyers get to see the farm and see the passion and then that video provides some marketing collateral for the wholesale buyers who can pull it out to the consumer and provide that food literacy,” explained Woods.

FreshSpoke currently has about 160 producers and 150 buyers. “Primary producers are really

important as they perform the core of what we do. The other aspect is artisan producers. There is definitely a place for them. And a lot of producers are toying with the idea of being processors, so what we are starting to find is this really interesting in-between zone of primary producers becoming self processors. We are seeing opportunities where food service companies, mostly restaurants, are saying, hey you know if you could just take your cabbage and shred it and vacuum pack it that would save me X amount of prep time and be worth this much more to me. That is really exciting for producers,” said Woods.

Woods, who has started three tech companies and is a marketing expert, is obviously passionate about the project. “This is very personal for me – coming from a farm family but also from always being plugged into the local food movement and also very staunchly and environmentally focused. So for me I was getting concerned about how fragile our food system is becoming and it just drove me bananas that, here I am in the heart of apple country and I’m being faced with Washington apples in my grocery store. That didn’t make sense to me. I wanted access to local food so

I am making a concerted effort to go to the farmers’ markets but knowing full well others can’t or that sometimes the farmers’ markets don’t have everything I’m looking for. Our whole team, we all come at this at some vantage point within the food system so it is very personal. I think we all

have to do our part,” she explained.

The company understands that local food prices are always going to be higher than imports, but Woods and her team hope to add food education to the to-do list. “We all have a responsibility to inform people about their food. It is what con-

nects communities. But right now we have a very scary dependency on imports,” said Woods.

She sees hope in the future though. “There are 65 per cent of Canadians who say they will spend more [money for local products] and I don’t see that changing,” she said. While Woods does not

aim to move into the direct producer to consumer market, she hopes to give producers a platform to market themselves to local wholesale organizations and start on the path to more local food in Canadian diets.

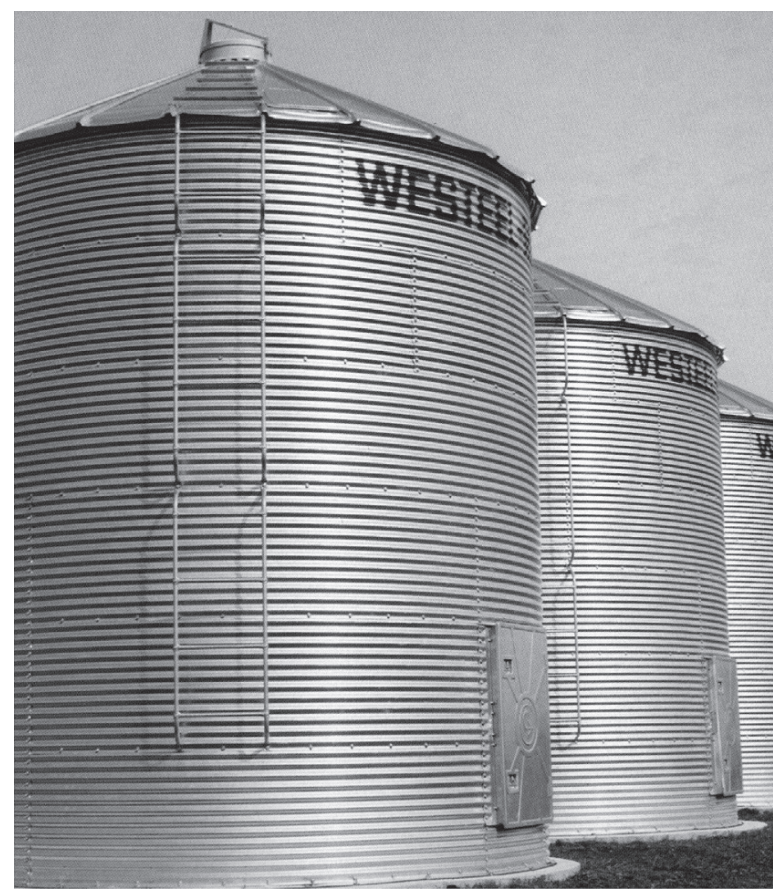
More information can be found at www.freshspoke.com.

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Metcalfe Fair welcomed big crowds

by Candice Vetter
AgriNews Staff

METCALFE — ORGANIZERS OF THE 161ST METCALFE FAIR WERE HAPPY TO REPORT THIS YEAR'S EDITION OF THE FAIR, ONE OF THE BIGGEST AND OLDEST IN ONTARIO, HELD SEPT. 28 TO OCT. 1, WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL, INCLUDING PERFECT EARLY AUTUMN WEATHER.

The fair included educational displays; family entertainment; 4-H sheep, horse and cattle shows; culinary, handcraft and horticultural entries; and musical entertain-

ment. There were also heavy horse competitions, both driving and pulling; Western games, Big Time Pro Wrestling; fiddling and step dancing competitions; demolition derby; fashion show; baby show; midway; and an amazing exhibition of classic cars, which filled the southwest quadrant of the fairgrounds in a show-and-shine spectacular. Tractor pulls for farm tractors, antique tractors and lawn tractors was watched by a big audience, and antique machines were on full display all weekend.

Area 4-H clubs held their regional

finals, in this the final fair of the season, of cattle, horses, sheep, dairy, and numerous entries in the exhibition hall, which also showed off one of the best collections of

exhibits seen at a fair this year. Of course the special focus of this year's edition was Canada 150 and the junior exhibits reflected the enthusiasm the theme created.

Carleton Russel County Holstein results

METCALFE – THE CARLETON RUSSELL

COUNTY HELD THE 2017 HOLSTEIN SHOW AT THE METCALFE FAIR WITH JUDGE STEVE FRASER. THE FIRST THREE WINNERS IN EACH CATEGORY INCLUDED:

Class 19 Holsteins Sect. 1 Baby June Calf: 1st Riverdown Atwood Jiggarrific, Riverdown Holsteins; 2nd Hendercroft Doorman Bazinga, Herbert Henderson; 3rd Sandy Crest Back Packer, Sandy Crest Holsteins.

Class 19 Holsteins Sect. 2 Junior Calf: 1st Velthuis W Doorman

Burberry, Velthuis Farms Ltd.; 2nd Delcreek Poppy, Peter Rylaarsdam; 3rd Carleton H2O, Glenn Dean.

Class 19 Holsteins Sect. 3 Intermediate Calf: 1st Burmania Doorman Janika, Velthuis Farms Ltd.; 2nd Velthuis Atwood Demi, Velthuis Farms Ltd.; 3rd Delcreek How Bow Dahh, Peter Rylaarsdam.

Class 19 Holsteins Sect. 4 Senior Calf: 1st Hendercroft Solomon Splenda, Herbert Henderson; 2nd Riverdown Doorman Annika, Riverdown Holsteins; 3rd Bartonleigh GD Albany, Herbert

Henderson.

Class 19 Holsteins Sect. 5 Summer Yearling: 1st Vertdor Jacoby Altitude, Velthuis Farms Ltd.; 2nd Delcreek Yellow Jello, Peter Rylaarsdam; 3rd Templeview High Octane Hendrix, Templeview Holsteins (1st 4H - Natalie Templeton).

Class 19 Holsteins Sect. 6 Junior Yearling: 1st Harmony View Elisha, Breeze Hill Holsteins, Harmony View Farms, Riverdown Holsteins (1st 4H - Justin Velthuis); 2nd Riverdown Atwood Jiggalu, Riverdown Holsteins (2nd 4H -

Continued on page 35



Celebrating Canada 150

Cheryl Bunda of Metcalfe proudly displays her quilt contribution to Canada's 150th anniversary at a recent quilt demonstration at Edwards. The quilt won Grand Champion in a specific category for quilts in the Home craft competitions at the Metcalfe Fair.

Carruthers photo




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Carleton Russell Holstein results

Continued from page 34

Cassidy Reaney); 3rd Delcreek Record Year, Peter Rylaarsdam.

Holsteins 4-H Champion Calf: Harmony View Elisha, Justin Velthuis. Holsteins 4-H Reserve Champion Calf: Carleton Hellraiser, Sarah Dean. Holsteins 4-H Honourable Mention Champion Calf: Templeview High Octane Hendrix, Natalie Templeton.

Class 19 Holsteins Sect. 7 Intermediate Yearling: 1st Hendercroft Gold Chip Goocy, Herbert Henderson; 2nd Riverdown Doorman Adelight, Riverdown Holsteins; 3rd Sandy Crest Grape Town, Sandy Crest Holsteins.

Holsteins Junior Champion: Burmania Doorman Janika, Velthuis Farms Ltd., Osgoode. Holsteins Reserve Junior Champion: Vertdor Jacoby Altitude, Velthuis Farms Ltd., Osgoode. Holsteins Honourable Mention Junior Champion: Hendercroft Gold Chip Goocy, Herbert Henderson, Ashton.

Class 19 Holsteins Sect. JH Junior Herd: 1st Herbert Henderson; 2nd Velthuis Farms Ltd.; 3rd Peter Rylaarsdam.

Class 19 Holsteins Sect. 9 Junior Two Year Old: 1st Hendercroft Atwood Harmony, Herbert Henderson; 2nd Riverdown Commander Angora, Riverdown Holsteins; 3rd Hendercroft Doorman Kiara, Herbert Henderson (1st Milking yearling in class).

Class 19 Holsteins Sect. 10 Senior Two Year Old: 1st Quinndale Doorman Smack Talk, Quinndale Holsteins.

Class 19 Holsteins Sect. 11 Junior Three Year Old: 1st Riverdown Atwood Admire, Riverdown Holsteins; 2nd Hendercroft S P Bigbubble, Herbert Henderson; 3rd Sandy Crest Backcountry, Sandy Crest Holsteins.

Class 19 Holsteins Sect. 12 Senior Three Year Old: 1st Delcreek My Cheerleader, Peter Rylaarsdam, 2nd Quinndale Dempsey Jodi Foster, Quinndale Holsteins; 3rd Quinndale Steady Prank Call, Quinndale Holsteins.

Class 19 Holsteins Sect. 13 Four Year Old: 1st Ms. Dana Epic Dot-Et, Breeze Hill Holsteins, Raymond J. Smygwy; 2nd Hendercroft Bradnick Shock, Herbert Henderson; 3rd Quinndale Laugh Out Loud, Quinndale Holsteins.

Class 19 Holsteins Sect. 14 Five Year Old: 1st Hendercroft Fever Bazooka, Herbert Henderson; 2nd Quinndale Lauthority Mandy, Quinndale Holsteins; 3rd Riverdown Atwood Ashes, Riverdown Holsteins.

Class 19 Holsteins Sect. 15 Mature Cow: 1st Hendercroft Outbound Celebrate, Herbert Henderson; 2nd Quinndale Talent Jetski, Quinndale Holsteins; 3rd Quinndale Poinsettia, Quinndale Holsteins.

Holsteins Grand Champion: Hendercroft Fever Bazooka, Herbert Henderson, Ashton.

Holsteins Reserve Grand Champion: Ms. Dana Epic Dot-Et, Breeze Hill Holsteins and Raymond J. Smygwy, Winchester.

Holsteins Honourable Mention Grand Champion: Riverdown Atwood Admire, Riverdown Holsteins, Metcalfe.

Class 19 Section BH Top Breeder's Herd: 1st Herbert Henderson; 2nd Riverdown Holsteins; 3rd Peter Rylaarsdam.

Holsteins Premier Exhibitor Award: Quinndale Holsteins, Greely; Reserve: Herbert Henderson, Ashton.

Holstein Premier Breeder Award: Quinndale Holsteins (Quinndale), Greely; Reserve: Herbert Henderson (Hendercroft), Ashton



Proud to be Canadian

Canada 150 was this year's theme at the Metcalfe Fair which ran from Sept. 28 to Oct. 1 and exhibitors responded enthusiastically. Shown here is the spectacular quilt made by Aimee VanLoon of Stormont County 4-H, which won best in its class, Grand Champion, and 4-H Regional Finals Grand Champion.

Vetter photo

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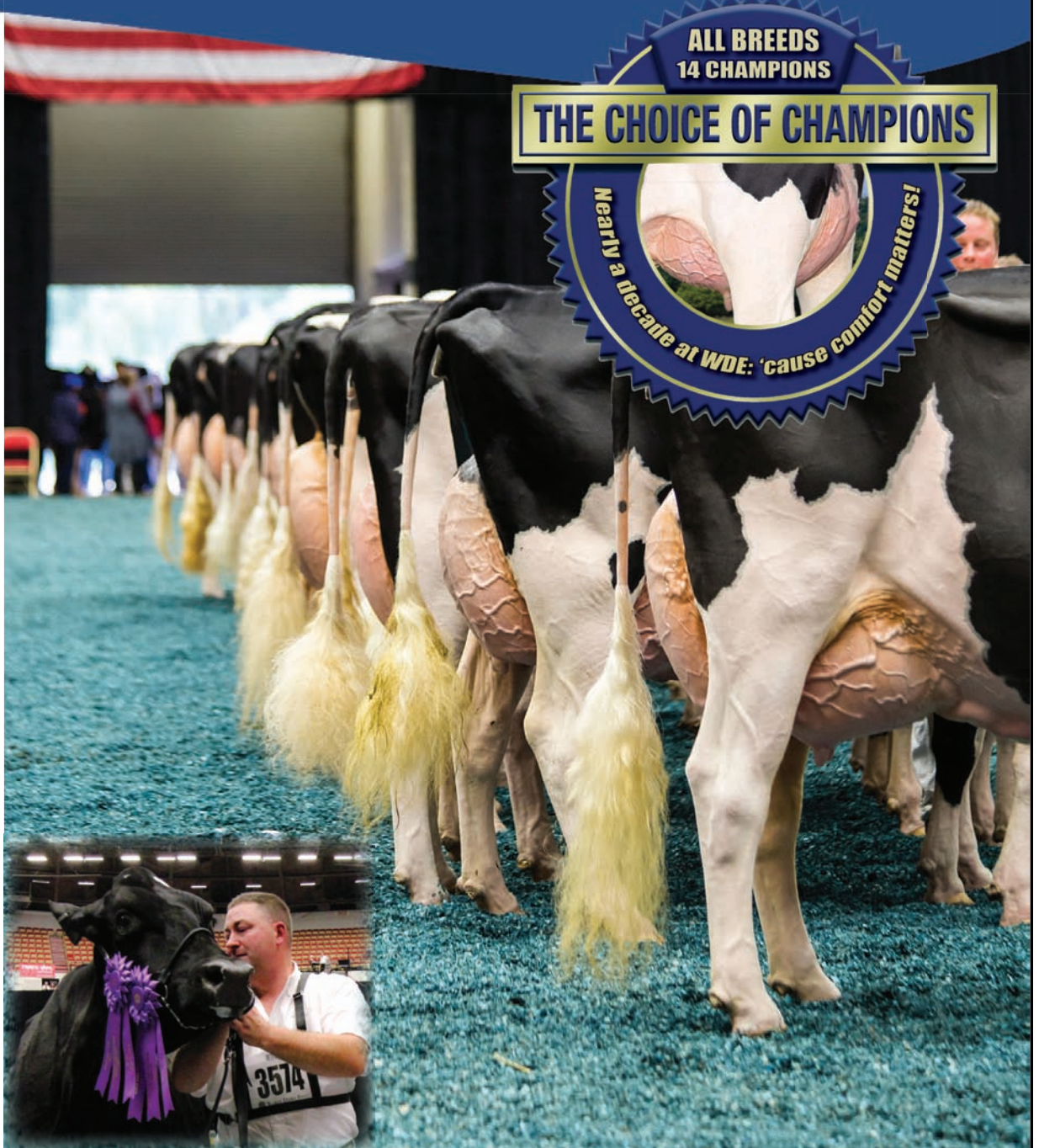
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(Above) World Dairy Expo Supreme Champion Intnat'l Holstein Grand Champion: Rosiers Blexy Goldwyn-ET, Budjon, Vail, Abbot, Van Exel, Woodmansee of Lomira, Wis.
 (Below) Intnat'l Red & White Grand Champion Meadow Green Abso Fanny-RED, Triple-T, T&L Cattle, Berry, Frank & Diane and Frank & Carol Borba, North Lewisburg, Ohio.



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