Since 1977
FARM VIEW
A newspaper with something for everyone | March 2024 | Volume 47 #03

Inside this issue:

SCFA celebrates Ag Day by giving donations

Sweet success of the First Tapping at Backwoods Maple Syrup farm

Coverage of the Ontario Agricultural Conference and GBFW

Updates from the Loaves and Fishes growing project and the North Simcoe GRAIN project



AGcalendar

Farm View's Ag Calendar is free to non-profit agricultural groups, up to a maximum of 40 words. All others are invoiced at $25 per month. Please note the format of the listings below and submit your item by mail or email, in a similar fashion. Submission deadline is the 14th of the month for the following month's issue.

March 5th to 7th: Profitable Pastures Webinar

The Ontario Forage Council is pleased to announce the 2024 Profitable Pastures webinar series! There will be three live webinars airing daily from 8 pm - 9 pm EST from March 5-7, 2024. There is no cost to register and CEUs will be available for Certified Crop Advisors. More details in the article on page 21.

March 7th & 8th: North Simcoe SCIA Seed & Feed Show

North Simcoe Soil & Crop Improvement Association presents the 69th annual Seed & Feed Show taking place at the Elmvale Community Hall. Place entries Thursday afternoon. Program, awards Friday 1 pm. Special invitation to South Simcoe farmers. Memberships $40. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

March 14th: News and Advertising Deadline

The advertising and news deadline for the **April** issue of Farm View is **Thursday, March 14th.**

March 19th: Farmers' Bridge Free Webinar

Farmers' Bridge hosts the webinar Shift from Family to Business Conversations. Taking place Tuesday, March 19th. Full details can be found in the article on page 7.

March 19th: Ag Health & Safety Training Course

York Region Federation of Agriculture and Elite Agri Solutions present the Agriculture Health & Safety Compliance Training Course taking place in East Gwillimbury on **Tuesday, March 19th**. Full details in the ad on page 6.

March 22nd: AgKnowledge Forum

Nottawasaga Futures presents the annual Agknowledge Forum taking place on Friday, March 22nd at The Gibson Centre in Alliston. Full details and registration information can be found on page 14.

March 23rd & 24th: Standard First Aid & CPR Course

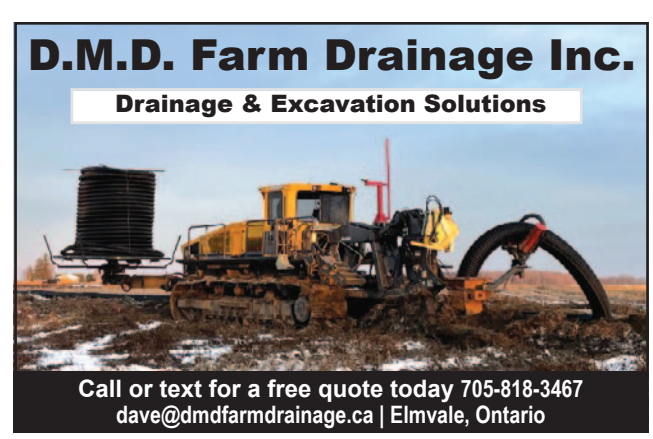
Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture present a Standard First Aid & CPR Course. Being held at Action First Aid, 92 Commerce park Drive #5 in Barrie. March 23rd and 24th 8:30am to 4pm. For more details contact Nicole at simcty.fed.agriculture@outlook.com

April 6th: SCFA hosts Keep Kids Safe Workshop

Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture is pleased to once again present the Keep Kids Safe Workshop to be held at Huron Tractor at Cashtown Corners on Saturday, April 6th. Full details and registration information can be found on page 11.

A Shout-Out to Citizen-Scientists!

Learn About Soil Health while also helping record Soil Dynamics at the Utopia Farmland! A free workshop will be held as soon as the farmland soil is near-ready for Spring planting. Look for more details in the next issue of Farm View.



The 6 C's of Soil Health

Tackling Climate Change with Soil Management

By the Compost Council of Canada

How soils are managed is key to stabilizing and calming our climate. But that's not the whole story. When you pay attention to the health of your soil, you will realize a rich harvest of other benefits: increased productivity, improved water quality, drought resistance, more nutritious crops, and a healthier bottom line. Below are six basic principles: the 6Cs of Soil Health. When applied correctly and consistently, the 6Cs will always result in healthy, productive soils.

Practice 1 - Control compaction Downward pressure from equipment tires is a major source of compaction. Remedies include lower tire pressure, paying attention to timing avoiding wet conditions), and - most effective of all - practicing "controlled traffic", i.e., using GPS to drive only on dedicated traffic strips, called "tramlines". More generally, practicing the other 5Cs will improve soil structure and make soils less prone to compaction.

Practice 2 - Cultivate carefully Soils are living ecosystems, teeming with a myriad of beneficial creatures that support plant growth and health. Heavy tillage destroys the delicate underground networks that support these beneficials, whereas conservation tillage (e.g., strip till, no till) preserves them. With their environment protected, the organisms can expend energy helping your crop, rather than rebuilding their damaged networks.

Practice 3 - Continuous living plants Plants feed soils, just as soils feed plants. Living roots secrete carbon-rich materials into the soil, attracting and feeding beneficial soil organisms. The more numerous and diverse these creatures are, the healthier the soil and the happier the plants. A soil with no live roots is a hungry soil.

Practice 4 - Cover the soil constantly Our changing climate can be harsh and unpredictable. You never want bare soil, exposed to the elements. Too much or too little water, extreme heat or cold, and high winds can cause a lot of harm. Armour the soil with crop residues and/or living plants. This will help keep the soil cooler in summer, warmer in winter, and at a good moisture level throughout the seasons.

Practice 5 - Crop and animal diversity Healthy soils are complex ecosystems, teeming with different forms of life, most of which have beneficial roles to play. Practicing diversity above ground (e.g., crop rotations, intercropping, integrating animals into cropping systems) will enhance your soil's diversity and boost resilience and productivity.

Practice 6 - Compost and other soil improvers Compost feeds beneficial soil organisms and adds to their diversity. In turn, these organisms build soil structure, cycle important nutrients, fight off diseases, and create a thriving ecosystem. Other soil improvers, each with their own specific benefits, include biosolids, digestate, and biochar.

Canadian Farmers: Stewards for Healthy Soils

Thanks to support from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, we've been able to meet with farmers from across Canada to learn how they are incorporating the 6 Cs in their farm practices. Our video stories are starting to be shared on social media with our YouTube channel being their "home". Please check them out and share them with your network to spread the word. We'll be sharing more of these on an ongoing basis and appreciate your support.

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Ontario Agricultural Conference

Farm safety on the road

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation has made a lot of exemptions for farmers in regulations always with safety kept as first priority was the basic message from the Ontario Agricultural Conference Session 47: Farm Safety on the Road with Matthew Mitchell and Yvette Campeau, both from the Ministry of Transportation (MTO).

Yvette Campeau has a long history working with the MTO and has seen a lot. She said that lamps are mandatory for safety on the road for slow moving vehicles (SMV). She said that any SMV on the road that does not have electric lighting systems must have two white or amber lamps at the front and two red lamps at the rear and amber light on top, minimum. All lamps must be visible from 150 metres and must be on from one half hour before sunset to one half hour after sunrise. Campeau shared a true experience from not being visible to urban traffic. On a highway, a huge slow moving vehicle with huge dual wheels was moving at night along a road. "The driver of the passenger vehicle saw the back red lamps, the amber light on top and saw the open road ahead. At 80 km/h the vehicle smashed into the SMV's dual wheels as they were not visible," she said. The accident did not end well for the driver in the passenger vehicle.

No slow moving vehicle is allowed to exceed 40 km/h regardless if it can. Further, no slow moving vehicle can be moved without showing at its rearmost location, a slow moving sign that is in good repair. These two points were repeated several times.

There are many exemptions for farm plated vehicles however, those exemptions are usually gone when the weight of the vehicle is a combined total of 4,500 kilograms, she explained. She said that the "commercial vehicles operator regulations" (CVOR) comes into play over 4,500 kilograms, even with farm plates. CVOR includes having an annual inspection of the truck and a logbook being used to record trips taken for "all trips over 160 km" or less if it includes an overnight stay. Rules are that farmers can drive up to 160 km in one day without having to use either a paper or electronic logbook.

The Hours of Service regulation is exempted for farm use however, this exemption is strictly for "use on your own farm only." When other farms are involved for commercial use then this exemption becomes invalid.

Classes of driver's licenses also have a farm exemption in some cases, Miller explained. He said that for farm plated trucks that are over 11,000 kilograms normally need a class "D" license however, for farmers, they can operate a Class D with a Class G license, if conditions are met. The first condition is that one must own or lease a farm or work for a farm operator. The truck must be used for personal transportation or the transportation of farm products, supplies or equipment without compensation to and from the farm. The truck must be farm plated. Any truck with air brakes needs a driver that has an air brake endorsement on their license.

Mitchell strongly suggested that the daily vehicle inspection exemption for farm vehicles not be taken. A daily vehicle inspection involves checking a list to find any possible issues with the vehicle. Without the exemption, each inspection must be recorded and any defects found and categorized within a schedule that can be obtained from the MTO. He explained. "A left front signal is a minor defect and should be fixed in 24 hours but the vehicle is driveable. A left rear signal is a major and it cannot be driven until it is fixed," for example. He said while the vehicle inspections can be exempted, he says that "for the little time it takes to inspect a vehicle to be sure it is safe, it is really not worth not doing it adding, "If we (MTO) finds a daily inspection defect on your vehicle, we will not exempt you from that defect. We want to keep you safe," he said.

Ad/News DEADLINE for the April Farm View is March 14th.

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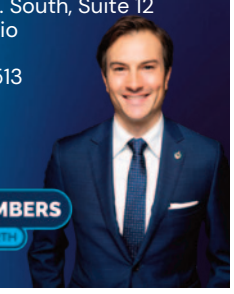

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Agriculture - Tractors - John Deere Utility Tractors

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From the Editor



Roslyn Watkins
Publisher/Editor
Farm View Newspaper
farmview@on.aibn.com

Hello everybody! I'm feeling pretty excited about this issue. It could be because it is the March issue, which means it is almost springtime! Or it could be because this issue is full of terrific content and a great variety of information. Either way, here we are!

To begin with, my husband recently asked me "What would you do, if you could anything for one day?" After clarifying that money wasn't a concern I answered I'd like to fly to a warm beach for the day. I asked Shawn in return and he answered with "You know when you're walking in the forest on the trails and you step into that ray of sunshine? I would stay in that moment for a day." His answer was interesting to me because I had just received the Soul Sisters article and that is exactly what Rev. Erin wrote about. Clearly the peace, warmth and joy in that moment is desired by many of us. After you read the Soul Sisters column take a look at page 10 for activities to get you outside and into that sunshine. I know some of the activities are pretty popular, but a little reminder of what Ontario has to offer us never hurts.

I really enjoyed receiving and reading the article submissions and updates from the North Simcoe GRAIN project and Loaves and Fishes Growing Project. Both groups are doing remarkable volunteer work to help feed our population across the world. If you are looking for a new and satisfying way to volunteer your time, contact information is included in both their articles.

In this issue Cathy Hamill-Hill gives us great coverage of the Ontario Ag Conference and Grey Bruce Farmers' Week. These are two terrific and incredibly informative events that happen each January. If you haven't participated before, keep it in mind for January 2025.

I am fortunate (and very grateful) that almost every other month I have a business contact me inquiring about advertising. Some of these businesses chose to go ahead and I have made it a point to introduce them in my editorial each month. I have decided to instead list the new advertisers in this 'New Advertisers Corner'. I know I say it often and I hope my words don't lose their authenticity, but dear readers, you are the reason Farm View advertisers are succesful and in return you make this newspaper succesful. From me to you, thank you.

Take care of yourselves and one another,
Roslyn Watkins

Village Impact making a difference

Story and photo by Roslyn Watkins

Recently Shawn and I had the privilege to enjoy a great night out for a great cause. Erin Barnard of Innisfil Montessori Academy and her amazing team organized their 2nd annual Building Bright Futures Gala night. This event is to raise awareness and funds to build classrooms in Kenya, Africa. Guest speakers were Amy and Stu McLaren, co-founders of the not for profit Village Impact. Amy and Stu shared their story with the crowd; how they became inspired after watching one of Opera's big give away shows prior to Christmas in 2006. Once the show was over, they knew they wanted to make a difference and started brainstorming what they could do. It didn't take long to come up with a plan to raise funds and educational supplies to deliver to a small community in Africa two weeks later. Since then, Village Impact has built 15 schools in Africa, mostly focusing in rural Kenya. During their talk Amy said "an education is something that can't be taken away."

For more information on Village Impact please visit https://villageimpact.com.



From left to right, Stu McLaren, Amy Dow McLaren, Erin Barnard and Steve Smith at the 2nd annual Building Bright Futures Gala night.

New Advertisers Corner

Introducing three new Farm View advertisers this month:

Weaver Exterior Remodeling, Essa Painting and Lewis Motor Sales Inc.

Keep an eye out for their ads and give them a call or visit!

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SOBEY'S in Angus, Bradford and Alcona
STEER ENTERPRISES
STEWART'S EQUIPMENT in Cookstown and Stayner
THE UPS STORE in the Barrie Cedar Pointe plaza

The Farm View is delivered to these business between the 25th and 29th of each month and copies are available while supplies last. If you would like the Farm View mailed directly to your home, one year subscriptions can be purchased for $49.00. Contact Roslyn at 705-722-0138, by mail 8 Luella Blvd Minesing, ON L9X 0W7 or email farmview@on.aibn.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Farm View invites letters to the editor. They should be fewer than 300 words and deal with a single topic affecting farmers. All letters must be signed, including your full name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to editing for brevity. Please no phone calls.

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47th Anniversary FARM VIEW



In memory of Jill Beischer

Farm View attempts to present a forum for varying points of view from the agricultural community. Editorial opinions are freely expressed by individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the executives or directors of the federations unless specifically noted.

"Burn down your cities and leave our farms, and your cities will spring up again as if by magic, but destroy our farms and the grass will grow in the streets."
W.J. Bryan

OFA Members Service Representative:
Leah Emms 1-866-660-5511 email: leah.emms@ofa.on.ca
Lisa Hern 1-877-343-5444 email: lisa.hern@ofa.on.ca

OFA Zone Director for Peel, Simcoe and York:
Paul Maurice: 705-427-3126 email: paul.maurice@ofa.on.ca

OFA Zone Director for Dufferin County:
Mark Reusser: email: mark.reusser@ofa.on.ca

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SCFA Phone:	705-726-9300 ext 1224	
	simcty.fed.agriculture@outlook.com	

2023-2024 Executive – York Region

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Contact YRFA:	york@ofa.on.ca	

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Important resources when approached by sales people and inspectors



By Leah Emms
OFA Member Services Rep.
1-866-660-5511
Leah.Emms@ofa.on.ca

This month I would like to bring to readers attention a couple of issues that have been reported to me.

Energy retailers are travelling the concession roads in Central Ontario looking for farm customers. There are 14 licensed energy retailers in Ontario. Here are a few important things to remember when approached by a salesperson. These retailers must be licensed by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB). The salesperson should provide their name, and the company's name. They also should display an identification badge and provide you a business card. They should clearly state the price to be paid under the terms of the contract and not apply pressure to you to purchase. In the case that was reported to me, the salesperson was claiming that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture endorsed them. **OFA does not endorse** one energy retailer over another. Please report these claims to us at OFA. If you do decide to sign a contract, you do have a ten day cooling off period and you can cancel without any penalty. OFA has an excellent factsheet available that provides more details and links to additional information on the Ontario Energy Board's website. It might be worthwhile to do some research and try out the OEB energy calculator to compare your costs. Important to understand that the energy retailer may offer a price of 9 cents/kwh compared to what you are paying to your current provider. **But their price may not include the global adjustment cost of 6 cents which is included in your current provider's price.**

https://ofa.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Energy-Retailers-November-2017_rev.February_2023.pdf

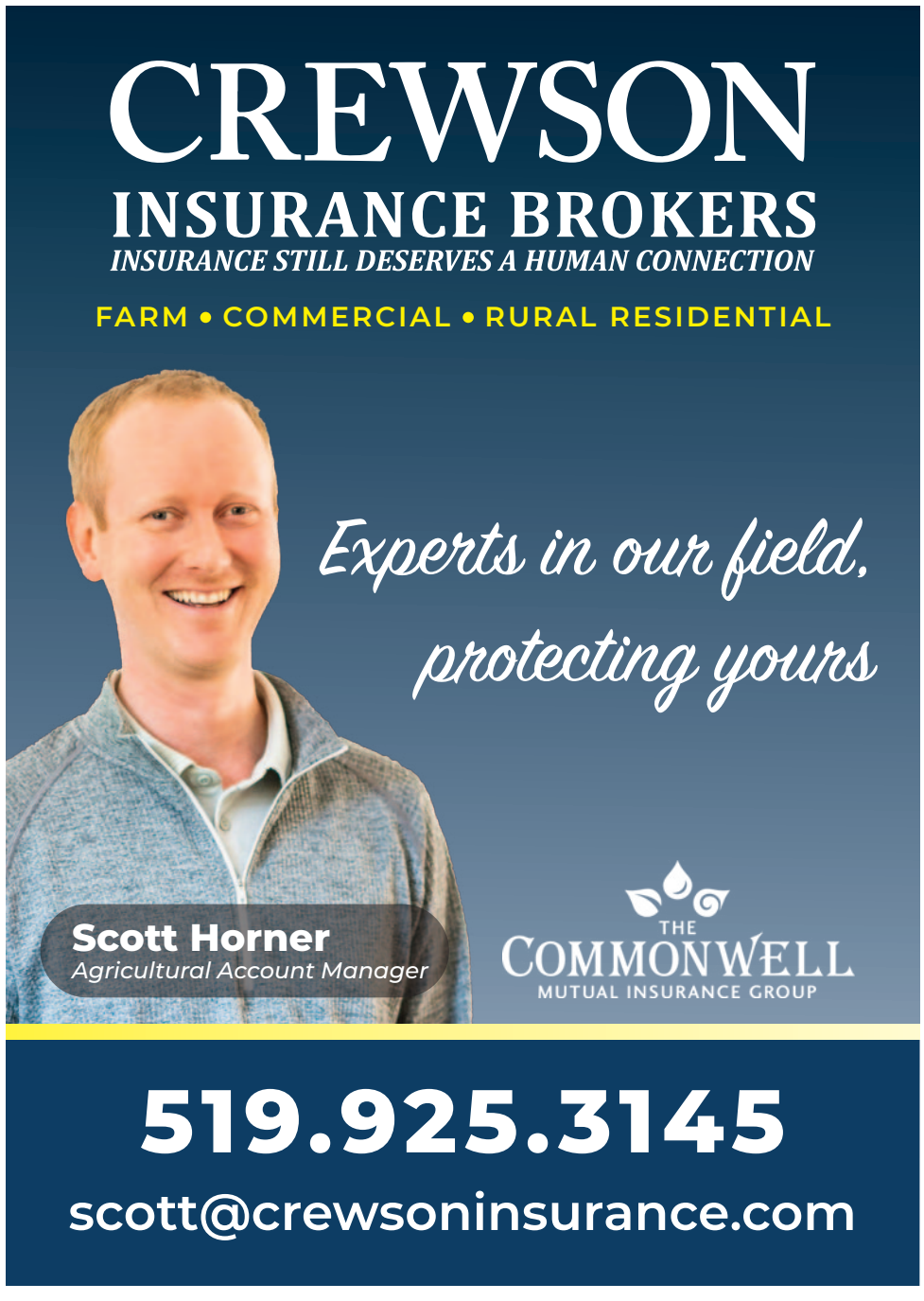
The second issue is for farmers that have employees. We have received reports from members that inspections by the Ministry of Labour are occurring. There are several pieces of legislation that apply to you if have employees. The Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, The Occupational Health and Safety Act, and The Employment Standards Act. The inspectors are working under either the Employment Standards Branch which deals with employment documentation and visits are scheduled. Or under the Occupational Health & Safety Branch which deals with day to day safety processes and visits will likely be unannounced. Employers are required to have available a copy of the Occupation Health & Safety Act, prepare a Workplace Violence & Harassment Policy, as well as ensure that employees have completed Occupational Health & Safety Awareness Training. As an employer you are obligated to train your employees. Health & Safety training materials are available free of charge from the Ministry of Labour. Even if you only employ part-time workers for a few weeks, you could be visited by an inspector. It is important to know that these inspectors do have the "power of entry." OFA has created a factsheet that provides information on the three provincial acts that employers must comply with, along with additional links and resources to assist our members who are employers. Regulatory Compliance Checklist for Employing Farm Workers - Ontario Federation of Agriculture.

Another excellent resource that provides information and training specifically for the agricultural sector is Workplace Safety and Prevention Services (WSPS) website. https://www.wsps.ca/how-we-help/agriculture-safety-centre. WSPS has consultants that can assist you as you begin to develop and document health & safety procedures for your farm employees.

As spring is officially arriving on March 19th this might be a good time to review your farm's health & safety procedures before your busy planting season.







York Region Federation of Agriculture and Elite Agri Solutions present:

Agriculture Health and Safety Compliance Training Course

WHAT: This Annual Safety Compliance Training course will include a basic overview of working safely and remaining aware of common hazards when working in agriculture including Health and Safety awareness, WHMIS 2015, AODA, Workplace Violence and Harassment which are required annually for every worker on the payroll.

WHEN: Tuesday, March 19th 10 am to 3 pm

WHERE: East Gwillimbury

WHO: Farmers, Farm Employees, Farm Family Members

COURSE INSTRUCTOR: Elite Agri Solutions

COURSE COST: $80 per person (The hall, light refreshments, and lunch will be provided compliments of YRFA and OFA)

REGISTER: Eventbrite link AgricultureHealthandSafetyComplianceTraining.eventbrite.ca or by calling (905) 888-1235

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New Innovative, Farmers' Bridge, helps Farmers with Succession

The current statistics are foreboding: Over 40% of Canadian farms will change hands before 2033 and 2/3 of farms do not have plans on how to make this happen. Farmers' Bridge helps farms with this transition between generations, more efficiently and professionally, with a people-centric approach.

"Succession is the greatest labour, leadership and ownership challenge rural Canada has ever faced. We built Farmers' Bridge, so the process is easier and less painful for everyone involved," says Maggie Van Camp, a 7th generation farmer, Loft32's director of Strategic Change and founder of the company's newest service, Farmers' Bridge. "If done well, this massive generational shift is an opportunity for the future of Canadian agriculture."

Farmers' Bridge was built to provide Canadian farmers what they need to navigate this change as efficiently as possible and for their future success. At its core, transition planning requires communication and decision-making skills, farm-smart resources and people, and motivation to get the planning done. "Change is difficult for everyone, and farm transition is particularly loaded with emotion, history and expectations," says Van Camp. "A people-first approach helps make change easier and more effective."

Farmers' Bridge (Farmers' Bridge - Loft32) uses on-line training, assessments, and connections so farmers have clarity about what they need, and people they can trust to help them with the process.

Farmers' Bridge on-demand video training is a convenient way for farmers and their families to learn. Currently, two courses are available on the learning platform, https://train.utensil.ca/courses/transition-foundations with plans for more. Transition Foundations is a series of 3-5 minute videos of experts clearly answering common succession questions such as "What is Canada's farm rollover rule" and "What's the difference between conflict and fighting." Another course is Transition Communication, giving farm families practical tools on how to make decisions together, understand conflict and create clarity with aligned goals. "By establishing practical, effective ways to communicate and a basic knowledge, you are creating a bridge to your farm and your family's future," says Van Camp.

One of the most efficient ways to create a transition solution is to use a multidisciplinary team of advisors, bringing in the right people at the right time. Farmers' Bridge helps you source professional advisors, based on your needs. Whether it's conflict mediation, counselling, transition planning, financial planning, coaching, tax or legal advice, Farmers' Bridge has a nation-wide, farm experienced experts who can help.

Additionally, Farmers' Bridge worked with Loft32 to create a team of succession-passionate speakers for events. Farmers' Bridge has speakers to inspire, inform and motivate farm transition planning on request can put together proposals for keynote speakers, panel moderators, and workshop leaders.

To celebrate this launch, Farmers' Bridge is inviting farmers and the media to a free webinar called *Farmers' Bridge: Shift from Family to Business Conversations.*

When: March 19 at 12 noon est

Register: Please do register right away by emailing askus@loft32.ca so we can send you the password and guarantee your space.

What to expect: In a fun and intense 20 minutes, coach and transition facilitator Patti Durand, and Farmers' Bridge founder, Maggie Van Camp, discuss common ways they've seen people derail their family businesses with their words. More importantly, they share habits of highly effective family business communications that farmers can start using immediately.

To get more transition conversations started please see the following free resource:

The Because I love you list, a practical downloadable (French and English) list of things your farm will need to know if the key decision-maker(s) are suddenly not there. Because I Love You List - Loft32 can be found at https://loft32.ca/because-i-love-you-list/





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Grey Bruce Farmers' Week GOAT Day:

Healthy Goat Udders

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

Dr. Rosie Busch led the "Healthy Udders & Milk Quality" session on Goat Day for Grey Bruce Farmers Week. Dr. Busch is a veterinarian with the UC Davis Veterinary Medicine Extension which focuses solely on sheep and goat herd health and production.

Udder problems are often linked to mastitis. Preventing and controlling mastitis is a huge concern for both dairy and meat goat producers. Mastitis infected udders are never high producers.

Dr. Busch explained that keeping the teat clean is a huge preventative of mastitis. Keeping the doe's udder clean from keeping her from soiled bedding and manure is helpful. She said that does need to have a clean, dry place to lie down so they can keep teats healthy. The teat should be cleaned and disinfected at every milking time using teat dip. The "no return cup" meaning that teat tip is used to dip the teat and then discarded versus going back into the teat dip solution to be reused again is a huge help for not spreading out mastitis infection, Dr. Bucsh said.

There are two types of mastitisis, sub-clinical and clinical. Sub-clinical means the milk looks normal but has elevated Somatic Cell Counts (SCC). "Over time sub-clinical will often have a larger gland. Also having a decrease in milk with productions losses like reduced milk yield, reduced curd yield, longer clotting time and reduced kid performances if dam raising kids," Dr. Busch explained. Clinical means showing signs that can include hot, swollen mammary gland with enlarge lymph nodes and abnormal secretions with off colour, consistency and sometimes even chunks in the milk," she added.

Mastitis can also cause a doe to become very sick. "Does can have altered gaits and stomach pains," she said.

Udder health starts with finding the problem fast and reacting to the problem. Dr. Busch suggested that goat producers should take the time to visually examine the udder and the teats on a regular basis. She advised that the skin adjacent to the udder should also be checked and the mammary veins in front of the udder should be palpated. Milk should be inspected and any milk has an unusual consistency and colour should be checked with a "California Mastitis test" (CMT).

The CMT test is having an anionic detergent reacting to the DNA in milk. "A bottle of concentrated detergent is under $20.00 for 1 gallon and it lasts about a year. Check suspects as first step," Dr. Busch advised.

Does that have had mastitis before should be "marked". These does should be strictly watched and tested at first hint of something wrong. Kids should be monitored from these does and there needs to be a plan in place to suddenly "Pull the kids off."

There are systematic illnesses that can cause udder issues. Does that have loss of appetite, unable to stand or are weak, have a fever or a low temperature should be determined by a veterinarian as to what is going on, whether they have contacted systemic illness, clinical masitits or sub-clinical mastitis. Before considering any treatment, Dr. Busch strongly suggested getting a sterile milk sample "and then freeze it because medications can greatly change the DNA of the milk making milk testing inaccurate."

Dr. Busch reported that 85% of mastitis is Colagulase negative Staphylococcus which is a sub-clinical mastitis that responds to early treatment. "Forty percent of healthy does have this bacteria, it is difficult to detect," she said adding that, "the challenge is that even when we treat it, we do not know if it will re-occur. Also, when we repeat treatment we do not know if it's a new infection or if it's the same bacteria already there."

Another form is Mycoplasma Mastitis that causes "granular sediment" that can be seen in the milk. This spreads from kids that ingest milk that has been infected. Dr. Bucsh reported, "Treatment is ineffective and the control is like with CAE, heat treat the colostrums and feed milk replacer for the kids- and use extreme sanitation with any injections". She further suggested having separate quarters, six feet apart, of infected does from non-infected animals.

Another form of mastitis comes from Corynebacterium Pseudotuberculosis, better known as CL. This is the infection that causes contagious abscesses. "Treatment is ineffective. Vaccines are available but they do not eliminate infection, they help reduce the spread," the vet explained.

To keep udders healthy, Dr. Busch suggests that spreading out kiddings over the year is helpful so the farmer can be more watchful and pick up anything unusual fast. She said that barn capacity should have space for a "hospital pen" for a doe that shows signs of udder health issues so she can be treated without it spreading out via milking equipment.

She further suggested that does should be milked on a platform off the ground and the platform should be washed often to maintain good udder health.

Farm View is always excited to be a sponsor of Grey Bruce Farmers' Week (GBFW). It has been a main stay for the agricultural industry in Grey County since 1966. For more information visit www.greybrucefarmersweek.ca

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Soul Sisters Celebrations

Just what my soul needed

If you are regular reader of our column, you know that I often find solace in nature and feel closest to the Creator outside. Last week, as I walked through the woods, feeling the warmth of the sun on my face that had been hidden behind clouds for far too many days, weeks and what seemed like months was a very welcomed blessing. Standing in an opening in the trees I felt the sun begin to warm my cheeks and with squinting eyes, looking towards the rays, I raised my arms out to shoulder height and embraced the gift of sunshine. I was overcome with a profound sense of peace and joy. The sun's rays seemed to infuse me with energy, revitalizing my spirit and awakening a reminder of the divine presence that surrounds us at all times and I said out loud to the trees and the sunshine "Thank you, this is just what my soul needed"

I closed my eyes and allowed myself to be fully present in the moment. In that stillness, I felt a deep resonance within my soul. It was as if the God of my understanding in infinite wisdom, had orchestrated this moment specifically for me, offering a gentle reminder of love and guidance. In the hustle and bustle of daily life, it's easy to lose sight of the deeper currents that flow beneath the surface of our existence. We become caught up in the demands of work, family, and social obligations, forgetting to nurture our inner spiritual selves amidst the chaos.

Moments like these serve as gentle reminders from the universe, urging us to pause, breathe, and to reconnect with the essence of who we truly are. They are invitations to listen to the whispers of our soul, to honor its needs, and to embrace the sacredness of the present moment, a testament to the divine wisdom that resides within each of us. The recognition that "this is just what my soul needed" speaks to the inherent wisdom that resides within each of us that transcends the limitations of the rational mind and speaks directly to the depths of our being. When we allow ourselves to be guided by the whispers of our soul, we create space for spiritual growth and transformation to unfold in our lives. We open ourselves to the possibility of experiencing life in its fullest, most vibrant expression, to discovering a sense of purpose and meaning that transcends the superficial trappings of success and status.

Listening to the whispers of our soul fosters a deeper sense of connection to ourselves, others, the God of our understanding and the world around us. It reminds us that we are not alone on this journey, but interconnected beings bound together by the invisible threads of love and compassion and the divine presence that animates all of creation.

The realization that "this is just what my soul needed" is a testament to the sacredness of our inner guidance. It is a reminder that amidst the chaos and noise of the world, there are moments of stillness and clarity waiting to be discovered. By honoring the needs of our soul and embracing the beauty of the present moment, we open ourselves to the transformative power of the universe, allowing our souls to flourish and thrive in alignment with the sacred rhythms of existence. And in doing so, we deepen our connection to the God of our understanding, recognizing the presence in every aspect of our lives.

I hope you find just what your soul needs

Rev. Erin

In Gratitude, The Soul Sisters
Reverend Erin Wilson and Reverend Kelly Blakely
Soulsisterscelebrations@gmail.com

SOUL SISTERS CELEBRATIONS

Reminders for ladder safety



By Dennis Gannon

Most homes have at least one. Some two and many homes three or more. What are we speaking about? Ladders. Step stools, step ladders and extension ladders. How else can we reach up and perform maintenance tasks or get items? Do you know that falls account for many major injuries suffered at home and unfortunately sometimes fatalities? While we often take getting on a ladder as a mundane task and don't think too much about it, there are few safety measures that we can take to ensure that we are working safely. Pick the appropriate device for the task at hand. Chairs are not ladders and should never be stood on. The design of a chair is for sitting and not standing. Check the area to look for potential hazards. Is the ground level or is there danger overhead such as electrical wires? If you plan to work outdoors, check the weather beforehand. Lightning and strong wind are not your friend. If you are using a stepladder, make sure that it is fully opened and that the locking devices are in place. Check your ladder for defects and damage and don't use it until repaired or replaced. Ladders have different ratings and load limits so use one appropriate for the task. Don't lean or extend your reach while on a ladder. Tipping the ladder can result in it falling and you with it. Move the ladder to avoid placing yourself in danger. Only take small items up or down a ladder. Heavy or bulky objects can throw off your balance and could result in a fall. It is important to maintain a three point contact. That means two feet and one hand or two hands and one foot always in contact with the ladder. Footwear is important when working on a ladder. Leather soles can be slippery so wear slip resistant footwear and never stand higher than the third rung from the top of the ladder. Have someone stabilize and support the ladder while you are standing on it. Physical ability should always be considered when using a ladder. If you feel dizzy, have challenges climbing or don't have good physical strength, have someone else do the work. When using an extension ladder remember the 1 in 4 rule. For every meter up, the base should be 1 meter away from the base.

Following these simple steps should keep you safe if you need to climb to look after a high task at home.

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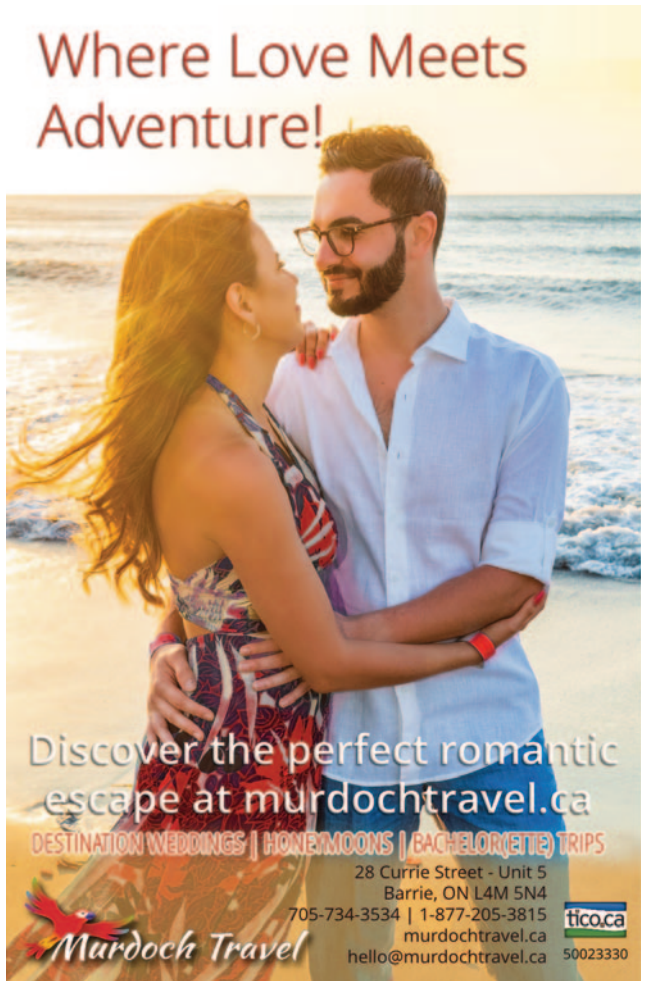

"The flight attendant on a trip from Washington was handing out plastic pilot wings to some kids. As a man stepped forward, she jokingly offered him one, but he declined. Pointing to the Airborne wings on his Army uniform, he explained, "The last time someone gave me wings, I had to jump out of the airplane."

March break activities... You don't have to chose just one!

Story by Roslyn Watkins, photo by Trenton Watkins

We are so fortunate to live in a part of the world where outdoor activities are literally endless. Whether you're a sports enthusiast or a nature enthusiast, there are countless things to do over March break. One of my favourite outdoor activities at any time of the year is hiking. And what I mean when I say hiking is a casual stroll for a reasonable length of time in an un-strenuous way to reach a destination to enjoy a packed picnic and observe the beauty of mother nature. Others might just call that 'going for a walk.' Potato, potahto. Either way, one way our family decides what to do is simply to write each person's desired activity on a piece of paper and put them in a hat to select what we are going to get up to. We use that method for most things, chosing a restaurant, dividing household chores, etc. I've complied a list of fun activities that perhaps someone in your household would enjoy doing, inviting a friend or family member along for company. A favourite memory from my childhood were the picnics my mom would pack for our family when my Dad took us all snowmobiling through the trials of Essa Township. It doesn't take much to create a wonderful memory from a simple event when quality time is spent with family and friends; and it doesn't need to be expensive.



Farm View Publisher, Roslyn Watkins, in the center with son Trenton at left and daughter Lily to the right enjoying a gorgeous afternoon snowboarding in the sunshine.

- Bird watching
- Hiking/walking
- tobogganing
- Ice climbing
- skiing/snowboarding
- skating
- fat biking
- photography in nature
- snowshoeing
- winter camping
- Skijoring
- horseback riding or a sleigh ride
- snowmobiling (now that we have snow!)
- Visit a winter market or festival
- Search out a frozen waterfall
- Enjoy an afternoon outdoor fire in the sunshine

Whatever you do, have fun!

If you are travelling this month by plane here is a short list of travel tips that you may find helpful

If you want to sit together on your flight, book advanced seat selection
Know your baggage allowance
Confirm what is allowed in carry on vs checked luggage
Confirm your travel/health insurance
Have the right documentation in place
Check your flight status
Arrive early, March break is a very busy time at airports
Reserve a security screening slot in advance
Manage Your Expectations
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TRAVEL WORD SEARCH

Have fun making your way around our March word search. Words in the puzzle may be found forward, backward, up or down or any diagonal. Circle the words in the puzzle when you find them and cross them off the list as you go.

BOAT
BUS
CAMPER
CAMPFIRE
CAMPING
COACH
CONCIERGE
DIRECTIONS
DRIVE
EXCURSION
FLIGHT
FLY
HOTEL
JOURNEY
LANDMARK
LOST
LUGGAGE
MAP
MOTORHOME
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PASSPORT
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TRAIPSE
TRANSIT
TRAVERSE
TREK
VOYAGE
WANDER

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O	E	F	T	U	O	N	A	V	I	G	A	T	E	L	E
H	M	K	E	R	T	D	R	I	V	E	V	O	H	A	G
O	O	S	S	N	O	E	X	C	U	R	S	I	O	N	N
T	H	B	I	E	U	R	R	E	R	I	F	P	M	A	C
E	R	T	U	Y	R	M	O	P	T	T	C	E	V	S	I
L	O	R	R	S	L	T	A	I	G	R	B	G	C	N	P
C	T	A	C	A	A	F	S	C	N	O	F	R	T	O	L
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E	U	R	C	R	Y	C	S	R	M	S	G	C	I	C	D
C	W	S	T	U	O	T	H	E	A	A	H	N	L	E	M
S	A	E	D	M	J	O	U	S	C	P	T	O	E	R	A
P	N	O	I	T	A	V	R	E	S	E	R	C	R	I	R
J	O	U	R	N	E	P	W	R	E	P	M	A	C	D	K

Maple syrup production began early this year

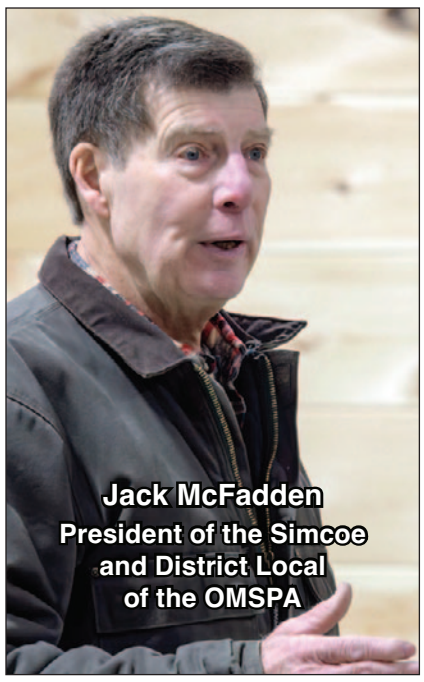
Report and pictures by Don Beaulieu

This year's mild winter spell had the sap running in our maple tree woodlots before the Simcoe County Maple Syrup Association held their first official tapping. This year's event was held in Severn Township at Backwoods Maple Syrup near Coldwater.

Jack McFadden, president of the Simcoe and District Local of the Ontario Maple Syrup Producers Association was on hand to begin the formalities of the event, speaking to the crowd in attendance. The majority of his audience were maple syrup producers, local politicians and media.

"Maple syrup is the harbinger of spring" he began, "It's the first agricultural crop that takes place, we're harvesting sap right now". He suggested that maple syrup production contributes $80–$100 million to the province's economy.

"We probably have a new record start date... (it was the) first week of February. Unheard of for this part of Ontario".



McFaddden reminded us that our native predecessors were tapping trees on this property; "They had sweet water. Not the thickness and sugar amounts we have today in our syrup..." White settlers made maple sugar because sugar cane product was difficult to come by.

"Ninety percent of Canada's maple syrup comes from Quebec" he said, "Ontario... has the largest capacity in terms of tappable trees than all of the rest of Canada combined".

McFadden introduced Paul Partridge, co-owner of Backwoods Maple Syrup, to address the crowd. Partridge explained that Backwoods is owned by two families, the Partridge family and the Vandergeest family.

"We started out 18 years ago as a small production of 40 pails", explained Partridge. "We have over 6,000 taps now". By February 9th, they had two boilings.

He thanked everyone for attending and the opportunity to host this official ceremony. He introduced some of the partners, Corey Vandergeest and Tyler Partridge, who were in attendance.

Partridge then invited everyone out to try their hands at tapping some trees in the old tradition. This event was happening on a very mild day in February, before winter struck a few days later with all its usual furry.

Paul Partridge tapped the first official tree to show everyone how it was done. The first brave soul to try their hand at it was Leslie Stroud who was on hand representing Member of Provincial Parliament Jill Dunlop. She managed to do an excellent job. The experienced Randy Greenlaw, mayor of Oro-Medonte had a go as did a few other folks.

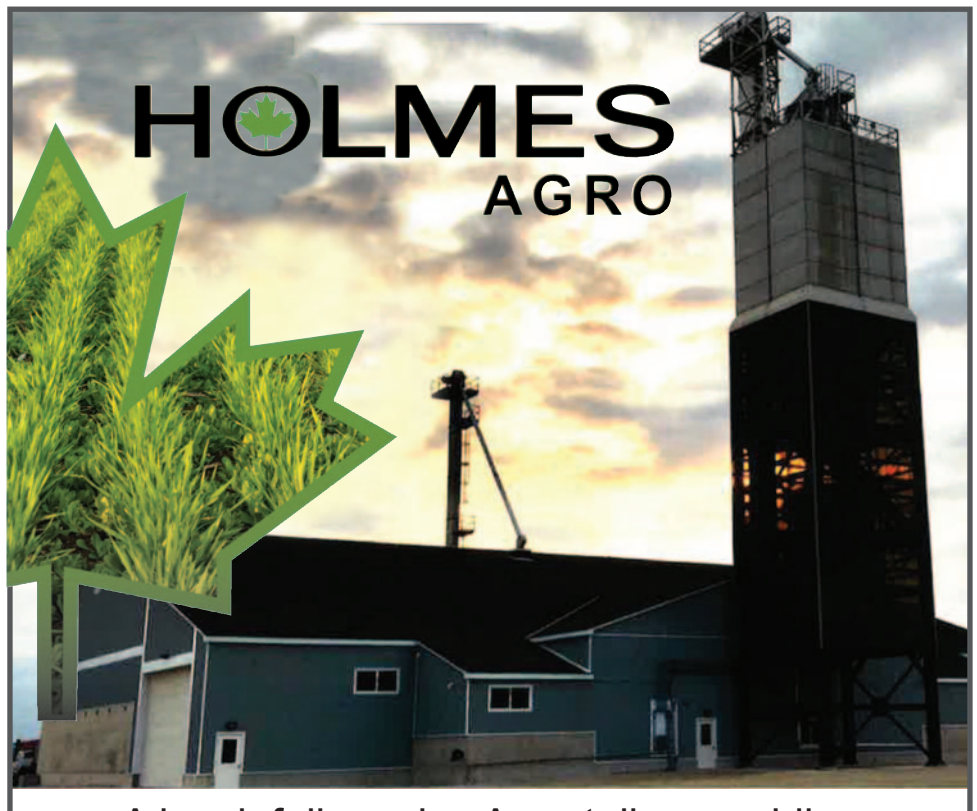
Farm View representatives attending all chickened out. But, syrup was purchased.

Right: Leslie Stroud, standing in for MPP Jill Dunlop, appeared skilled at tree tapping.



Below: Owners Paul Partridge, Corey Vandergeest and Tyler Partridge addressed the crowd, obviously proud of how the business has progressed.





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A very succesful donation grown by the North Simcoe GRAIN Project

This year the farmer's old adage "rain makes grain" was our only consolation and we added the rhyming tag "so don't complain" after receiving a lot of the wet stuff this summer. The soybeans in particular benefited from the rain and as it turns out that was the main crop the North Simcoe GRAIN Project grew this year. After a drier planting season, the rain came in buckets but the sun came out again by harvest allowing all the grain to be combined and trucked and stored directly.

This group of farmers grow crops and donates the money to the Canadian Food Grains Bank of Canada which helps to alleviate poverty around the world. The group this year included David Spring who planted the beans, Roger Spence who secured the seed from Pioneer, Dekalb and Syngenta and acquired and applied the crop protection from Bayer and Monsanto, fertilizer from Holmes Agro Langcrest farms who harvested and helped truck the beans to Addis Grain who trucked the beans as well as stored them for the group. A special thanks to the Kaptyen family for contributing crops to this project.

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Pictured above at left is Robert Spence and Roger Spence to the right, members of the North Simcoe GRAIN Project.

In its 24 years the North Simcoe GRAIN Project has raised $1,612,543 and with a 4:1 match by the government this number means that $8,062,715 has gone to increase food security around the world. Please contact us if you would like to contribute.

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Roger Spence Production Manager
Luke Langman Coordinator
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Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture gives back for Canada's Ag Day

Story and photo by Nicole Cross

To celebrate Canada's Agriculture Day this year, the Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture's (SCFA) board of directors decided to donate $500 each to 8 local food banks. As many know, the use of the food banks in Simcoe County has unfortunately continued to increase and therefore, the SCFA decided to give back to our communities to celebrate the agriculture industry in Simcoe County. Just like many of the other agriculture organizations in our county, the board takes into consideration the geographical boundaries of North Simcoe and South Simcoe. In order to ensure equity, the board opted to donate to 4 food banks in South Simcoe and 4 food banks in North Simcoe. This year they chose to support The Good Shepherd Food Bank in Alliston, Our Town Food Bank in Tottenham, The Angus Food Bank, and The Innisfil Food Bank in South Simcoe. Then looking to the Northern part of our region, the board chose to support the Coldwater Food Bank, The Elmvale District Food Bank, The Sharing Place in Orillia, and the Society of St. Vincent De Paul's food bank in Penetanguishene. We know that some food banks struggle after the Christmas rush and by donating money this allows the food banks to buy fresh produce and what better way to celebrate agriculture than to support people having access to fresh food.



Pictured above at the far right is Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture President, Dave Ritchie, delivering $500.00 cheques to representatives of eight food banks in Simcoe County in celebration of Canada's Agricultural Day.

Agricultural Anecdotes from Farmer Tim

"A legend is an old man with a cane known for what he used to do." ~ Miles Davis

Well, the apple doesn't fall far from the tree….

A little while ago, I was drawn to this old vintage cane at an antique market. There is nothing fancy about it - no intricate carvings or famous provenance but it was sturdy, light and fit well in my hand. Better yet, it was super cheap and on sale. When you are 6' 4" you grab anything that fits your size! I wish this old cane could talk. I would love to know the story behind the person who last used it.

Today that old cane came in handy. Yesterday, Andy and I were moving logs left on the side of the road from a tree that was cut up by the township. I scolded my son as I watched him haul massive logs out of the ditch and onto the loader tractor on his own without waiting for my help. Watching him, I couldn't help but reflect back to my youth and remember doing the exact same thing, but now I'm old enough to regret it. After Andy left, I decided that there was space for one last block of wood. It wasn't too massive so I went against my better judgement and loaded it onto the tractor bucket. Halfway through the evening milking, I regretted that decision when my back went out. Today I'm paying for my stupidity. I should have known better.

I have watched my dad decline from one of the strongest men I've known to walk the earth to someone who needs help with the most basic things. Part of that is genetics and getting older, but some of that is stubbornness and not knowing any better when he was younger.

It's hard to teach an old dog new tricks but hopefully, I'm learning them before it's too late. Work smarter, not harder. Son, I sure hope you are reading this.

Farmer Tim farms in Southern Ontario and has been sharing his stories through social media for many years. Tim is quoted saying "All farmers need to get their stories out there and have fun while they do it!"

Growing businesses honoured at Clearview awards

Report and photographs by Don Beaulieu

Farm View would like to recognize a few of Clearview Businesses on achieving recognition from the Clearview Chamber of Commerce at the end of January, just as our February edition was on the press.


Clearview Mayor Doug Measures

An awards night was held recognizing local (Clearview) businesses of all kinds. The organizing committee of the Clearview Chamber of Commerce did an excellent job. The Committee was chaired by Jiwon Khun with members Rhonda Broderick, Richard Paul and Katie Campbell. 80 or so attendees, nominees and award winners mingled and networked. A huge buffet of hors d'oeuvres, charcuterie and desserts was on hand, from Stayner Foodland and King of Caesars. Mocktails were available all night too from barista Rachel Broderick at the bar.

Opening remarks were made by Clearview Mayor Doug Measures, making the first use of the board room's new public address system. Measures thanked everyone for coming out to "...celebrate the incredible Clearview business community". He spoke of Clearview being known as a warm and friendly community, and an agricultural community, but noted one common feature of Clearview businesses: "Excellent customer service" and commended owners and workers on that point.

Master of ceremonies for the evening was Melanie Case. She has been working in media for fourteen years and we've all likely seen her in commercials on our televisions. Currently she is an on-air host at The Peak 95.1 FM, out of Collingwood.

Grower of the Year award

The Grower of the Year Award (formerly the Farm of the Year) recognizes a farm or nursery for its business leadership, commitment to sustainable practices and advancing agriculture in the community. Rural Roots Nursery and Garden Market achieved this title. They are located at 2674 County Road 42, north of Cashtown Corners. This year will be their fifteenth year in business, arriving at this location in 2017.

Also nominated in this category was The Creemore Flower Company at 154 Mill Street in the lovely town of Creemore. The Creemore Flower Shop is locally owned and family run. Their website says "We are committed to offering the very best floral arrangements, plants and gift baskets; Sourcing many products locally."

The sponsor of this award was LCDC Colour and Coatings Inc. of Barrie, Ontario.

Industrial Excellence award

Industrial Excellence (formerly Agricultural Producer Excellence) is awarded to a manufacturing, mining, brewery, or food production business demonstrating operational excellence and remarkable leadership in sustainability and environmental practices. This year the award went to A&D Bird Seed and Country Store. Started in 1992, to complement the Wyant Family's farming business, the seed business grew (pun intended) and now includes a country store with an assortment of supplies. A&D was the only nominee in this category. This award was sponsored by Alta Vista Planning Partners.


Musician Jess Bowman

Coffee and tea were available all evening courtesy of Creemore Coffee Company. They also provided a lovely basket of goodies which was given away at the end of the evening. One lucky person from each table was able to take home the centrepiece which was crafted by Rural Roots Nursery and Garden Market.

The award presentations were punctuated by New Lowell singer-songwriter Jess Bowman. Most recently, Jess was the featured performer at the Saturday night open mic (March 2) at the GC Lounge in Wasaga Beach (Georgian Circle Family Restaurant).

Local businesses excel in customer service, was the "take away" from this gathering. No doubt this is true of other communities.

Congratulations to the nominees and winners from, Farm View.


Pictured here, on the left, is Robert Dell from Alta Vista Planning Partners, sponsor of the Industrial Excellence Award, with Dwayne Wyant owner of A & D Bird Seed and Country Store and his sister Faith Wyant.

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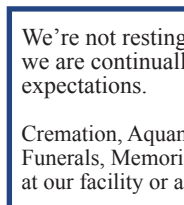
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Remaining dates for the Grey County Ag Services Winter Course Program 2024

QuickBooks Tips
Presented by: Erich Weber of OMAFRA.
Friday March 1st, 2024, 1:00 - 3:30 pm at Grey Ag Services.

AgMaps: Mapping Your Farm
Presented by: Bob Steiss of OMAFRA.
Tuesday March 5th, 2024, 1:00 - 3:00 pm at Grey Ag Services, also livestreamed.

Economics of Choosing When to Market Lambs
Presented by: Delma Kennedy, Sheep Specialist at OMAFRA.
Tuesday March 19th, 2024, 7:00 - 9:00 pm at Grey Ag Services, also livestreamed.

Horse Nutrition Night: Feeding the Senior Horse
Presented by: Jessica McCoag, Equine Nutrition Consultant, Purina.
Wednesday March 20th, 2024, 7:00 - 9:00 pm at Grey Ag Services, also livestreamed.

Seed Saving & Starting
Presented by: the Grey County Master Gardeners.
Thursday March 21st, 2024, 7:00 - 9:00 pm at Grey Ag Services.

Climate Resilient Property Planning
Presented by: Ivan Chan of Eden in Season.
Tuesday March 26th, 2024, 7:00 - 9:00 pm at Grey Ag Services.

Woodlot Management 101
Presented by: Sophie Krolikowski of OMAFRA, and Elliott Green from the Ontario Woodlot Association.
Saturday March 9th, 1:30 - 4:00 pm at Grey Ag Services.

Market Update & Cow-Calf and Feedlot Benchmarking Data
Presented by: Steve Duff and John Molenhuis, both of OMAFRA.
Wednesday March 27th, 2024, 7:00 - 9:00 pm on Zoom.

Canning 101
Presented by: Martha Rogers, Certified Master Food Preserver, The Valley Preservery
Thursday April 11th, 2024, 7:00 - 9:00 pm at Grey Ag Services, also livestreamed.

Your Old Barn Study: An Initiative by Ontario Barn Preservation (OBP)
Presented by: Hugh W. Fraser, OBP President.
Saturday April 13th, 2024, 1:00 - 4:00 pm at Grey Ag Services, also livestreamed.

Sheep Nutrition Basics for Your Flock
Presented by: Courtney Vriens, Owner/Nutritionist of Vriens Nutrition Consulting.
Wednesday April 24th, 2024, 7:00 - 9:00 pm at Grey Ag Services, also livestreamed.

Fun in the Kitchen: Easy Bread and Pastry Skills to Impress Your Family and Friends!
Presented by: Connie Shaw, Baking Enthusiast.
Saturday April 27th, 2024, 8:45 - 3:30 pm at the Rocklyn Hall.
**Please note this course is now full, but you can reach out to be added to a waiting list. Sorry for the disappointment.

Courses are offered in various formats (in-person, virtually or hybrid), so be sure to take note of where you will be attending from.

The address for Grey Ag Services is 206 Toronto St. S, Markdale ON, this is the location of most in-person courses.

More details can be found at https://www.greyagservices.ca/courses-webinars

For any questions please contact info@greyagservices.ca or call 519-986-3756.

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Grey Bruce Farmers' Week BEEF Day:

Three beef farmers share ideas to increase cow heards

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

The session "Keeping Cows on the Landscape" was held at the Grey-Bruce Farmer's Week Beef Day. The session included a panel of three current beef cattle producers.

Steve Duff, a beef and crop farmer in Northumberland County, is Chief Economist, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). His beef operation is set up to reach the niche market of direct sales to the consumer. He explained the cost of raising a beef calf to stocker size based on OMAFRA data to 550 pounds is $1,842. The stocker could go to a sale and be sold at today's average price which is $3.37 a pound which would equal $1,854.00. To finish the stocker for his market, he says the cost of an extra 140 days on pasture and 33 days on feed (grain) is $1,150. The animal then goes to a licensed processor for a cost of $988. The direct to consumer value of that animal works out with $5.00 per pound carcass weight to be $4,442.00 with $442 profit left to the producer. Duff stressed every operation is individual adding, "I know this direct sales is not for everyone but for my operation, it is appealing because it adds known value and reduces market risk."

Dr. Peter Kotzeff is a veterinarian and operates a 2,300 acre crop and beef operation in Bruce and Grey Counties. He is a strong environmental advocate and believes beef cattle are good for the land. "Why I run beef cows on some of the most expensive land in North America is because it is the best use of my land," he said. He explained he has 3 herds of 45 cow calf pairs each and he runs a tightly timed operation. There is a 55 day breeding season. Calving happens in May. Weaning of the May calves happen in March. Calves are sold as yearlings.

"There is no facility of any kind for calving, I put feed out and I count calves only. I do no monitoring for calving. Calves do not come in until March for weaning," Dr. Kotzeff said.

"Holistic grazing improves the soil in crop rotations. The best use of steep land is with grazing management. Turnips, oat and pea cover crops are our #1 cover crop, cattle particularly really like the turnips," he said adding that cover crops are important for soil health.

Robert McKinlay, beef farmer and Beef Farmers of Ontario Producer Relations Specialist, has expanded his family's Silver Springs Farm herd of Red Angus/Simmental to Northern Ontario. He explained his operation is highly diversified with marketing select yearling bulls and top end breeding heifers along with finishing cattle for a branded beef program in the cow calf part. The farm also grows crops. Crops and cattle are worked together to help the soil which he says is the "foundation for the farm." Expansion in his home area was not possible so a purchase was made to buy land on Manitoulin Island and there 100 cows live. "The cows' winter yard is in an old sand pit, the cows calve here," he explained. The home herd work with the crops including grazing cornstalks meaning grazing after corn is combined. "I like the (corn) trash in the fields because when the cows step on the trash, they are not damaging the exposed soil. He added that when the cows are fed hay, the hay feeders are constantly moved for nutrient spreading. He added that at his farm, one of the constant questions is whether to graze cattle or plant crops on the fields of the home farm for the most profit.

With the past high crop prices, there has been a changeover from grazing lands to crop farming land to a point it is now almost a competition for the person that wants to farm. McKinlay says that people who want to raise livestock need to be offered opportunities like "working with older (beef cattle) operators with a plan to take over the operation." He said the biggest problem, in his opinion, is not having communication in the farming sector. "We don't talk to each other. I personally had no idea how our cattle did after they were sold. Now our buyers are coming back to talk to us and we can better meet the goals they have. We need to tell others how we are doing on the farm."

A question from the live audience was whether new people in the beef industry are needed or would it be better for the industry to focus on expanding what they currently have? McKinley answered with "diversity equals stability. The more people, the better. It is good to have new energy with natural progression. Duff agreed that new people mean learning from others which is good for everybody. There is lots of opportunity in this (beef production) sector."

Grey Bruce Farmers' Week has been providing invaluable information to the agricultural community since 1966. Farm View was once again pleased to be one of the many great sponsors helping to bring these sessions to the agricultural community. Stay tuned for GBFW 2025 and plan to attend!

Loaves and Fishes Growing Project Summary 2023

Working together to end Global Hunger for 26 years

The Loaves and Fishes Growing Project has just completed its 26th year raising funds for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB) to end world hunger. The CFGB collaborates with over 30 denominations providing emergency food assistance and long-term responses to many countries all over the world. Projects ranged from promoting conservation agriculture and creating self-help groups to providing unconditional food assistance. The war in Ukraine has caused drastic food inflation which is being felt especially hard by the poor.

In South Simcoe County, crops were raised in different fields growing a total of 101 acres of winter wheat, soybeans and corn for the growing project. Farmers and agri-businesses donated their labour, equipment, crop inputs, and time to grow and harvest the crops. Churches and individuals donated cash. Over $65,000 was generously donated from individuals and churches from cities like Toronto, Richmond Hill, Newmarket, Bradford, Tottenham, Alliston and Cookstown, Innisfil, Barrie and others. This past year, the project had above average crop yields and good commodity prices, $106,000 was donated to the CFGB! After growing crops with the donations through the growing project, the Canadian government matches by 4:1. Just like the 5 loaves and 2 fishes fed crowds, our efforts are multiplied as well to feed our neighbours in need all around the world.

This year was CFGB's 40th anniversary and the work continues to end global hunger. The challenges are great, but we do not do this alone. God has blessed this work, and it is making a difference. After 26 years, Loaves and Fishes has amounted to a total of $3,298,947 in donations the CFGB (without any matching funds).

Thank you to everyone who contributed. Plans are underway for our 27th year in 2024. Our project is always looking for more individuals to contribute to this worthy cause, in any way possible. Thinking Globally and acting locally.

Kevin Eisses
Project Co-Ordinator
https://www.facebook.com/LoavesandFishesSimcoe
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April 27 10am-5pm
April 28 10am-4pm
Dr Edgar Leclair Community Centre
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Hills and Valleys Quilt Shop Tour
May 2 - 4
Cookstown, Creemore, Maxwell, Mount Forest

Quilts from the Valley
By Rouge Valley Quilters' Guild
May 3 & 4
10:00am - 5:00pm
Forest Brook Community Church
60 Kearney Drive
Ajax, ON $7

2024 Harvest of Quilts
May 3 & 4
10:00am - 4:00pm
Bobcaygeon Curling Club
49 Mansfield Street
Bobcaygeon, ON $8

"Still Stitching Together Quilt Show 2024"
Port Perry Patchers Quilt Guild
May 10 & 11
www.portperrypatchers.com/quilt-show

Seeds and Stitches
May 25 10 am
Christ Church-St.Jude's
Ivy, ON

"It's a Charming Quilt World"
Grey County Charmer's Quilt Club & Thread That Bind
May 31 – June 1
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Osprey Community Arena
494196 Grey Road 2
Feversham, ON $7

Quilt Show 2024
"Quilting for the Holidays"
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Quinte Curling Club
246 Bridge Street West
Belleville, ON $8

Younger farmers changing the face of agriculture

By Drew Spoelstra, President, Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Much is always made of the high average age of Canadian farmers, but there's a quiet shift happening in agriculture that is changing the face of our industry. Quite literally, farming is in transition – and I'm one of many farmers right in the middle of it.

Family farms are still a huge part of what Ontario agriculture looks like, but like so many Canadians, a growing number of farmers are facing retirement. That means they're now following succession plans to turn the management and ownership of their farm businesses over to a new generation.

That's exactly the situation that I find myself in. I'm 37 and I've been involved in our family dairy and grain farm my entire life. My wife and I and my parents have recently worked through our farm business transition plans as we look to set our family farm up for a better future.

Farm succession is an onerous and challenging task, but one that is absolutely necessary for the sustainability of farm businesses as many farmers enter the later stages of their careers. With a plan in place, we can now make investments – like a state-of-the-art dairy barn – that we hope will help make it possible for our young daughters to farm when they grow up if that's what they'd like to do.

My family is also reflective of another new reality for many farmers and that's farming close to an urban area. Our farm is near the town of Binbrook in a rural part of the City of Hamilton and while that brings opportunities, it also often means that the needs of farm businesses get lost in the larger urban issues that dominate the agendas of local decision-makers.

In addition to farming, I'm also heavily involved with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA). I believe it's important to give back to the industry that sustains us, and late last fall, I became the youngest OFA president in the organization's history.

What you see in me is a lot of what you'll see across agriculture in Ontario now – older farmers following succession plans and a next generation stepping up with visions for the future of their farm businesses and in some cases, also the broader farming sector.

You'll also see that reflected in a growing number of my fellow OFA board members and in the leadership of other agricultural organizations where a new, young generation of farmers is starting to take an active role in representing their industry and helping to shape its future for the decades to come.

Agriculture's next generation is bringing fresh ideas and raising different perspectives on everything from sustainability and climate change to public trust, mental health and wellness and more.

We look forward with optimism and while we are making investments in the future of our businesses and our industry, it's a road we can't go alone.

We need to know that Canadians see benefit in strong farms and rural communities, value a local food supply system that brings the sustainability and environmental stewardship benefits that farms provide, and support us by buying local.

OFA Ontario Federation of Agriculture

And to meet the ambitious goals of the province's Grow Ontario strategy and to protect our future ability to continue to produce as much food, fuel and fibre right here at home, we also need government to step forward and support our sector.

That support can come in various ways, whether through sound, forward-thinking policies and legislation or with financial investments into much-needed infrastructure, resources and programming that will support farming's long-term sustainability and profitability.

We've brought some of these ideas directly to government by participating in the provincial budget consultations that are currently happening across Ontario:

Supporting home grown food production by encouraging government and public sector agencies to buy more local food and beverages, increasing funding to the provincial Risk Management Program that helps farmers manage uncertainty, and addressing the agri-food sector's chronic labour shortages.

Modernizing farm tax programs and development charges to support continued farm business transition, growth and expansion.

Investing in rural and social infrastructure, such as rural roads and bridges, affordable energy and high-speed broadband, and education, healthcare and community hubs for rural communities.

Improving soil health and water stewardship by continuing funding for the Ontario Agricultural Soil Health and Conservation Strategy and the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program.

Strengthening Ontario's veterinary sector by investigating additional short- and long-term strategies to help solve the lack of veterinary capacity in Ontario.

Agriculture has a long, proud history in Ontario and I'm excited be part of shaping its next chapters.

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The South Simcoe 4-H Association had a fun and successful Rally Night!

Story by Abby Patton and Olivia Livingston, photos provided by South Simcoe 4-H



On Saturday February 3rd the South Simcoe 4-H Association held their Rally Night at the Angus Arena. Youth could find out what clubs were running in 2024 and reconnect with old friends and get introduced to new ones. This was also an opportunity to get to know the leaders and find out about the 30 different clubs that will be offered this year. There were snacks and an hour of ice skating where we could chat and hangout. We thought it was a really fun night. I hope you will come next year!



Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario Celebrates Success of Ongoing District AGMs

The Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO) is pleased to announce the resounding success of the first half of District Annual General Meetings (AGMs) held across the province. These meetings have been attended by a robust gathering of CFFO members, local government officials, and community members and have proven to be a pivotal platform for fostering crucial discussions on the future of farming. This year the focus has been on the vital aspect of Farm Succession Planning.

A key highlight of these AGMs has been the insightful presentations by guest speaker Ian Cubitt, Business Transition Coach who renowned for his expertise in Farm Succession Planning. The pressing need for succession planning has become increasingly apparent as the baby boomer generation within the farming community looks toward retirement while aspiring to keep their farms operational for the next generation.

The CFFO has recognized the urgency and importance of this matter and conducted an extensive survey in the fall of 2023, seeking valuable insights from its members. The anonymous survey revealed that many members are in the early stages of succession planning, with a common concern being how to ensure fairness, especially when children have occupations off the farm or lack interest in farming compared to those eager to carry on the agricultural legacy.

Ian Cubitt's presentations during the AGMs have provided a comprehensive understanding of the financial, relational, and logistical challenges associated with farm succession planning. Attendees have been equipped with practical steps and valuable insights to navigate these challenges effectively, ensuring a smooth transition for the future of their farm operations.

CFFO General Manager, Tom Tavani, expressed enthusiasm for the success of the District AGMs, stating, "The overwhelming attendance and engagement at these meetings underscore the importance our members place on planning for the future of their farms. Ian Cubitt's expertise has proven invaluable in addressing the complexities of succession planning, and we are confident that the knowledge gained will contribute significantly to the long-term sustainability of our members' operations."

The CFFO remains committed to providing resources, support, and a platform for its members to address the evolving landscape of agriculture. The success of the District AGMs reaffirms the organization's dedication to facilitating meaningful conversations and fostering a resilient farming community in Ontario. If you are interested in attending a local district meeting, please check out the CFFO website under the events tab: https://www.christianfarmers.org/events

Simple and Tasty Beef Pot Roast

Story and photo by Roslyn Watkins, recipe adapted from Allrecipes



I'm certain most of you have already perfected your own pot roast recipe. This was my first time trying one. My mom cooked a roast every Sunday but it was always an eye of round. I will never forget the scent of the roast and buns cooking while my sister and I played in the snow on Sunday afternoons. On a recent snowy day I was inspired to try this recipe recreating some of those childhood memories for myself.

While looking for the perfect pot roast recipe to try, I discovered it is also a popular Irish dish making it a great choice to celebrate the upcoming St. Patrick's day. I added sauerkraut that a friend made and gifted to me to the mashed potatoes, and cooked a few of my favourite side dishes. The only thing missing was my mom's baked buns. The meal turned out delicious and the beef was incredibly tender. Now I have the trial run down I'm all set to invite guests on St Patrick's day.

Ingredients *makes 4 to 6 servings*

2 tablespoons butter
907 kg beef boneless blade roast
2 teaspoons salt
1 teaspoon ground black pepper
2 cups broth, splash of red wine or balsamic vinegar
2 cups large cut carrots

Directions

· Preheat the oven to 300 degrees F
· Heat butter in a large skillet over medium-high heat.
· Season roast with salt and black pepper, then cook in hot butter until brown on all sides about 3-4 mins per side; transfer to an oven proof roasting dish.
· Add the broth and splash of wine to the hot skillet, bring just to a boil. Pour over the roast and add the carrots to the roasting pan, cover with a lid or tin foil.
· Roast in the preheated oven until the roast is tender, about 2 to 21/2 hours. Remove from the oven and let rest for 10 mins or so. Carve and serve with your favourite side dishes. If desired, add a little cornstarch and water to the juices in the pan to make a gravy.

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After The Chores: Wake up!

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



"You got a baby lamb at the barn!" were the words in a most annoying much too happy good morning voice that accompanied vigorous shaking of my leg at 4:45 am.

Sweetie is under strict instructions to wake me up when there is ANY birthing action in the barn. Sweetie works better than any camera because he makes SURE I get up. If I'm not in the barn under two minutes, he's back and louder than ever. Sweetie is well trained.

I was almost to the barn when Sweetie calls out, "she's having another lamb!" Nothing like "another lamb" coming to get my sleepiness fully removed as twin lambs are rare for me. I fully expected she was in huge trouble and she was going to need the vet.

I rushed to the barn and accessed the situation- the ewe certainly had a live lamb and was now down in serious pushing, either labour or something bad. The rest of the flock was in this pen including the ram who was looking anxious with all the action going on at a prime sleepy time for all of us. An anxious ram often means a pushy ram and I had no interest of being rammed to the floor again. I told Sweetie the sheep had to go out so I could get in the pen safe. Only one way to move sheep here so they all got a pre-breakfast of grain and they all raced outside.

The ewe surprised herself and me with a second lamb. Twins! Live healthy big twins- just like out of a book.

This ewe jumped up after the second lamb was born and was easily led by Sweetie that had the first lamb in his arms to an empty pen. I followed with the second lamb. The new family was all tucked in the pen when both lambs promptly found the udder. Everybody was all settled in less than an hour including having the sheep flock back in the barn with another pre-breakfast. I did think that this was all just too easy and a bit dream-like. Shepherding in reality came the next day.

All farmers' senses are on high alert in baby season- and my ears picked up a faint baa from outside the next evening. I did some investigation and found a baby lamb. Sweetie and I got the new mother ewe and the baby lamb in a small pen- and it was downhill from here. The lamb would only suck when I held on to the udder so it was the right height. The ewe had lots of milk but her udder had dropped a bit lower and the lamb refused to bend down. The lamb also refused to be touched when she was sucking so the udder had to be held up at the precise location of the lamb's mouth. My sheep are not wild but they are not going to stand around while someone is holding their udder up happily either. I had to tie the ewe up to do this stupid looking arrangement and I was still unsure if the lamb was getting enough. I ended up syringing the lamb to hold it over that night until morning which left me anxious that the lamb had enough.

At near 7:00 am the next morning I was in the barn holding up the sheep's udder with this stubborn lamb getting breakfast and all was in order- until the ewe moved. I had to tie up the ewe and start this all over again. I thought for sure the lamb would be hungry enough to simply bend down and suck herself- but no, she made it clear she was either going to have help or starve to death. The ewe was an excellent mother talking to her lamb and stood patiently once she was tied up. We repeated the whole thing all over at 10:00 am that morning. That stubborn lamb still refused to bend down. By this time, I was pondering to put the lamb on a bottle but bottle babies are 3 month contracts; the ewe loved her baby so making this lamb into a bottle baby would be giving up and farmers are not quitters.

At 3:00 I trudged back to the barn and got the ewe tied up and tried to get this lamb started again. The lamb just stood there by her mother looking pathetically hungry. I told the lamb it was beyond stupid. The ewe was not happy to be woken up from her afternoon nap. And nothing changed, the lamb waited to have the udder held up and the second, I let go, the lamb would quit drinking.

Sweetie came home from work to find a grumpy wife complaining about a stupid lamb. I have been a shepherd and we have been married long enough for him to silently ignore me unless I am in crisis in baby time. I was not in crisis, I was just mad about this stupid lamb.

The 5:00 feeding went the same as before- until near the very end. The lamb was now stronger. I stepped back away from the ewe and the lamb after the lamb first got milk. The ewe shifted position. The lamb now bent down and got the teat all by herself. The lamb's tail wagged back and forth like it belonged to a happy puppy. I untied the ewe. The lamb moved with her head high much like a conceited cat, stepped back to the udder, bent down and got some more milk. When sheep finally learn something, they never ever forget so I knew my job was over here.

Farmers do not count steps or track the hours it takes to get a job done- or none of us would be doing this. I thank God in getting this little girl lamb officially started and for not letting me give up.

I only wish baby season in the barn was over.

There are two farms next to each other. One is in Canada and one is in the United States. A rooster runs from the farm in Canada to the farm in the U.S. and lays an egg. Which country does the egg belong to?

Neither. Roosters don't lay eggs.

The Hungarian Kuvasz as a Livestock Guardian Dog Option

By Krisztian Vas, President of The Kuvasz Club of Canada Inc.



Nowadays, most farmers and livestock producers as well as governmental agencies and conservation authorities realize the positive and cost-effective benefits livestock guardian dogs (hereafter LGDs) can provide in predator management. However, the challenge for many people starting out in livestock or wanting to incorporate a LGD into their operation is how exactly to do this and what breed options to consider. I believe each farmer, rancher or livestock producer faced with predation problems should carefully evaluate their particular circumstances and develop an overall Predation Management Plan that incorporates LGDs, and then explore which breed(s) best suits their specific needs, because not all LGD breeds are the same!

Each LGD breed or landrace originates from a different country or region, worked in a different environment and terrain (i.e. alpine vs. plain), lived in a different climate, faced different predators and was selected differently based on various criteria and cultural expectations of the peoples who developed these breeds. Cross breeds and dogs from non-working bloodlines negate the advantages and trademark characteristics of such heritage breeds.

The Hungarian Kuvasz, although lesser-known amongst LGDs, is an ancient breed, which can be traced back as far as 7,000 years to the forebearers of the Hungarian peoples in ancient Scythia and Sumeria. As a result, the Kuvasz is amongst the oldest dog breeds in the world. Having such a long ancestry also means that the Kuvasz predates the modern concept of "dog breed", as throughout most of its history it was a landrace where its ability to work and aid humans far superseded esthetics. In other words, the Kuvasz is a natural breed that came about through strict and often brutal natural selection, which led to the creation of the hardy, healthy, undemanding and uncompromising Kuvasz that we know today.

A proper Hungarian Kuvasz is a very large (males 110-140lb and females 80-110lb) robust, muscular, yet athletic and agile white (or ivory) coloured dog. The breed's trademark and what often differentiates them from other white LGDs is its head shape, black pigmentation, body shape, length of leg and unmistakeable wavy coat.

A Kuvasz's hardiness is legendary as they can withstand, work and thrive in any climate or weather conditions (as long as provided with basic shelter and fresh water). Their coats are very easy to care for, especially compared to other LGD breeds. The coat is often referred to as self-cleaning because as the dog dries and continues to work, they often just shed off the dirt with minimal (if ever) need for grooming. Also, their coats do not mat and there is never a need to trim them like other LGDs. Their hardiness is also reflected in their ability to survive and thrive on any type or combination of foods. The breed is not prone to allergies or food sensitivities. Moreover, considering their size, they do not eat much and have a very efficient metabolism.

However, the Kuvasz's best attribute and what further sets it apart from other LGD breeds is its temperament, character, working ability and guarding style. A Kuvasz must be brave, confident and have a well-balanced, stable and trustworthy temperament. For all intents and purposes, a properly bred, working and Hungarian bloodline Kuvasz will be a more serious LGD and guardian than the average and commonly encountered Great Pyrenees or Maremma. Whereas most other white LGDs bark, snarl, posture and threaten intruding predators, a Kuvasz will initially do the same, but is a lot more willing and ready to directly confront and engage predators. Kuvasz dogs take their job and the livestock, property and people with which they are entrusted to safeguard very seriously and would protect them even if it cost their lives. In the absence of their owner or family, they actively patrol their territory and will not allow any intruder, be it two, four legged or areal to trespass onto their turf, but are also not prone to wandering. Meanwhile, in the presence of their owner and once told that the visitors are "okay," they should stand down and be inquisitive and accepting of people. Kuvasz have a highly developed sense of situational awareness and are intuitive as to when a threat arises and can act independently when necessary to neutralize the issue. They must be obedient to their owners and require a firm and fair hand in their upbringing. Therefore, they are not a suitable breed for everyone. However, in the right situation and home, Kuvasz are a viable and very effective LGD.

For more information please visit www.hungarikumkuvasz.com or contact krisvas28@gmail.com

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Ontario Agricultural Conference

Steve Kell shares expertise about the grains market

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

The 2023 crop season was a year that was calm- and that has affected grain markets. This message was delivered by Steve Kell on Session 33 "Marketing Mavens 1" at the Ontario Agricultural Conference. Kell is a Simcoe Country crop farmer and works as a grain handling trader at Kell Grain Elevators in Gilford and Belleville with over 30 years experience in the grain industry in Ontario.

"There have been no droughts in South America and the Russian/Ukraine conflict is now factored into prices as it has been going on now for 22 months," he said adding this all means there "are no big problems which is a problem because it leaves the markets flat and boring."

Kell reports there was a record corn crop in the USA. This has caused the "corn end stock" to be way up meaning the amount of corn left sitting in bins on September 1, 2023 in USA was "really high this year with a lot of corn around."

In Ontario, about 40% of the corn crop goes to livestock feed, another 40% goes to ethanol production, some goes to industrial and the rest goes to export. The USA export market is not that high of a percentage of the market either. "It is not like building new ethanol plants or putting up pig barns (to consume more corn) is going to happen, we all will need to export to move that corn out," he said.

Ethanol might be the wild card for corn pricing. According to Kell, American ethanol production set a record a week before Christmas this past year with the most ethanol ever produced in a single week which is good news for corn markets. The unknown is "if we see a migration towards electric cars which use less ethanol we will see corn prices pushed back," he reported.

"Thirteen months ago, I ordered my seed corn when I was growing $7.00 per bushel corn," the grain expert explained. The USA corn bushel price today (February 15th) is about $4.38 per bushel. Knowing when to sell now depends on "keeping an eye on export sales and seeing how much corn is moving." That extra corn has to be exported out of Ontario however; there have been two issues that have been keeping it here. "The (Great Lakes St. Lawrence) Seaway strike meant we lost a week of shipping at peak shipping time and at least 4 boats got cancelled," he explained adding that also a lot of corn is just sitting in bins because "producers won't sell it at the current prices."

"Corn is still in the bins, in the field or on a shed floor because farmers chose not to participate in export marketing at the current prices," he said adding "when the Seaway (after seasonal closure) re-opens, will world corn prices move up a little bit and Ontario farmers expectations at what the price of corn is worth moves down a bit then we can find a happy place to do some business to get that corn moved out."

There is a seasonal market for corn, according to Kell. He says January is "a boring month in grain prices, not much ever changes in January." February and March usually means prices move up. In June "we hit the highs of the year" if the crop looks good because this is pollination time "when the crop is made," he said. In July and August the market "collapses." He summarized that June is usually when the best corn markets are found in Ontario.

The Ontario wheat planting this year was "more manageable" Kell said with less acres planted. The huge 2023 crop will be "more than ¼ of it sitting in bins when we get this year's crop in," Kell predicted. He said that wheat crops need to get exported out of Ontario but there are two main groups holding on to the crop he calls "hedgers and hoarders." Hedgers are those with storage space that have sold the futures and are using the "carry" to pay for storage while they wait for the basis to improve. Hoarders are "those who simply own the wheat and are waiting for the flat price to rise."

The Soybean crop has almost been impacted from the non-crisis year but the last two years, the USA produced a reduced crop of soybeans which helped stabilize the pricing. The USA is now crushing soybeans for fuel production so "have less soybeans to get rid of," Kell reported. Plus, there are the biggest populations in the world, India and China both being consumers. While the world has reached record production of soybeans, those big markets need it.

The market this year for soybeans will depend largely on the current weather in South America which is the growing season as "the majority of soybeans is produced in Argentina and Brazil," Kell said. He added, "China buys more than half of the world's soybean crop so anything that goes on in the China economy or China political turbulence can affect that market."

Crop marketing today has become a challenge. It's a constant watching game to know when to sell which has not been the normal the last couple of years. Steve Kell with his over 30 years of experience concluded, "In years when Brazil was in a drought and when Russia invaded Ukraine, you could fall off a turnip wagon and still do a good job of marketing grain because the price just kept coming up but now, one needs to know when to sell."

Farm View was pleased once again to be a sponsor of this great event. Over 2,000 participants registered for #OAgC24. This included virtual registrants as well as In-Person registrants at Ridgetown (SWAC), Kemptville (EOCC), and Waterloo (MWAC). The recorded ON-DEMAND sessions are now available for viewing on the conference web portal. Access to all ON-DEMAND sessions, as well as the Sponsor Exhibition Hall and Conference Resources, will be available for viewing until March 31, 2024. If you registered please check out the sessions! More information about the Ontario Agricultural Conference and sessions can be found at www.ontarioagconference.ca

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The Lapp Cider Mill

Village stories

by Andrew Hind

The story of Markham's Lapp Cider Mill is illustrative of those throughout North America in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Henry Lapp, the descendant of a German family that had sailed for America in 1733, came to Upper Canada (what is now Ontario) in the early 1800s. He settled in Markham Township and raised five children. Among Henry Lapp's children was Peter, born 1820. Peter eventually inherited the family farm and, in 1855, also acquired an adjacent 200-acre farm. It was on this latter land that his own sons, George and William Henry, built a cider mill in 1872. The mill was described as a "handsome cider mill of board and batten construction."

The process of cider-making was relatively straightforward, though time consuming. Apples were washed and then dumped into a hopper to be crushed. Some mills employed large wooden wheels driven by horsepower, while others used smaller hand-operated crushers or, like the Lapps, steam-driven crushers. The pulp remaining was then placed in a press between layers of long rye or wheat straw that acted as a filter to strain out impurities. A huge iron screw press then squeezed out the juice, which dripped through the straw into a trough.

Cider was stored in wooden casks, and after a few months of fermentation was a refreshing drink. The Lapp mill could provide 700 gallons of cider per day. At one cent per gallon, it represented a profitable enterprise business.

Some of the stored cider was allowed to heat up above 55-degrees to sour and provide vinegar for cooking, another ingenious use for the apple orchard. Yet another portion of the cider supply was reserved for the manufacture of apple butter.

At first, the business operated only in the autumn and the sole income came from custom milling apples brought in by area farmers. Eventually, however, the Lapp brothers began purchasing apples to produce vinegar, which they bottled and sold. This extended the season well into the winter.

After George died in 1926 and Harry retired (he died in 1948), the business was inherited by Harry's son, Aubrey. With modern methods of storing apples and produce, the season extended further and eventually became a year-round operation.

In 1955, after nearly eighty years in the family, the mill was sold. It continued to operate for another decade, but time finally caught up to the mill and it closed for good.



Pictured above is the recreated interior of Lapps Cidar Mill
—Photo courtesy of Markham Museum

The Lapp property was acquired by the province of Ontario during the 1970s. The mill still stands there, at 7639 Reesor Road, a fine example of an industrial cider mill. The Lapp Brothers Cider and Vinegar Mill is considered "the landmark built heritage feature" in Cedar Grove. For this reason, and because "architecturally, the Lapps Cider Mill is the most outstanding example of early pioneer industrial architecture in the present-day town of Markham," in 2001 the building was designated under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Much of the equipment found its way into the collection of the Markham Heritage Museum. The Museum also acquired a drive shed from the Lapp property, which was painstakingly disassembled, moved to museum grounds, and restored. It houses the Lapp machinery and is an operating cidery, demonstrating the process to museum guests.

At one time, cider mills were an important part of the rural landscape. Visiting one allows a person the opportunity to make an intimate connection with a piece of our past.

2024 Profitable Pastures webinar

The Ontario Forage Council is pleased to announce the 2024 Profitable Pastures webinar series! There will be three live webinars airing daily from 8 pm - 9 pm EST from March 5-7, 2024. There is no cost to register and CEUs will be available for Certified Crop Advisors. All presentations will be made available on the Ontario Forage Council's YouTube Channel approximately one-week post-event. Subscribe to be notified of new presentation postings!

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Severn Sound Watershed Buzzing with Bee-Friendly Initiatives: Midland and Tiny Shine in 'Bee City Handbook'

The Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) is excited to share that two partner municipalities, the Town of Midland and Township of Tiny, are highlighted in the newly released Bee City Handbook from the Pollinator Partnership Canada.

The SSEA has worked collaboratively with municipal partners to support their efforts to protect and restore pollinators and their habitat. "This handbook is an excellent resource for municipalities to learn the different ways to naturalize and promote pollinator habitat in our communities and we are proud to see the great work of two of our partner municipalities' being highlighted!" says Julie Cayley, Executive Director of the Severn Sound Environmental Association.



Town of Midland joined Bee City in 2021 and has naturalized seven sites in town. Township of Tiny's efforts with Depave Paradise won the township a Wege Award from the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative in 2023. The repurposed tennis courts have become a vibrant community garden filled with human and pollinator activity. Since joining the program in 2016, Township of Tiny has planted eight wildflower meadows across the township. Both municipalities celebrate pollinator week in June and communicate information about the importance of pollinators and how to naturalize your garden.

Check out the newly release handbook here: https://guides.beecitycanada.org/bee-city-handbook

Township of Severn, Town of Penetanguishene, and Township of Georgian Bay are also proud Bee City members. The Towns of Penetanguishene and Midland worked with the SSEA in 2023 with Provincial support from the Great Lakes Local Action Fund planting potted wildflowers, spreading wildflower seed across the naturalized areas, and plant trees and shrubs to add biodiversity to five park sites. In the Township of Severn there is a large utility corridor naturalization project and Township of Georgian Bay celebrates their Bee City designation with an excellent community festival Township of Georgian Bay Honey Bee Festival in the ideal location, Honey Harbour.

Stay tuned for more exciting habitat restoration and pollinator projects in the Severn Sound watershed.

About Severn Sound Environmental Association:

The Severn Sound Environmental Association is a Joint Municipal Service Board that is dedicated to protecting and enhancing the environmental health of the Severn Sound watershed on behalf of eight member municipalities. To learn more about SSEA and climate change go to www.SevernSound.ca

About Pollinator Partnership Canada:

Pollinator Partnership Canada is celebrating 10 years of dedication to the protection and promotion of pollinators and their ecosystems through conservation, education and research. Learn more and check out their guides and resources at https://pollinatorpartnership.ca/

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Well-Maintained Farm Machinery and Equipment Including Dairy Related Items

Sale Runs Monday April 1st to Monday April 8th, 2024

Case IH MX 180 cab tractor, Case IH JX 1100u cab tractor with Q45 SL loader, Wideman's VShotx2 750 vertical beater manure spreader, Tubeline bale wrapper, Kuhn Model 8210 heavy duty disc, Case IH 2144 Axial flow combine, Case IH 2206-30 6 row corn head, Case IH DCX131 mower conditioner, Case IH 4600 cultivator 24', Glencoe SS 7400 9 shank soil saver tandem, Unverferth 325 gravity wagons, Case IH 5400 mulch till drill 24 run with Unverferth culti planter 2, Kuhn GA 4121 GTH Masterdrive rake, New Holland forage wagon, Tubeline 7500 accelerator, Valmetal 530 super cart, New Holland BB940 square baler, Winpower PTO generator, Patz stable cleaner, Mueller 800 gal. milk cooler, 4 Delaval automatic take off milkers, stainless steel milkline, Valmetal V Mix 2.0 250 TMR mixer, Patz conveyor, Farmatic roller mill, Case IH 1020 15' grain head, Westfield MK 100-51 grain auger plus much more!

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Farm Equipment

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MacDon crimper for 9000 7000 swathers steel rolls **$1250.00**
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FOR SALE

FOR SALE

· 3 pth Disc – 10' 32x18
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· 3 pth Hydraulic Log splitter
· 3 pth Breaking disc – 6' - 18" discs
· Bale wagon – 5T - 8'x20'
· Deck wagon – 5T - 8'x 20'
· 20 gallon spray tank, pump, accessories, for ATV mount
· Cedar Rails
· Hood for David Brown 990 (white), solid, straight and professionally painted

All items stored inside Call 705-623-1043

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AUCTION SALE

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8523 WELLINGTON CTY RD 50

Directions From the John Deere dealer at Ospringe come south on Wellington City Rd 125 for 5 km, to Wellington Rd 50. Come west for approx 5 km to Em # 8523 or approx 2 km east of Rockwood.

ON LINE THURS APRIL 11th AT 6:30 2024

Preview Times Sat. April 6th 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. & Thurs. April 11th 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Pick Up Times Sat. April 13th 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. & Mon. April 15th 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

10 Tractors Challenger MT 565D - 4 WD Cab 520/85 R, 42 rears, 10 - 45 kg weights, 5421.9 hrs; M.F. 8150 - 4 WD Cab Dynashift remotes, 520/85 R, 38 rears, 30672 hrs; Versatile 276 II bidirectional 4 WD cab, ldr, c/w Flunney 82" stone fork; 2 - M.F. 1155 - 2 WD cab; M.F. 1105, 2 WD cab; M.F. 175; M.F. 165; M.F. 1085; Int 986 - cab, 2 WD w/high reach ldr;
Tillage Landoll 6230 -23 TA 20' wing disc, c/w Farm King 20' harrows; Brillion HFC - 24' T.A. wing cult, 43 shank; Big Jim Super Flex 32' T.A. wing packer; Glenco 10' Soil Saver hyd 9 shank; White 6800 planter 18 run single disc; J.D. 7000 - 6R corn planter; Case IH - 5100 - 21 run drill; plows & cultivators;
Hay Equip. 2021 Bale Baron model 5250 T - 21 bale bundles, only done approx 3,000 bundles, also include ISO bust; 2021 New Holland BC 5070 Hayliner sq baler used 2 seasons; 2022 West End 900 V2 conditioner 90" dble roller; Kuhn G3 discbine 9'4" cut; Krone Swadro 46 T - 13 bar rake; Claas 350 T 11' rake; Kuhn GF 7802 tedder; N.H. 315 baler; Class Rolland 46 rd baler; JMB Farm Boss model 205 - 25' mesh floor hay wagon; Horst 205 - 25' mesh floor hay wagon; Horst 205 - 25' mesh floor hay wagon; 2 - 18' bale throw wagons;
Combines, Heads, Grain Wagons. M.F. 8560 Rotary 2 WD, AC Cab 37959 hrs; M.F. 850 - 2 WD Cab 4818 hrs; Tyler Patriot field sprayer, 40' boom, 4669 hrs; M.F. 1163 - 7 snout 24" poly corn head; M.F. 863 - 7 snout - 24" steel corn head; M.F. 9750 - 20 - 20' flex head; J.D. 918 - 17' flex head; 2 Horst Header wagons; Bach - Run 5000 series grain wagon on Horst dble reach gear approx 5,000 bu; Weber Lane Super Tilt hyd lift grain wagon on Agri Master 20 ton gear approx 500 bu; Bach-Run 275 grain wagon on Horst gear approx 275 bu; Belly Dump grain wagon on Horst gear approx 600 bu; 3 older grain wagons; 2 w/c grain augers;
Misc 1994 Ford F600 diesel w/16 1/2" steel hay rack; 1987 Ford w/14' dump box; Upright XRT27 4WD scissor lift; J.D. 3 ph hyd backhoe; 2 snowblowers; Case 1740 skid steer; 1991 Ford F700 truck; 7 sets of duals; Q.A. forks;
Terms Cash or known cheque with proper ID only. Interac & e-transfer; Visa & MasterCard 3%. 10% Buyers Premium maxed at $1,500.00 per item. The owners nor Auctioneer will not be responsible for accident or property loss. Go to **severnauctions@hibid.com** for list & pictures.

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Kubota M6S-111SDSCC
hours ua: 1385, 4wd , diesel , cab/heat/air , 340/85r24 fronts , 460 / 85r34 rears , cast centers , 2 remotes , 540 rpm, swing shift plus with dual speed f32/r32 ,kubota m41 loader (Stayner) **$86,900**



Kubota B2301
hours ua: 335.3, diesel, 4wd, 3 spd hydrostatic transmission, foldable rops, 540 pto, no remotes, 23x8.50x15 fronts, 33x12.50-15 rears, kubota RCK54-32 mid mount mower, Erin. **$17,300**



Kubota SVL75PHFRC
hours ua: 382 , diesel , cab / heat/air, high flow front auxiliary hydraulics, iso controls, kubota soft ride, 72" low profile bucket s6612, rear view observation kit installed, Stayner. **$64,400**



Kubota M9540DT
hours ua: 1850.8, 4wd, cab/ heat/air, 12.4r24 fronts, 18.4r30 rears, 540 rpm, 2 remotes ,front grill quard, m36 loader, self leveling, manual q/a 82" bucket, Unit is located in Erin. **$72,000**



Kubota DMC8536R
pivot tongue mower conditioner , 1000 rpm , 2 pth , excellent condition, Unit is Located at Stewart's equipment in Erin.
Stock Number : U27673 **$34,800**



Kubota M7060
hours ua: 531.1, 4wd, diesel, cab/heat/air, 540 rpm, 2 sets of remotes, 360/70r20 front tires, front fenders, 440/80r30 rear tires, radio, metal pless agh830-13 blade, unit is located in Erin **$68,900**



Case IH 5120
hours ua:5783 , 2wd , cab heat air 11.00x16 front tires , 18.4x38 rear tires , 540 rpm , two sets of remotes , 16x16 semo power shift, bar axle, Unit is located in Erin **$33,900**



Kubota M7060
hours showing: 547, 4wd, 12 speed transmission, rops, left hand hydraulic shuttle, 360/70r20 fronts, 420/85r30 rears, cast centers, la1154 ldr, 7' bucket, 3 pth, front grill guard. (Erin) **$57,900**



New Holland BC5070
540 rpm , hydraformatic tension , hydraulic pick up lift , hydraulic swing tongue bundle , wagon hitch,
Unit is located at Stewart's equipment in Erin **$27,900**



New Holland 460
4x6 bales, netwrap, wide pick-up, hydraulic pick -up,18l-16.5l rubber, crop cutter, rear kicker, bale count 14100, Unit is located at Stewart's equipment in Erin **$33,900**



New Holland C232
hours ua: 725, rubber track machine, cab with heat and air, aux hydraulics, 2 spd, iso/h pattern, hydraulic q/a , 72" low profile bucket w/ bolt on cutting edge, unit located in Erin. **$71,900**



Kubota L3350DT
hours ua:1023, diesel, 4wd, open station, no rops, 540 rpm, ag tires, hydraulic shuttle - forward & reverse, loader with 64" bucket, Located at Stewart's Equipment in Stayner, **$21,200**

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