

Since 1977 **FARM** **VIEW**

A newspaper with something for everyone | January 2024 | Volume 47 #01

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explored by
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Conference
and new
program
details not to
be missed

Farm View
goes on a
holiday!



**John Drummond presented with
Feeding the Human Spirit Leadership Award;
in memory of Dr. Tim Henshaw**

Complimentary copy for
the FARM household

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.

January 3rd - 5th: Ontario Agricultural Conference

Registration is open for the 2024 Ontario Agricultural Conference, From Good to Great! Virtual kick-off is January 3rd, 2024, SWAC in-person event January 4th & 5th, 2024, EOCC in-person event January 16th, 2024, MWAC in-person event January 19th, 2024. Visit www.ontarioagconference.ca for details.

January 3rd - 9th: 2024 Grey Bruce Farmers' Week Conference and Trade Show

Registration is open for the Grey Bruce Farmers' Week in person and virtual Conference and Trade Show. The conference will be held January 3rd to the 9th. Many fascinating speakers and presentations! Topics covered are beef, dairy, goat, sheep, horse, eco day and crops day! Visit www.grey-brucefarmersweek.ca.

January 14th: News and Advertising Deadline

The advertising and news deadline for the February issue of Farm View is **Sunday, January 14th**.

January 24th: Essa & District Ag Society AGM

The Essa & District Agricultural Society annual general meeting will take place on January 24th, 2024. To be held at the Ivy Community Hall. Details at <https://essaagriplex.ca>.

January 24th - 27th: Guelph Organic Conference

The theme for the 2024 Guelph Organic Conference is Bring Organic Home: Cultivating Community in a Changing Climate. Taking place January 24th-27th, 2024.

Jean-Martin Fortier and Catherine Sylvestre will discuss topics including planting, care, and harvesting details for dozens of winter crops so that you can earn money and provide the highest quality, most delicious produce to local markets. Visit <https://guelphorganicconf.ca/>

More information in the article on page 18.

Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP) Information Sessions

Join OSCIA for an online information session to learn more about the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP), a funding program being delivered by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association.

Projects will focus on: Natural Grassland Establishment, Perennial Biomass & Warm Season Pastures, Reduced Tillage, Tree & Shrub Planting, Water Retention Features and Wetlands. **More information in the article on page 20.** Visit <https://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/resilient-agricultural-landscape-program/> or call 519-826-4214 or 1-800-265-975.

February 15th: Agricultural Land Rental Tender Process Closes

MTM Conservation Association will grant a non-exclusive land use agreement to successful tenderer for each property subject to terms and conditions. Five-year term commencing April 1, 2024. For further information and to submit tenders, please contact: info@mtmconservation.org. **More details on page 23.**

February 21st: Southwestern Ontario Pork Conference

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the 60th annual Southwestern Ontario Pork Conference on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at the University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus. Registration opened December 1, 2023. Conference information and registration can be viewed at <http://www.ridgetown.com/swopc>. Registration includes all the day's activities plus a delicious pork dinner!

For more information and sponsorship opportunities call 1 866 222 9682 or email lelgie@uoguelph.ca

More details in the article on page 6.

Ensure your family's safety by remembering the simple slogan C.H.A.R.G.E.

By Dennis Gannon

Did you get a new battery operated power tool for Christmas? Was it an ebike or portable power bank or maybe a personal electronic device such as a laptop, cell phone or tablet? Did you know that almost all these devices are powered by a lithium battery? Lithium batteries power many devices that we have in our homes and businesses and are relatively safe. But unfortunately there has been a drastic increase in fires, sometimes often fatal, from devices that are powered by lithium batteries. In one report the City of Toronto has seen a 72% increase year over year in fires that can be attributed to lithium batteries. In some jurisdictions, task forces have been established to look at the use of lithium batteries, how they contribute to fires and consumers and firefighters need to address the concerns. Depending on the size of the battery, water itself isn't always the best option for extinguishing a fire. There are numerous examples of electric cars needing thousands of litres of water to extinguish the fire. As well, unfortunately there has been an increase in fatalities from fires that have been caused by generally uncertified batteries, damaged batteries or altered devices. It is important that as a consumer you should be aware that you can ensure your and your family's safety by remembering the simple slogan C.H.A.R.G.E.

C. Choose certified products. When purchasing lithium-ion battery-powered devices, look for products that are listed or safety-certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory to ensure that they meet important safety requirements.

H. Handle with care. Follow the manufacturer's instructions. Only use the charging equipment that comes with the product. Store batteries away from extreme temperatures, direct sunlight, exits, and anything flammable. Charge larger devices like eBikes away from your exit path and outside your home if possible. Do not charge larger devices overnight.

A. Always stay alert for warning signs. Check battery-powered devices often for damage or abuse such as swelling or punctures. Listen for unusual hissing or popping sounds. Watch out for excessive heat or a strange odor. If you notice any of these warning signs, stop using the lithium-ion battery-powered device immediately. Watch for white or gray wispy smoke, as this indicates there is immediate danger of fire.

R. Recycle battery operated devices properly. Responsibly dispose of old or damaged batteries by taking them to the nearest battery recycling center. Never discard batteries, chargers, or battery-powered devices in regular trash bins.

G. If there is a fire, get out quickly. Know the warning signs to look and listen for and get out if you see – or hear – them. Follow your home fire escape plan to leave immediately and call 9-1-1.

E. Educate others about battery safety. Know that you more about lithium battery safety, share it with your family and friends.

Remember, if you have any fire safety questions, your local fire department is your best source and they are always happy to help you.



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Forages play a vital role on dramatically improving soil health

Report by Andrew Hind

As part of Forage Focus 2023, the Ontario Forage Council welcomed attendees from across the country to the webinar “Recipe for Soil Health: Add Forages” on Wednesday, December 6, 2023. The webinar was led by guest speaker Christine Brown, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Field Crop Specialists.

Brown began by noting that the most resilient soils found on a dairy or beef farm are when perennial forage makes up a significant portion of the rotation. The seminar focused on how forage growth improves soil health and on best practices to achieve these results.

She believes that dairy and beef farmers can maximize the potential of their land and their herds by implementing sound soil health practices. “While we like to add forage for soil health, but we have to remember that it’s all about profitability and livestock production.”

Soil Health

Brown began by explaining what, exactly, we mean by the term ‘soil health.’ “Soil health,” she said, “is the suite of biological, chemical, and physical populations which enable soils to function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains all life above and beneath the soil.”

One of Brown’s key points was that forages can play a vital role on dramatically improving soil health. They do so in multiple ways.

Plants, as we all know, capture solar energy through the process of photosynthesis. This energy is then converted into soil carbon. Fields with forages, she explained, contains more carbon per acre than other available options. A field of perennial forage captures 1,680 lbs of carbon per acre. A rotation of corn/corn/soybean/wheat (as one example) captures only 425 lbs per acre.

Why is this significant? “Carbon is the soil’s capital,” Brown explained. The soil carbon is re-invested into the ecosystem, providing soil stability, allows for an expansion of the soil ecosystem, and provides food in the form of beef and dairy and fuel in the form of manure. Brown dove deeper into the benefits of forage pasture to overall soil health.

Such pastures, she noted, are undisturbed for longer periods of time, allowing for microbial populations, root systems, and soil structures to develop and mature. Additionally, multiple plant species result in a healthy diversity of root systems, microbes, and nutrients.

With forage there is very little nutrient removal. “80% of the nutrients are added back in manure,” she explained.

Finally, because of the long harvest period (April to October), forage provides maximum photosynthesis potential.

Interesting, cited studies suggest that white clover and tall fescue result in the highest microbial populations.

Brown took time to point out the benefits of both warm season and winter forages.

The former use water with great efficiency (as much as 50% lower than corn silage), offer a high sugar content, and boast a short growing season. The latter offers high yield potential by taking advantage of extra growing days, the winter coverage protects soil from erosion and feeds microorganisms, and its spring harvest dates offers the possibility of growing another row and thereby maximizes the benefits of photosynthesis.

Benefits of Manure

Brown spent considerable time discussing the benefits of adding manure to forage.

Manure is nutrient rich and organic matter rich. In addition to the nutrients found in commercial fertilizers (NPK), manure also has micro-nutrients, such as sulphur, zinc, manganese and calcium, and micro-organisms (including some pathogens) that benefit the soil and add diversity.

As a result, adding organic amendments significantly increases biomass in both top growth and roots, she noted, then offering a stunning statistic pointing out the practical benefits of increased biomass. Cover crop fields with digestates applied result in 35-50% more milk production.

Other benefits of adding manure include savings in fertilizer costs and improved soil health through supplementing nutrients that are removed from the soil with the harvest.

Brown stressed, however, that the value of manure only as good as the distribution. Uniform application using calibrated equipment is essential to avoid burning or smothering crop cover, and to ensure maximum benefit. Injection, rather than spreader, is the ideal form of applicator.

Manure must be applied at the right time as well. Brown encourages the application of manure as soon after the harvest as possible. The reason? Wheel traffic damages regrowth from plant crowns, meaning regrowth must come from the roots and therefore results in less regrowth overall.

Other Benefits from Forage in Rotation

Brown rounded out her hour-long seminar by noting other benefits of forage in rotation.

For one, forage helps in controlling damaging pests. “More crops in rotation provide an unpredictable environment for pests,” she said. Similarly, forage is useful in weed control. Annual weeds may still grow, but they won’t have a chance to establish themselves.

Forages can also help in soil erosion, a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (particularly methane and nitrous oxide), an opportunity for crops in the form of earthworms for the fishing market and provide government nitrogen credits.

In closing, Brown reminded participants of the many benefits of healthy soil and pointed out why, not uncoincidentally, the healthiest soils are often found on livestock farms with perennial forages.

The seminar can be watched in full at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i4z6rraNd0c>.





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JD 5425 (E91238) 2008, MFWD, 81ENG HP, 3220HR, CAB.....	\$52,640.00
JD 2350/LDR (E91255) 1985, 2WD, 61ENG HP, 12624HR, OOS.....	\$16,850.00

Agriculture - Tractors - Compact Utility Tractors

JD 4520 (E90436) 2005, 4WD, 53ENG HP, 1577HR, OOS.....	\$34,690.00
BO CT5550 (E91077) 2022, BOBCAT, 4WD, 50ENG HP, 7 HRS, FL9-5 NSL LDR., 72" QUICK-TACH BKT, HYDRO, CAB.....	\$65,270.00
JD 1025R/FILB (E91139) 2015, 4WD, 25ENG HP, 145HR, OOS.....	\$29,900.00
JD 4066R/LDR (E91203) 2017, 4WD, 66ENG HP, 480HRS, HYDRO, CAB.....	\$69,900.00
JD 3039R/LDR (E91208) 2021, 4WD, 39ENG HP, 550HR, CAB.....	\$50,000.00



JD 5083E/LDR (E88854) 2013, MFWD, CONSIGN, 83ENG HP, 285HR, CAB, \$69,480.00



JD 5090R/LDR (E90221) 2018, 4WD, 90ENG HP, 1818HR, PWR REV TRAN, CAB, \$85,270.00



JD 2038R/LDR (E90409) 2019, 4WD, 38ENG HP, 175HR, OOS, \$46,320.00



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FROM THE EDITOR



Roslyn Watkins
Publisher/Editor
Farm View Newspaper
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Happy New Year! Here we are in 2024 ready for what the year ahead holds. This is the first time I actually find myself wondering what will be different and what will remain the same as 2024 progresses. Either way, each day is one to look forward to! I recently heard a very good message on the radio station Life 100.3. It was about the difference of things in life being easy vs. difficult and how resilient we become when we don't give in. Instead of laying down and letting the wind rush over you, lean into it and see how strong you are. Words that I have taken to heart and consider when I am experiencing something emotionally or physically challenging. I know I will be stronger if I don't give up. Focusing on succeeding through the test of my will rather than giving in. This is the attitude I plan to carry with me through the new year. I hope these words mean something to you too.

While reading this issue of Farm View you will notice three new advertisers offering services you may be interested in. KB Roling provides a therapy called Roling® Structural Integration, which is a form of bodywork that works with

fascia, The Royal Bank of Canada is promoting their agricultural department and the Simcoe County branch of the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario would like you to become a member. Last month I received an email from new advertiser Crewson Insurance letting me know within a week of the December issue being published a Farm View reader contacted them requesting a quote. Thank you to this gentleman for referring to the ad you saw in the Farm View.

Now I know the paper would not be a success if it was all advertisements. This issue brings you coverage of the Forage Focus 2023 webinars detailing the importance of forages. Dennis Gannon reminds us of the proper care of lithium batteries. Don Beaulieu shares the events of the Feeding the Human Spirit awards night, and I share the details of a recent vacation with my better half to name a few interesting articles. There are also a few conferences and programs listed on the ag calendar to keep you busy over the winter months.

Before I sign off, I'd like to take a moment to wish Shawn Watkins, husband and father extraordinaire, a very happy birthday this month. I know I have said this before but it was due to Shawn's love and encouragement that I became publisher of this newspaper. His confidence in me and our three children is never wavering and always a constant we can count on. Shawn gives of himself without hesitation not just to his family, friends and coworkers, but to strangers on the street and passerby in his life. I am fortunate to call Shawn my spouse but more so to call him my best friend.

Happy Birthday Shawn!



Travis Farrel, from Shelburne Ontario, won first place with his giant pumpkin pictured above. Don Beaulieu has compiled results for us from The 2023 Royal Winter Agricultural Fair. These can be found on pages 12 and 13. Congratulations to Cathy Hamill-Hill, Farm View reporter (among many other roles), for placing 1st and second in two of the Rabbit categories.

—Photo by Shawn Watkins



Soul Sisters, Reverend Kelly [left] and Reverend Erin pictured above in the Anten Mills Santa Claus parade with a very creative Grinch that Stole Christmas float. Read their article on the Golden Rule on page 8.

—Photo by Roslyn Watkins

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- 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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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

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4380 HRS



JD 5115R 2017
32/16, PREM CAB, AIR SEAT, 3 REMOTES, 3
FUNC LOADER VALVE, 2955 HRS



JD 5125R 2017
32/16, PREM CAB, 3 ELEC REMOTES, 3
FUNCTION JOYSTICK, 3 SPEED, 2995 HRS



JD 6140M 2022
MFWD, CAB, PQ PLUS 24/24 40K,
480/70R38, LDR PREP, 1202 HRS



JD 6215R 2019
20/20 ECO SHIFT (40K), PREM CAB, 4 ELEC
REMOTES, PREM RADIO, 491 HRS



JD 7R 210 2022
TLS MFWD, IVT 50KM, FR 3PH/PTO,
650/85R38 SINGLES, 542 HRS



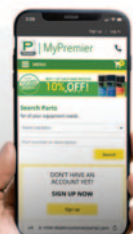
JD 8R 310 2022
ILS MFWD, IVT 50KM, 710/70R42 DUALS,
366 HRS



JD 8320R 2018
IVT (42K), ILS, ACTIVE COMMAND STEER,
PREM CAB WITH SUSPENS, 2998 HRS



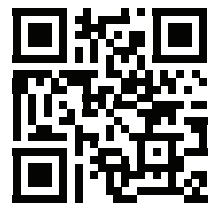
JD 8370R 2019
IVT (50K), PREM CAB WITH SUSP, ILS WITH
BRAKES, PREM RADIO, 2340 HRS



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Communication is a two way street



By Leah Emms
OFA Member Services Rep.
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Today I saw a quote on social media that said, “The biggest communication problem is that we do not listen to understand. We listen to reply.”

I am sure that everyone is guilty of replying too quickly sometimes. I know I am. Listening to understand requires you to be patient and thoughtful. We all get stressed and have multiple tasks to complete in a day. Many times, we are consumed by all the tasks in our minds and just do not immerse ourselves in the conversation.

In my role as the Member Service Representative for the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, I have experienced this when communicating with those outside of the agricultural sector, which I interact with on the regular basis. We work hard to communicate our specific issues in common language that doesn’t leave the listening party wondering what was just said.

Here are some strategies that I try to use especially on phone calls. Ask if this is a good time to chat. Most people will be honest and let you know if it is not. Do a bit of homework before the call. Have details written down or accessible if that information is contained in an email. Acronyms are everywhere in every sector. Speak to people without using acronyms as much as possible. Don’t assume people know what OFA means for example. Control your emotions. Don’t be aggressive and attack people that you are asking for assistance or information. The old saying is true. “You get more flies with honey than vinegar.” Even if

you don’t agree, be respectful of others. And finally, be clear and concise.

We work hard to effectively communicate to all levels of government the agricultural perspective on multiple subjects every single day. Advocating for our members and the agricultural sector is a task that we don’t do alone. The Ontario Federation of Agriculture works with our county federation volunteers to ensure that the farm perspective on local issues is communicated to decision makers.

Farm and Food Care and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture recently offered members the opportunity for free communication training. Members took advantage of this training opportunity to aid in their educational journey as a volunteer advocating for the agricultural sector.

Each week, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture produces a newsletter that provides updates on activities that the Board of Directors and staff have engaged in or events the organization has attended. Along with other important sector information. I encourage members to subscribe to the newsletter to stay informed. For ease, please use this QR code to quickly subscribe.



Communication is a two way street. Understanding and responding are key to effective communication professionally and personally.

Southwestern Ontario Pork Conference



Mark your calendars and plan to attend the 60th annual Southwestern Ontario Pork Conference on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at the University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus.

This year’s conference is “Moving Forward” with new ideas in benchmarking, barn renovations and so much more!

“It’s all about keeping the producers informed and up to date while providing a place for industry reps to visit with their customers” says Darren Sloan, chair of the 2024 SWOPC Planning Committee.

The conference is very fortunate to have industry sponsors to help bring such a great program to the area producers. Conference attendees should plan to spend time visiting industry partners at the conference trade show area while enjoying complimentary coffee & refreshments before the program begins at 4:00 pm.

The conference program includes Ryan Martin, RFW Farms Ltd., OMAFRA team Laura Eastwood and Steve Beadle, Dr. Greg Wideman from South West Vets, Ryan Tenbergen from Demeter Veterinary Services and Matt Davis from Hord Family Farms, Bucyrus, OH.

Please join the SWOPC planning committee “Moving Forward” with the latest and most up to date pork production information that you can take back to your operation. This conference has lots to offer and all pork producers should plan to attend.

Registration opened December 1, 2023. Conference information and registration can be viewed at <http://www.ridgetown.com/swopc>. Registration includes all the day’s activities plus a delicious pork dinner!

For more information and sponsorship opportunities call 1 866 222 9682 or email lelgie@uoguelph.ca

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“Rumen fuel” is the gasoline in the cow’s engine

Report by Cathy Hamill-Hill

Matt Groen has an MSc in Dairy Nutrition from the University of Guelph and has worked for over 11 years with Cargill Animal Nutrition in Dairy Technical services. He supports Cargill farm consultant sales teams in Ontario, the Maritimes and Western Provinces. Groen was the speaker for the webinar titled: Feeding the “Rumen: Maximizing the Potential from Forages.” This was the first in a three part series presented by Ontario Forage Focus.

“Why do we feed forages to dairy cattle (and ruminants) in general?” Groen said is a common question. He stated that it is generally thought that forages are important for the soil being used in crop rotation as forages have advantages such as “alfalfa breaks up soil compaction.” Groen added forages are also very environmentally friendly. The most important reason forages need to be part of the ruminant’s diet is that “the rumen has a need for physically effective fibre. We cannot expect a ruminant to have good health and live long, productive lives without forages to make that rumen work,” he explained.

Cattle are “the ultimate upcyclers.” According to Groen, “Cows turn fibre and other carbohydrates we often can’t as a human process into a digestible of protein of either meat or milk.”

“Rumen fuel” is the gasoline in the cow’s engine (rumen), Groen explained.

The first component of Rumen Fuel is starch. “The word here (for starch) in Ontario is corn,” he said adding that questions about the corn must be asked. The corn in full kernel is not the same as properly processed corn silage. “Whole corn bypasses the rumen and bypasses the digestive tract and ends up in the manure pit,” so the corn used to feed dairy cows must be of good processed quality. “Corn silage that has been well fermented and when those kernels are broke, will have starch that is quite high,” he explained.

The second component of Rumen fuel should be Digestible Fiber and the third component is sugar.

Good forage production has some enemies that Groen referred to as “Destroyers of Rumen Fuel.” The first destroyer is “dirt,” he said explaining this is referred to in a forage analysis as “Ash.” When Ash is listed as 7% that is considered normal but above that should say “soil or dirt contamination” he clarified.

Groen said that dirt content can be significantly reduced out of the haylage forage by watching the height the hay is cut. “Minimum and absolutely no lower than 3 inches high

for alfalfa and 4 inches high for grass stands. Cutting high promote growth and yield in subsequent cuts,” he said adding that “yield over the year will be higher at these heights than cutting closer to the ground.” He added that “if a haylage sample tests at 12% ash that really means there is about 40 kilos of dirt within that haylage. That is top soil getting into feed.”

Once the field is cut, take the option for wide swathing, he advised adding that “wide swathed baleage merged with properly set up equipment will have less ash content than narrow swath baleage left on the field longer.” He added that once that hay is cut, “the faster off the field, the better.”

The second destroyer of Rumen fuel is: Oxygen. “We need to limit oxygen to produce the fermentation process,” he explained. Packing is critical to fermented feed. The packing has to be done to get the oxygen out. He added that inoculants should be used based on research and studies especially for haylage as it needs its help with fermentation.

“One problem here in Canada is that the big harvesters chop a lot of feed quickly and we don’t have the packing capacity to keep up,” he said adding that when it comes to packing, it should be height before length. Packing it down means running heavy tractors over to do it properly and then letting it sit while covered, untouched preferably for six months, one month minimum.

He added the Bunker Silo should have a “smooth face” and it should not be “more defaced than what is needed for the day.” This means, “do not open it

all up and introduce oxygen to it.”

For haylage, Groen advises to follow the 30/24/15 advice. “Pure alfalfa stands should be cut when 30 inches tall. Mixed stands with about 80% alfalfa should be 24 inches tall. Pure Grass stands have more fibre digestibility and should be cut when the nearby alfalfa is 15 inch tall.

He added that corn silage harvesting should always start with a moisture test. “Moisture should be about 30-35%.”

This webinar was presented by Ontario Forage Council and Dairy Farmers of Ontario. Speaker Sponsors were Kemin and Grand River Robotics. The full webinar can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RXEMQnn3ulw&t=619s>



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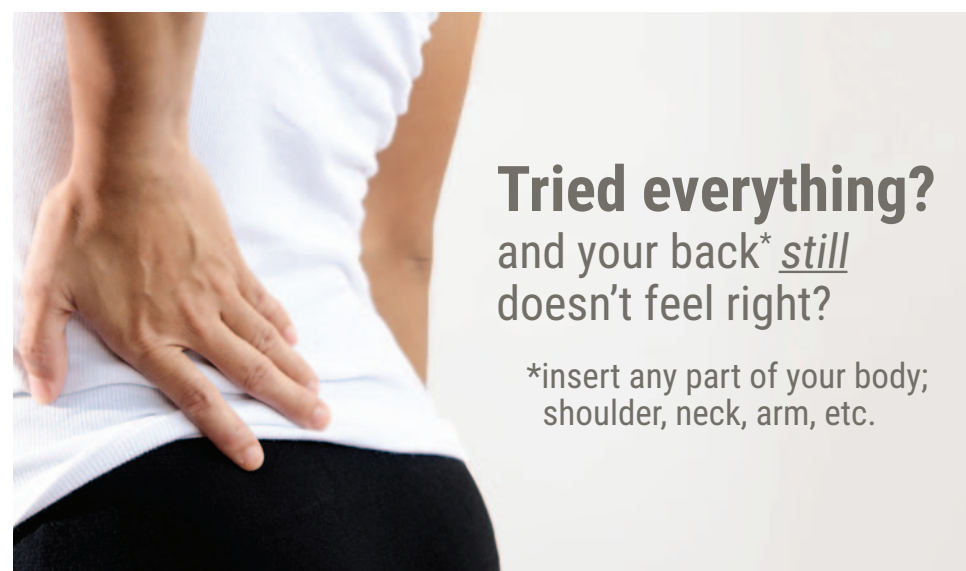
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Soul Sisters Celebrations

A Golden Start: Embracing the New Year with Universal Positivity

As we joyously step into the dawn of a new year, I reflect with a heart full of warmth on the festivities that December brings. Last month, my sister and I reveled in the season's spirit and community. Lots of laughter was shared with neighbours, family, and friends. In a delightful twist, we even fashioned our new tractor into a whimsical "Grinch Stole Christmas" float for the Anten Mills parade, a spirited embodiment of the joy that community and creativity bring during this special time. Last month I talked about the spirit of celebration becoming a unifying force that should rise above religious boundaries and the shared spirit of celebration becoming a bridge regardless of what we call the God of our understanding. We are aligned and guided by some form of the "Golden rule." Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Although worded differently each has a version of their "Golden Rule."

As the echoes of our holiday merriment linger, we turn our gaze toward the uncharted days of the new year, carrying with us the lessons of the past and the promise of a golden future. In the spirit of our shared experiences and the universal principles that unite us, let's look into the essence of the Golden Rule and explore how it intertwines with diverse religious and spiritual traditions, setting the stage for a year brimming with positivity and shared goodwill.

Christianity: In the teachings of Jesus Christ, the Golden Rule is a beacon of love and compassion. The Gospel of Matthew encapsulates this principle: "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you." Consider the Parable of the Good Samaritan, where a stranger demonstrates kindness and care for someone in need, embodying the essence of the Golden Rule.

Judaism: Within Judaism, the Golden Rule resonates in Leviticus 19:18, which implores followers to "Love your neighbor as yourself." The story of Ruth and Naomi exemplifies this ethic, illustrating loyalty and kindness between family members.

Islam: Islamic teachings echo the sentiment of the Golden Rule. The concept of "Sadaqah" (charity) encourages Muslims to give selflessly to those in need, em-

bodimenting the principle of wishing for others what they desire for themselves.

Hinduism: In Hinduism, the Golden Rule aligns with the principle of "Ahimsa" (non-violence). As we set intentions for the new year, let us strive to create a world where our actions reflect the kindness we wish to receive.

Buddhism: Buddhism teaches us the practice of loving-kindness. The Jataka tales, stories of the Buddha's past lives, often depict acts of compassion and selflessness, aligning with the principles of the Golden Rule.

Sikhism: The Sikh concept of "Langar," a community kitchen serving free meals to all, embodies the Golden Rule in action. As we enter the new year, let us resolve to be active participants in creating a world where every individual is treated with kindness and respect.

Indigenous Spirituality: Indigenous traditions, grounded in the interconnectedness of all living things, remind us to respect and harmonize with nature and each other. As we step into the new year, let us carry this wisdom, treating our planet and fellow beings with reverence.

Secular and Humanistic Ethics: Even in secular realms, the Golden Rule remains a universal ethic. Let the new year be a testament to our shared humanity, where empathy, kindness, and understanding form the bedrock of our interactions, transcending religious and cultural boundaries.

In embracing the Golden Rule as a guiding principle for the new year, we invite positivity, compassion, and unity into our lives. As we set our intentions for personal growth, let them be intertwined with a commitment to creating a world where the golden threads of empathy bind us together. May the harvest be bountiful, not only in crops but also in the bonds that connect farmers and communities alike. As we kick off this new year, let the Golden Rule be our compass, guiding us toward a future brimming with goodwill and collective well-being.

Happy new year from the soul sisters. Wishing you a divine 2024 and a year where the seeds of compassion and solidarity flourish.

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



SOUL SISTERS CELEBRATIONS



2024

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From the Policy Desk – Look Back at 2023

By Suzanne Armstrong, Ph.D., Director of Policy & Research for the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario

2023 has been a busy year. We have advocated on behalf of farmers to both the federal and provincial governments on a number of issues. At the federal level, we continue to press for relief from policies that are adding unfair costs to farmers, including the current tariff on fertilizer from Russia. We have also written to Canadian Senators requesting that they support carbon price exemptions for farmers in Bill C-234.

At the provincial level, three key issues continue; abattoir inspections, access to veterinary care, and protecting farmland. On all three of these issues we have seen progress and clear indications that government is listening. That being said, more progress needs to be made, and CFFO will continue to advocate for positive changes that support farmers and a thriving agricultural sector now and into the future.

In terms of abattoir inspections, processors and farmers now have access to more information when an animal is condemned. While this will not change the determination, this information can help prevent similar issues in the future. The CFFO still wants to see better

working relationships between inspectors and processors, where both parties work efficiently together to bring food safely to the consumer.

Access to veterinary care continues to be a challenge. The Ontario government has introduced funding to increase tele-medicine veterinary advice, and incentives to help underserved communities attract veterinarians to serve in their areas. A new program at Lakehead University will offer veterinary medicine in northern Ontario, in hopes students will then serve remote communities where they have trained. However, it will be years before we see a real impact from increasing the number of graduates specializing in large or mixed animal care, both from Guelph and Lakehead.

With an ongoing housing crisis, working to protect farmland has proven to be challenging. Public support to protect Ontario's Greenbelt clearly shows that many see the need to balance new housing supply while protecting farmland and natural features like woodlots and wetlands. Farmers and eaters alike can celebrate that the public values

farmland.

We are pleased to see government listening to these concerns. The Ontario government reinstated lands removed from the Greenbelt and reversed provincial changes to municipal official plans for 12 municipalities. This supports local governments' efforts to protect farmland while still increasing housing options within settlement area boundaries.

There is a need for more affordable housing options, and the CFFO continues to recommend developing land already designated for housing and increased density within settlement areas.

The CFFO addressed many other issues, national, provincial and local, over the course of 2023. You can find our submissions on our website. If you have an issue impacting your farm or your community, please reach out to CFFO staff or leadership and let us know.

We at CFFO keep working every day to bring farmers' concerns to decision-makers. We look forward to new opportunities for positive changes in 2024.



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Generous donation received by Essa Historical Society

Story by John Beischer



In the photo at left Scott Guy [right], Lodge Master at the Ivy Orange Lodge [No.450], presented a donation to Rhod Price, a director of the Essa Historical Society to assist this group with their work in preserving the history of Essa Township. Many people attended this enjoyable afternoon event last month to witness the many donations this Lodge presented to groups who support this community. Essa Historical Society is a group of dedicated volunteers whose main objective is to recognize, maintain and preserve the history of the 'garden' township of Simcoe County. Former and present members of the EHS have produced many books and calendars, as well as coordinating plaque installations at historical locations throughout the township. The EHS meet once monthly and welcome new member volunteers who share an interest in preserving the important history of Essa township.

Photo by John Beischer for Farm View



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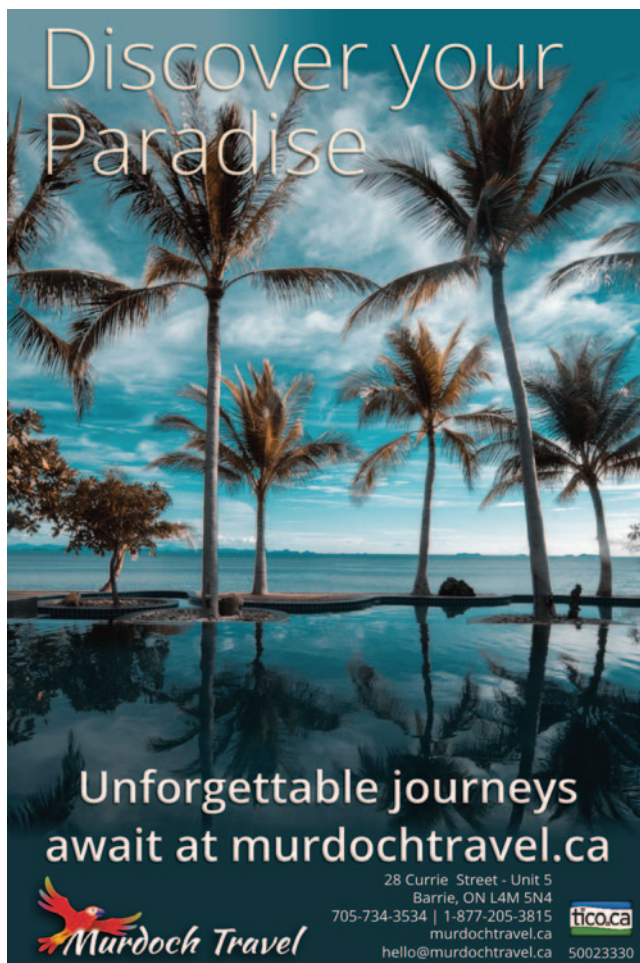
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Farm View goes on holiday aboard the Celebrity Silhouette

Story by Roslyn Watkins, photos by Shawn Watkins



Farm View publisher, Roslyn Watkins, in vacation mode onboard the Celebrity Silhouette.

In 2019 my sister, Diana, and I received a very generous offer from our Aunt Beverly to be her guests on a 7 day cruise to Bermuda onboard the Celebrity Summit. Our mom had just passed a few months prior and after some consideration, Diana and I quickly accepted the offer of a getaway. To me that cruise was an opportunity to connect with my sister, share in our grief and just be. At the time I didn't realize how much it would 'do me good' to be away from the pressures of every day life for a little while. And when I look back I realize just how special that trip was. Since returning home from that cruise I made it my goal to go again as soon as possible. But I wasn't interested in any old cruise, it needed to be on another Celebrity ship. I am one of those people who, once exposed to the beauty and exceptional service of a holiday, tend to stick with what I know. Fast forward to the fall of 2023 and I found myself randomly checking pricing for a 4 night cruise onboard the Celebrity Silhouette. Over the course of a month and a half the price for a verandah suite continued to drop until one day it was below my predetermined budget and I started hollering from the office "I'm booking it!" I contacted Jeff Clarke at Murdoch Travel and we put our plans into place.

Shawn and I had an early start the morning of November 30th to get to the airport in time for our 6 a.m. flight. No hiccups there and mostly it was a lot of 'hurry up and wait.' The flight was smooth and we headed for the cruise terminal from the Fort Lauderdale airport with no concerns by 11 a.m.

Right from the moment of stepping out of the cab at the Celebrity cruise terminal, we were greeted by smiles of all the Celebrity employees. From Ray who handled our luggage to the greeters directing us to the waiting area after going through security. Every staff member was kind and gave us clear directions of how to proceed next. We didn't have to wait long before the boarding announcement was made and we embarked upon the Silhouette.

One of the many nice features of this cruise line is the early access to your room. Guests are invited to drop off any carry on luggage at the room even if the room itself isn't quite ready. Once we dropped our luggage off we set out to find the buffet. We were happily overwhelmed by the many delicious choices and I must say, set about sampling a little of everything! We then had a quick cat nap in the solarium of the ship before thoroughly exploring what was to be our new home for the next 5 days. I turned to Shawn and asked

"where shall we begin?" He replied "From the bottom up!" And so we began our tour on deck three, exploring the multi level Main dining room (stunning!), the Passport Bar, one of the specialty restaurants and the two level Theater. Guest relations and shore excursions are also on this level. Deck 4 features a casino, two more specialty bars, another specialty restaurant and the shops. Deck 5 showcases the remaining specialty restaurants as well as the art gallery and Café al Bacio & Gelateria. Decks 6 through to 11 consist of state-rooms with the addition of the Hideaway on decks 7 and 8, a retreat where you'll find a quiet spot to disconnect, rest and relax, and the Library on decks 10 and 11. Deck 12 quickly became our favourite as it was the location of our new morning routine, consisting of a workout at the fitness centre, breakfast at the Spa Cafe and coffee in the Solarium; an adults-only section with thickly padded lounge chairs, a pool, hot tubs and waterfall feature. Next was deck 14, the location of the Oceanview Cafe, Mast Grill and Bar and the Sky Observation Lounge. In the evenings we found ourselves on deck 15 sitting in one of many large rocking lounge chairs watching the stars go by. Also located on Deck 15 is the

Lawn Club. A large expanse of real grass where guests are invited to picnic (picnic blankets provided), play bocce ball or watch a movie or sports game under the stars on the jumbo outdoor tv screen.

A key point about this cruise ship is that there is no shortage of beautiful spaces to sit and visit, or quietly lounge. There are stunning spaces in the sun, in the shade and indoors. You can choose to be in the crowds or away from it all. No matter where you are the beauty and design of this ship is evident.

The staff greet every guest with genuine warmth and succeed at making the vacation a memorable one.

Shawn and I did participate in two shore excursions. One to Pearl Island in the Bahamas and one sightseeing tour of Fort Lauderdale by bus and river boat.

The afternoon spent at Pearl Island was beautiful, the water was turquoise and perfectly clear. Shawn and I both enjoyed stand up paddle boarding for the first time,

lounging in the sun and touring the small island.

The bus tour portion of the Fort Lauderdale tour wasn't as advertised and had a few disappointments. I would highly suggest doing a little research and reading some reviews if planning an excursion. The river boat tour, put on by Carrie B Cruises, of mansions and yachts was fantastic. The guide was knowledgeable and charming. If you find yourself with some free time in Fort Lauderdale I highly recommend contacting them. More information can be found at www.carriebcruises.com.

If I could bottle how relaxed I felt in the warm sunshine on this cruise, I would be a very wealthy woman.

Celebrity's fleet consists of 15 cruise ships. The Silhouette occupancy is 2902, its length is 1047 ft., the beam is 121 ft and cruising speed is 24 kts. The Silhouette was launched in May of 2011 and refurbished in February 2020.



Clockwise from top left; early morning Key West as seen from our verandah, an excursion to Pearl Island, Bahamas, The Celebrity Silhouette ship, The Hideaway and the Pool deck at night.

Feeding the human spirit & celebrating the legacy of Tim Henshaw

Report and photographs by Don Beaulieu

“Your smile is your logo. Your personality is your business card. The way you make others feel is your trademark”.

The late Dr. Tim Henshaw was often heard saying this to 4-H and rural youth.

An online and live silent auction was held near the end of November, just as the December issue of Farm View was going on the press. EastGen, well known for their immune genetics, with the help of many sponsors and donations raised money for three of Dr. Henshaw’s favourite charities.

The event was attended by a couple hundred people at the Nottawasaga Inn near Alliston while an untold number of bidders viewed online.

By the end of the event, Elmvale District Food Bank, 4-H Ontario and Farm & Food Care Ontario each received \$10,000. We can be sure Dr. Tim, as he was often referred, would be proud of the support offered to these organizations which were very close to his heart.

To recognize his encouragement and devotion to serving others, the EastGen Board of Directors elected

to recognize one participant from each of three 4-H Ontario youth events with the Dr. Tim Henshaw Award of Excellence. The winners were Shayna Dickson from the Spencerville Showcase, Braden Sparks from the Woodstock Challenge and Joanna Kapteyn from the Markham Challenge.

Sparks and Kapteyn were on hand to give a rundown of the charities which were being supported by the auction.

Another new and very relevant award by the Board of Directors of EastGen is the Feeding the Human Spirit Leadership award. This award is for those who



Russell Gammon did an impressive job basically providing a play-by-play of the auction action, keeping the audience informed and engaged.



mentor and feed the human spirit. EastGen President Amanda Jeffs made the inaugural presentation to John Drummond.

Drummond was selected for his “infectious spirit, contagious excitement, his exuberance, imagination; for the many years volunteering with 4-H and inspiring youth to push their comfort zone and to be their best”.

Upon accepting the award, Drummond promised to continue to be involved with 4-H and to continue to have fun doing it. “I’m going to do everything I can to make Tim proud of this award... and keep his spirit alive”.



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- Dairy Showmanship:**
- 14. Emi Lange of Utopia with DELTA CREEK FATAL DESTRUCTION

- Holstein Spring Heifer:**
- 12. QUALITY SIDEKICK LIBERTY, Rebecca Lange of Egbert
- Hostein Winter Heifer:**
- 6. MS TANG ALLIGATR A TRECK-ET, Lily Beckett of Keswick
 - 20. SPENCROFT DOC ELLARAY, Tyler Philips of Midland,
- Holstein Fall Heifer:**
- 11. DANDYLAND MASTER ROWAN, Grace Finch of Utopia
- Holstein Summer Yearling:**
- 4. KNONDALE COCONUT-PIE, Jack Lange of Utopia
- Holstein Spring Yearling:**
- 14. WALKHAVERN DELTA ROSE, Connor Walker of Stayner
 - 19. QUALITY DIAMONDBACK FROST, Josh Stone of Elmvale
- Jersey Fall Heifer:**
- 18. EMERHILL FERD JOSEPHINE, Zoe Duchek of Markham
- Jersey Summer Yearling:**
- 10. SHADY GLEN STEVE 1197, Luke Jones of Midland
- Charolais calves:**
- 5. ROLLIN ACRES DELTA DAWN 28L, Bennett Tuppling of Mulmur.
- Limousin calves:**
- 8. MCNIVEN FARMS DAISY LOU 8L, Josephine McNiven of Oro-Medonte
- Angus calves:**
- 1. J P D PRIDE 1L, Amber Montgomery of Ramara

- Bred & owned Heifer calves:**
- 1. MBT XJG SAMMY 101L, Paul Twiss, Lisle
- Bred & Owned Yearling Heifers**
- 1. BLIZZARD 121K, Charles John Watson V Memorial Award, Faith Walker, Coldwater
- Intermediate Female Calf born 2023**
- 5. RED IRON LUCY 321L, Emma Hulse, Schomberg
- Hereford Junior Yearling Female born 2022**
- 1. GRO-JDL TEMPTATION 49H 501K, Junior Yearling Heifer Champion Reserve, Grosvenor JDL Cattle Co, Mulmur
- Intermediate Yearling Female Born in 2022**
- 8. LIAN 42G KELSEY 209J, Lian Mor Polled Herefords, Mono
- Senior Yearling Female born 2022**
- 1. JDL JANICE 49H 125K, Senior Yearling Female Champion Reserve, JDL Cattle Co, Mulmur
 - 2. JDL JANICE 24E 113K, JDL Cattle Co, Mulmur
 - 7. AXA 366 512D MISS UNIT-ED 103K, Emma Hulse, Schomberg
- Senior Yearling Bull Born 2022**
- 3. HULSE 318H KRYPTONITE 310K, Emma Hulse, Schomberg
- Simmental Intermediate Heifer Calf**
- 4. LAZY EM'S LAQUISHA 2301L, Emma Hulse, Schomberg
- Senior Bull Calf**
- 5. KINGFIELD LANDO, Kingfield Farms, Maple



Results from Farm View country

Farm View has sifted through the results from the 2023 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair competitions to compile these lists of winners from our distribution area. Not all categories are here; with regret most of the products such as cheeses, wools, maple syrup, garments and such have been omitted simply due to space limitations. On this page

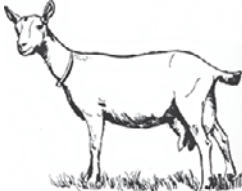
we've included placings involving our youth; such a vibrant and encouraging segment of our community. Farm View congratulates everyone who participated and if we have missed someone in the categories presented here, we are very sorry. Online results for the Fair can be found at: <https://www.assistexpo.ca/results/rawf/>

- Sheep Junior Costume Class, ages 5-8**
- 1. Brook Eels of Amaranth
 - 1. Brayden Bell of Stayner
- Junior Sheep Confomation Cross-bred**
- 11. LINDOR, Milana Palmateer, Barrie
 - 11. LOUISE, 302, Nicole Palmateer, Barrie
 - 11. MAPLE, Morgan Gilpin, Thornton
 - 11. LUCY, Olivia Livingston, Oro-Medonte
 - 11. GEORGIA, Mathias Blank, Thornton
 - 11. LILLY, Kloe Ferguson, Creemore
 - 11. MILO, Maddison Carson, Feversham
 - 11. OREO, Mya Tovey-Ingram, Amaranth
 - 11. LEXI, Alexa Livingston, Oro-Medonte
 - 11. LACEY, Danica Kirby, Lisle
 - 11. CLOUD, Troy Ferguson, Creemore
 - 11. PICKLES, Tyler Lange of Badjeros
- Southdown**
- 5. RISING OAK BENTLY791L, Autumn Bechard, Barrie
 - 11. DUSTY HILLS LORETTA, Rachel Montgomery, Ramara
 - 11. DUSTY HILLS LAYLA, Ashley Miller, Hillsdale
 - 11. WILLYMILL LOTTIE 3L, Reese Montgomery, Ramara
 - 11. TFB 2L, Madeleine Cullen, Everett
 - 11. TODD LACEY 1L, Lauren Cowen, Innisfil
- Dorset**
- 9. TBF 9L, Isabella Cullen, Everett
- Suffolk**
- 5. TODD TK 41L, Scarlett McCallum-Pinho, Everett
 - 11. TODD TK 22L, Keagan McCallum-Pinho, Everett
 - 11. WHITEROCK 6L, Charles Isaac, Singhampton
 - 11. TRI R LYRA 198L, Clara Brooks, Stayner
 - 11. WHITEROCK 5L, Meaghan Isaac, Singhampton
 - 11. MOLLIE, Victoria Ho, Richmond Hill
 - 11. LYNN, Grace Sedore, Mount Albert
 - 11. MILLY, Makenna Coates, Pepperlaw
 - 11. LUCKY 5, Hayleigh Hutchings, Pepperlaw
 - 11. LUNAR, Daniella Rogge, Markham
 - 11. LUCKY 2, Adien Hutchings, Pepperlaw
 - 11. LUCKY 3, Hannah Hutchings, Pepperlaw
 - 11. LINDA, Avery Clarke, Singhampton
 - 11. WHITEROCK 81L, Sara Isaac, Singhampton

- Single Market Lamb Wether or Ewe Lamb, 91-100 Lbs.**
- 2. Twyla Brae Farms, Duntroon
 - 4. Twyla Brae Farms, Duntroon
- Wether or Ewe Lamb, 111-220 pounds**
- 6. Twyla Brae Farms, Duntroon
- Market Lamb Pair of Lamb, Ewes and/or Wethers 91-100 Lbs**
- 2. Twyla Brae Farms, Duntroon
- New Crop Milk Lambs 35-59 pounds**
- 1. Champion New Crop Milk Lamb, Cowan Acres, Innisfil
 - 2. Champion New Crop Milk Lamb Reserve, Lauren Cowan, Innisfil

- Sheep Suffolk Ewe, 1st pair of temporary incisors in place**
- 9. WHITROCK LB 50L, Whitrock Livestock Company, Singhampton
- Special Slick Shorn Ram Lamb**
- 4. WHITEROCK CHOPS 31L, Whitrock Livestock Company, Singhampton
- Get of Sire**
- 6. Whitrock Livestock Company, Singhampton
- North Country Cheviot Special Slick Shorn Ewe Lamb**
- 5. BELL 148L, Jordan Bell, Stayner
 - 8. BELL 146L, Jordan Bell, Stayner
 - 9. BELL 147L, Jordan Bell, Stayner
- AOB Longwool Ewe, 1st pair of temporary incisors in place**
- 3. DISDERO JJUNEBUG, Laura Cowan, Innisfil
- Dorset Slick Shorn Ewe Yearling 3rd pair of incisors in place**
- 7. TWYLA BRAE 5K, Twyla Brae Farms, Duntroon
 - 8. TWYLA BRAE 4K, Twyla Brae Farms, Duntroon
- Slick Shorn Ram Yearling 3rd pair of incisors in place**
- 1. TWYLA BRAE 5K, Twyla Brae Farms, Duntroon
- Special Slick Shorn Ram Lamb**
- 10. TWYLA BRAE 19L, Twyla Brae Farms, Duntroon
- Progeny of Dam**
- 3. Twyla Brae Farms, Duntroon
- Breeder's Flock Bred & Owned by the Exhibitor**
- 6. TWYLA BRAE FARMS, Duntroon
- Hampshire Special Slick Shorn Ewe Lamb**
- 6. MARBREN LESLIE 2L, Marbren Farm, Coldwater
 - 7. MARBREN LOVESTRUCK 5L, Marbren Farm, Coldwater

- Goats Toggenburg**
- 1. HOWCROFT EXTRA ZORA, Junior Champion, Howcroft, Caledonia
- Milkers, 2 year and under 3**
- 1. HOWCROFT FINN RENA, Senior Champion, Grand Champion, Best Udder, Howcroft, Caledonia
- Milkers, 3 years and under 4**
- 1. HOWCROFT RAY ZELLA, Senior Champion Reserve, Grand Champion Reserve
- Youth Goat Showmanship**
- Youth Dairy Goat, Junior**
- 19. Jefferson Inrig, Markham
- Youth Dairy Goat, Intermediate**
- 6. Sarah MacFarlane, Aurora
 - 18. Amy Norris, Aurora
 - 19. Matthew Smith, Thornhill
 - 20. Dieunie Inrig, Markham



- Slick Shorthorn Ewe Yearling pair of temporary incisors in place**
- 3. WW LIVESTOCK KAROL 246K, Marbren Farm, Coldwater
- Get of Sire**
- 3. Marbren Farm, Coldwater
- Breeder's Flock Bred & Owned by the Exhibitor**
- 2. Marbren Farm, Coldwater
- Southdown Ewe, 1st pair of temporary incisors in place**
- 3. TWYLA BRAE 57L, Twyla Brae Farms, Duntroon
- Ewe, Yearling, 3rd pair of temporary incisors in place**
- 4. HIGGINSON JAH 1L, Cowan Acres, Innisfil
- 6. MCBRIEN KARA 03K, Cowan Acres, Innisfil
- Ram, 1st pair of temporary incisors in place**
- 1. COWAN ACRES 30L, Champion Ram, Shepherd's Award, Slick Shorn Ram Champion - 5th. Cowan Acres, Innisfil
- 2. TWYLA BRAE 63L, Champion Ram Reserve, Twyla Brae Farm, Duntroon.
 - 3. COWAN ACRES 31L, Cowan Acres, Innisfil
 - 4. COWAN ACRES LENNY 37L, Cowan Acres, Innisfil
 - 5. TWYLA BRAE 15L, Twyla Brae Farms, Duntroon
- Get of Sire**
- 1. Cowan Acres, Innisfil
 - 2. Twyla Brae Farms, Duntroon
- Breeder's Flock bred & owned by the Exhibitor**
- 1. Twyla Brae Farms, Duntroon

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Shorthorn Junior Female Calf Born 2023

1. CSF MARGIE HC 2331 ET, Junior Female Calf Champion, Hill Haven Shorthorns, Stayner.
2. GLENROTHES ROSE-WOOD 7L, Glenrothes Farm, Beaverton
3. FLIGHTPATH NICOLE LEXI 402L, Dave & Joan Currie & family, Caledon

Intermediate Female Calf Born 2023

2. HILL HAVEN MISS RELECTION 27L, Hill Haven shorthorns, Stayner
3. HILL HAVEN DESERT ROSE 39L, Hill Haven shorthorns, Stayner
5. HILL HAVEN LILY'S FLAIR 26L ET, Hill Haven Shorthorns, Stayner
6. FLIGHTPATH CUMBER LOIS 302L, David & Joan Currie & family, Caledon
6. JRS VIVA GLORIA 2L, Southfield Farm Ltd., Mono

Senior Female Calf Born 2023

5. FLIGHTPATH JOLENE LORETTA 102L, David & Joanne & Family, Caledon

Junior Yearling Female

1. RFSS HH BREATHTAKER DIVA 255K ET, Junior Yearling Female Champion, Hill Haven shorthorns, Stayner
2. EDMUN KISMET 07K, Elizabeth Lockhurst, Mono
2. EDMUN KARMA, 07K, Southfield Farm, Ltd., Mono
3. CFB VALENTINA 2K, Cedarback Farms, Beaverton
5. CFB DEW DROP 3K, Cedarback Farms, Beaverton

Intermediate Yearling Heifer

5. LOCUSTIEW MANGO RITA CR 4K, Elizabeth Lockhurst, Mono

Senior Yearling Female Heifer

3. ELBA GLEN PAULETTE 13K, Elba Glen Cattle, Mono
4. INDEPENDENT SUGAR'S CANDY IK, Southfield Farm Ltd., Mono
4. JRS GOLD DIGGER 2K, Southfield Farm Ltd., Mono
6. GLEN ISLAY A PRETTY LADY 5K, Cedarback Farms, Beaverton

Female orn 2012 with 2023 natural purebred, tattooed calf at foot

2. HILL HAVEN BREATHELESS SNOW 14J ET, Hill Haven Shorthorns, Stayner

Shorthorn Plus Bull Calf born 2023

2. CBF A SHOT OF AIDEN 1L, Shorthorn Plus Bull Calf Champion Reserve, Cedarback Farms, Beaverton

Junior Bull Calf born 2023

2. GLENROTHES LIGHTNING 9L, Junior Bull Calf Champion Reserve, Glenrothes Farm, Beaverton

3. GLENROTHES LONGSHOT 3L, Glenrothes Farm, Beaverton

Junior Bull


3. HILL HAVEN SKYFALL 99K, Hill Haven Shorthorns, Stayner

Get of Sire

2. Hill Haven Shorthorns, Stayner
3. Coldstream Farm, Flesherton
4. Glenrothes Farm, Beaverton

Breeder's Herd

2. Hill Haven Shorthorns, Stayner



Angus Junior Female Calf Born 2023

8. TULLAMORE FOREVER LADY 75L, Tullamore Angus, Zeph

Intermediate Female Calf Born 2023

2. RED VANCISE SWEET-HEART 365L, Vancise Cattle Company Inc, Stayner

Senior Female Calf Born 2023

2. J P D PRIDE 1L, JPD Angus, Oro-Medonte
8. WORTH-MOR RITA 305L, Tullamore Angus, Zeph
8. JPD MISS MARION 7L, JPD Angus, Oro-Medonte

Junior Yearling Heifer Born 2022

4. RED VANCISE SWEET SUE 1265K, Vancise Cattle Company Inc., Stayner

Senior Yearling Heifer Born 2022

2. JPD BLACKCAP 9K, JPD Angus, Oro-Medonte

Junior Bull Calf Born 2023

1. RED VANCISE BOY NAME SUE 065L, Junior Bull Calf Champion, Vancise Cattle Company Inc., Stayner

Senior Bull Calf Born 2023

1. RED VANCISE LEXUS 325L, Vancise Cattle Company Inc., Stayner

Senior Bull Yearling

6. JUSTAMERE JFV WEST-ERNFEEL 607K, Tullamore Angus, Zeph

Breeder's Herd

1. Vancise Cattle Company Inc., Stayner

R & W Holstein Dairy, Fall Heifer

6. TRANDY UNSTOPPABULL ELENOR, Trandy Farmes, Cannington
9. PARALLEL ANALIST LADY RED, Parallel Genetics, Paitence Hosteins Ltd., East Garafraxa

Winter Yearling

3. SUGAR-C LN ELUDE-RED, Beckridge Holsteins, Patience Holsteins Ltd., Keswick

Spring 2 Year Old

1. DARCROFT JC UNSTOP ALABAMA, Best Udder, Intermediate Champion Reserve, Bill Schiling, Beaverton

Junior 3 Year Old

3. PATIENCE MIRAND DAFFODIL, Bred and Owned, Parallel Genetics, Patience Holsteins Ltd., East Garafraxa

4 Year Old

5. PATIENCE ACRISP DARE ME, Parallel Genetics, Patience Holsteins Ltd., East Garafraxa

B & W Holstein Summer Calf

11. KENTVILLE CRUSHABULL CHAMP, Beckridge Holsteins, Quality Holsteins, Keswick
20. DELCREEK LIL SPANISH FLING, Beckridge Holsteins, Quality Holsteins, Keswick

Spring Heifer

10. HARMALY HVF UNIX REESE, Holywell Hosteins, Langelands Farms, Grand Valley
14. VALE-O-SKENE CRUSHABUL GLIMMER, Beckridge Holsteins, Quality Holsteins, Keswick
25. BECKRIDGE MASTER LUCY, Beckridge Holsteins, Keswick
32. RADOMERE THUNDER-STORM CAYUGA, Langelands Farms, Raymond Klein Gebbinck, Utopia

Fall Heifer

26. DANDYLAND MASTER ROWAN, 5th 4H - B+W, Dandyland Farm, Schomberg
35. MILLEN LAMBDA ANNALISE, Aleah Farms Ltd. Millen Farms, Beaverton
37. MILLEN LAMBDA AUTUMN, Aleah Farms Ltd. Millen Farms, Beaverton

Summer Yearling

16. MILLEN ALEAH LAMBDA ALLISON, Aleah Farms Ltd. Millen Farms, Beaverton
31. KNONAUDALE COCONUTPIE, 4th 4H - B+W, Holywell Hosteins, Langelands Farms, Grand Valley

Junior Breeder's Herd

5. Quality Holsteins, Vaughan

Fall Yearling in Milk

16. QUALITY SIDEKICK FLO-RETA, Quality Holsteins, Baughan

Summer 2 Year Old

6. QUALITY LAS VEGAS GYPSY, Quality Holsteins, Vaughan

Junior 3 Year Old

20. QUALITY MASTER RUTH, Quality Holsteins, Vaughan

4 Year Old

2. ALTONA LEA UNIX HERMINIE, Dalton J. Faris, East Gwillimbury

Charolais Senior Heifer Calf


2. EMB WORTHWHILE 36L, EMB Charolais, Oro-Medonte
3. EMB GOSSIP GIRL 11L, EMB Charolais, Oro-Medonte
4. ROLLIN ACRES DELTA DAWN 28A, Rollin Acres Charolais, Mulmur

Female Senior Yearling Heifer

3. EMB SOUL SISTER 32K, EMB Charolais, Oro-Medonte

Senior Bull Calf

3. ALTON SVY GF REDEEM 2126L, Rollin Acres Charolais, Mulmur



Jerseys Female Junior Calf

6. LEACHLAND IRISH CREAM K, Beckridge Farms, Keswick

Female Senior Calf

23. ALEXVALE JORDAN GOGO GADGET, Grace Beckett, Alexvale Farms and Beckridge, Keswick
25. GLENHOLME VICTORIOUS TENDENCY, Han and Irma Brink, Grand Valley
27. SPRUCETONE VIRAL DESTINY, Sprucetone Jerseys and Brooklyn Lloyd, Bradford

Female Summer Yearling

15. BELGIA CHOCO YOLO 3, 5th 4H Jersey, Han & Irma Brink, Grand Valley

Female Junior Yearling


16. LEACHLAND JOEL MONTANA K, Beckridge Holsteins & Quality Holsteins, Keswick

Female Senior 3 Year Old

3. STARRCREST WEAPON OF CHOICE, Quality Farms Inc., & West Coast Holsteins, Vaughan

Female 4 Year Old

15. WHISKEY HOLLOW JOYRIDE COSMO, Whiskey Hollow Syndicate & Heritage Grd., Grand Valley



Limousin Senior Heifer Calf

2. MBT XJG SAMMY 101L, LISLE, Lisle Livestock, Lisle

Speckle Park Junior Heifer Calf

5. BROWNRIDGE LOCOMOTION 12L, David Brownridge, Amaranth

Rabbits Utility: Californian Senior Buck

1. Shadowrock Farm, Schomberg, Best of Breed Champion Reserve
2. Alberto Campoli, Wasaga Beach

Senior Doe

1. Shadowrock Farm, Schomberg
2. Shadowrock Farm, Schomberg
3. Shadowrock Farm, Schomberg

Intermediate Buck

1. Shadowrock Farm, Schomberg

Intermediate Doe

1. Shadowrock Farm, Schomberg

Junior Buck

1. Shadowrock Farm, Schomberg

Junior Doe

1. Shadowrock Farm, Schomberg, Best of Breed Champion
2. Shadowrock Farm, Schomberg

Utility: Lop, French Senior Buck

2. Shannondoe, Beaverton

Senior Doe

1. Shannondoe, Beaverton
2. Shannondoe, Beaverton

Utility: New Zealand Senior Buck

1. Shannondoe, Beaverton
2. JS Rabbitry, Beaverton
3. Gardsmere Farm, Schomberg
4. Glenn Johnston, Stouffville

Senior Doe

1. Shadowrock Farm, Schomberg, Best of Breed Champion, Nancy Cross Memorial Trophy Reserve Rabbit in Show, Bing Harris Memorial Trophy Best New Zealand in Show, Best Utility Rabbit
2. Shadowrock Farm, Schomberg
3. Elizabeth Voigt, Barrie
4. Glenn Johnston, Stouffville
6. JS Rabbitry, Beaverton

Intermediate Buck

1. Gardsmere Farm, Schomberg
2. Gardsmere Farm, Schomberg
3. JS Rabbitry, Beaverton
4. Glenn Johnntson, Stouffville

Junior Buck

1. Gardsmere Farm, Schomberg
2. Gardsmere Farm, Schomberg
3. Glen Johnston, Stouffville

Junior Doe

1. Gardsmere Farm, Schomberg
2. Gardsmere Farm, Schomberg
3. Glen Johnston, Stouffville

Utility: Satin Senior Buck

1. Doris Brady, Beaverton, Best of Breed Champion Reserve
2. Shadowrock Farm, Schomberg

Senior Doe

1. Doris Brady, Beaverton, Best of Breed Champion, Best Satin Rabbit Trophy
1. Shadowrock Farm, Schomberg
2. Doris Brady, Beaverton
2. Shadowrock Farm, Schomberg
3. Shadowrock Farm, Schomberg
4. Shadowrock Farm, Schomberg

Intermediate Buck

1. Shadowrock Farm, Schomberg

1. Doris Brady, Beaverton

1. Shadowrock Farm, Schomberg

Intermediate Doe

1. Slater's Farm, Sharon

1. Doris Brady, Beaverton

2. Shadowrock Farm, Schomberg

Junior Buck

1. Shadowrock Farm, Schomberg
2. Cathy Hamill-Hill, Beaverton

Junior Doe

1. Cathy Hamill-Hill, Beaverton
2. Doris Brady, Beaverton

Checked Giant Junior Buck

1. Glenn Johnston, Stouffville, Best of Breed Champion.

Commercial Fryer Class

1. Glenn Johnston, Stouffville, Mr. James Lowe Trophy Winner of Fryer Rabbit Class, Blatch Feeds Ltd. Trophy
2. JS Rabbitry, Beaverton

Breeder's Herd Black and White

1. Gardsmere Farms, Schomberg
2. Glen Johnston, Stouffville
3. JS Rabbitry, Beaverton

Other

2. Glenn Johnston, Stouffville
3. Elizabeth Voigt, Barrie
5. Shadowrock Farm, Schomberg

Fancy: American Sable Senior Buck

1. Glenn Johnston, Stouffville, Best of Breed Champion

Senior Doe

1. Glenn Johnston, Stouffville, Best of Breed Reserve

Junior Doe

1. Glenn Johnston, Stouffville

Fancy: English Spot Senior Doe

1. Glenn Johnston, Stouffville

Fancy: Florida White Senior Buck

1. Alberto Campoli, Wasaga Beach, Best of Breed Champion Reserve
2. Alberto Campoli, Wasaga Beach

Senior Doe

1. Alberto Campoli, Wasaga Beach, Best of Breed Champion
2. Alberto Campoli, Wasaga Beach

Fancy: Havana Senior Doe

1. Alberto Campoli, Wasaga Beach
1. Alberto Campoli, Wasaga Beach
2. Alberto Campoli, Wasaga Beach

Fancy: Lionhead Senior Buck

1. Kathryn Cooper, Washago

Junior Doe

3. Kathryn Cooper, Washago

Junior Buck

3. Kathryn Cooper, Washago





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*From my family to yours,
I wish you all a happy
New Year and a successful
growing season in 2024!*

Agri-Tech Innovation Initiative

Ontario maintains its status as an agri-food leader by consistently adopting the latest and greatest in innovations and new technologies in the sector. To support this, the governments of Canada and Ontario are investing up to \$25 million through the Sustainable CAP, to expand capacity and realize efficiencies in the agriculture and food sector. The Initiative will include a funding opportunity for eligible businesses to increase their efficiency and productivity by investing in new technology, equipment, as well as building or facility modifications.



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Celebrating South Simcoe 4-H Committment

Story and photos provided by South Simcoe 4-H

Region 4 New Outstanding Volunteer Award winner Marieke Patton



Congratulations! Marieke Patton was the winner of the Region 4 2023 New Outstanding Volunteer Award sponsored by Gay Lea Foods Co-operative Ltd. Marieke is a dedicated and enthusiastic volunteer with the 4-H South Simcoe Association. Marieke is a leader and director in the South Simcoe 4-H association. You will always see Marieke greeting everyone with a smile at the 4-H meetings and events.

Riley Broad receives the Kubota Longstanding Graduating Member Award



Congratulations! Riley Broad is this years Longstanding Graduating Member in South Simcoe 4-H. This year Riley was a 4-H member in the Cookstown 4-H Dairy Club. He cared for, trained and showed his holstein heifer at various shows. Riley hopes to continue working on the family farm and recommends the 4-H Dairy club project to anyone who is interested in showing cattle. Pictured above are Riley Broad [left] and Karl Lange.

Ontario Supporting Small, Rural and Northern Communities

Local infrastructure funding will help create jobs and support economic growth in Barrie – Springwater – Oro-Medonte

The Ontario government is investing \$5,956,561 to help renew and rehabilitate critical infrastructure in Barrie – Springwater – Oro-Medonte. The funding is being delivered through the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) and is part of the government’s plan to support economic growth and job creation.

This funding includes:

- \$4,439,360 for Simcoe County
- \$1,053,595 for the Township of Springwater, and
- \$463,606 for the Township of Oro-Medonte

“Ontario Community Infrastructure Funding helps our government in strengthening economic growth and job creation by providing funding to address critical infrastructure needs, including road, bridge, water and wastewater projects,” said Doug Downey, MPP for Barrie – Springwater – Oro-Medonte. “This funding is vital for our small rural communities to be able to address their infrastructure needs as they face growth challenges, and help to build more resilient communities for tomorrow.”

In 2024, the government will allocate \$400 million in OCIF funding to help 425 small, rural and northern communities pay for critical infrastructure projects, including road, bridge, water, and wastewater projects. If necessary, a community may accumulate its funding for up to five years to address larger infrastructure projects.

“Small, rural and northern communities need stable funding for their unique infrastructure needs and to provide safe and reliable services,” said Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure. “That’s why our government continues to provide funding, especially during these challenging economic times. Our investments in community infrastructure are helping to create jobs, build stronger local economies, and lay the foundation for a stronger, more resilient Ontario for generations to come.”

OCIF provides funding for local infrastructure projects in communities with populations under 100,000, as well as all rural and northern communities. Funding allocations are based on a formula that takes into account the different needs and economic conditions of each community.

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After The Chores: A long week with the Red dog

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



Isaac is now our red Labrador Retriever that is officially a non-breeding farm dog.

We passed the two year birthday for Isaac in late August so this fall, there were no more excuses. Isaac was scheduled for a “neuter.” We expected the week of having a recovering Isaac was not going to be fun- but not the longest week we can remember.

Isaac is a strong, high spirited, pushy kind of dog. He hates cuddling, snuggling and generally staying still for more than 30 seconds if his eyes are open. A critical part of his healing would involve being “quiet” for 7 to 10 days. There was no way we can “quiet” down Isaac, he had to be put on drugs.

The big day arrived. Isaac loves the vet office so he was bouncing with joy in the office and the tech was nearly pulled off her feet when she went to lead him in to the back surgical space. We were told I would get a call after his surgery and told to pick him up at 4:00 pm.

I got the call and was told Isaac could go home at 1:00 pm as he did “so well.” I expect the second he was out of sedation he started to bark. Isaac barks when he’s mad, sad or glad and when anything is out of place in his opinion. He is an excellent loud watch dog.

We got to pick up Isaac at 4:00 pm as that is what we had planned the day around. Isaac was led out of the vet’s back

office, nearly pulling the tech off her feet, per usual. “You must keep him quiet!” was the urgent advice given and between the lunges of Isaac, we were told we could sedate him as soon as we get home, he could only have short walks and he should rest as much as possible- and we needed to put the big plastic cone on his head as he could not touch the surgical site.

Isaac bounded into the truck like a deer, per usual. We prayed those stitches were in good. I clutched the sedation pills like a security blanket as they were the only way we were ever going to control this dog. I was holding Isaac by his collar for his dear life.

At home, we got the cone put on Isaac and a sedation pill into him. He bounced the cone off walls a few times and then he vanished. I did a hunt for Isaac and found him with a big cone on his head, happily riding a pillow. Isaac was now forbidden to go near pillows on top of all the other rules. It took nearly 15 minutes until Isaac started to get sleepy and this new sensation scared him. Sweetie and I both had Isaac, with his big plastic cone around his head trying to sit on our laps for the next week.

This red Lab believes that a dog should not use his tie-out or anywhere near it for his bathroom business. I had brought Isaac in for his breakfast when I fully understood his weird belief. He was loose in the house when I distinctly heard running water. I checked all the taps and found them closed when I realized this running water was coming from the other end of the house. I found Isaac in the bedroom with his leg high in the air, calmly peeing like he was beside a tree. This meant when Isaac gave us a funny look, we had to take off his cone, and leash him up for a short walk, fast.

Wearing a plastic cone is not easy for any dog but for a pushy dog like Isaac, it was terrible. He decided to go up the stairs and halfway up, he pushed his cone on a step and he slid back down to the bottom. Isaac decided that he was not

going upstairs ever again but he sure enjoyed going downstairs. It was a two person rescue to get him back up the stairs again, one bribing him with a dog biscuit and one holding up his cone. By the end of the week, we were thinking we were just being used to get dog biscuits as Isaac was going downstairs all the time.

Isaac loves his tie-out that is right on route of the 42 steps between the house and the barn. He watches us do chores and he barks if we are not doing it exactly right. Going to the tie-out is one of his favourite things.

The evenings were the worst. Isaac likes to sit on his tie-out and bark at top volume to all the coyotes and the neighbour’s dogs. He was banned from his tie-out as he had to be kept totally clean and dry in the surgical area for it to heal. The drugs were not strong enough in the evenings because when we came back in from chores, he was so eager to get outside to go barking after being let out of his crate for the evening. He would sit beside Sweetie’s chair and bark loudly clearly saying that he wanted to go outside- over and over and over. It got to the point we went to bed early to get away from the healing dog.

That week did end, though it seemed to be a month long. Both of us and Isaac are so glad that his surgery only needs to happen once a lifetime.

"You know, farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil, and you're a thousand miles from the corn field."
Eisenhower, Address at Bradley University, Peoria, Illinois, 9/25/56

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Quilting Corners Guild presents their annual Christmas donations

Story and photos provided by Senora Baldry

On December 5th Quilting Corners Guild held their annual Christmas donations. There were 115 quilts, 116 quilted stockings, 14 pillow cases and several handmade toys presented to our six community partners: Matthew’s House Hospice, My Sister’s Place, The Good Samaritan, The Alliston Foodbank, Simcoe Manor and Quilts of Valour-Canada. This is the culmination of all the time, effort and creativity of our members and friends of the guild in support of all of these very important programs. Thank you to everyone for their contributions and providing warm hugs throughout our community.



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Congratulations to raffle winners and program recipients!

Story and photos provided by Senora Baldry

Quilting Corners Guild holds a raffle every other year in tandem with our quilt show, Stitching Among Friends. December 5th was the conclusion of the raffle with the draw for two winners...congratulations to Peggy F winning the blue quilt, Tropical Breezes, and Tracy A winning Strawberry Fields. Both quilts were created and generously donated by guild member Arlene G. Along with the quilt prizes the raffle generates funds to be shared with the guild and two of our community partners. Cheryl presented a monetary donation to Pam and Amber, My Sister's Place and Matthew's House Hospice, respectively. Lovely quilts, lucky winners and worthy programs...all winners!



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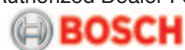
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Guelph Organic Conference 2024

The Guelph Organic Conference will be making its return to the University of Guelph from January 24th to January 27th! This is exciting news for everyone interested in organic agriculture, from market gardening to livestock farming, and everything in between.

January 24th and 25th will feature interactive pre-conference workshops, and January 26th and 27th will offer sessions from expert speakers in three different topic streams.

The conference has something for everyone - from pre-conference workshops with holistic animal health experts like Hubert Karreman to exciting single sessions from engaging speakers on integrated pest management like Stephanie Muma and Susan Poizner. There are plenty of attendance options available, so you can customize your experience and make the most out of your visit.

The public trade show will also be returning on January 26th and 27th, featuring a variety of exhibitors showcasing their latest products and services. Businesses will have the opportunity to connect with and learn from leaders in the industry.

Registration is available online or at the door.

The Value of Hay as a Cash Crop

Report by Cathy Hamill-Hill

Patrick Lynch is a well known name to crop farmers being a former Ontario Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Rural Affairs Soils and Crops Specialist. He works with a small group of farmers and small seed companies as their agronomist as well as being a columnist and a weekly crop production newsletter co-writer. He has been awarded a place in the Perth County Agriculture Hall of Fame and the Ontario Agriculture Hall of Fame. Lynch has a Master of Science from the University of Guelph and was the Speaker at Forage Focus 23 for the noon webinar titled: The Value of Hay as a Cash Crop.

"I would like to see more acres in forages in Ontario," was Lynch's opening comment.

"Extreme weather effects" are just going to happen more and more often, Lynch predicted adding that one of the best protectors for the crop farmer's yield is planting forages. "Fields with rotations are more capable of handling weather stress whether it is too dry or too wet," he said adding, "fields with forage are more capable to handle weather stress."

Forages naturally "build soil organic carbon," Lynch claims adding this allows the ability to "hold soil water." This means, "When we get these severe weather events with a lot of rain in a short period of time, the soil can hold it that has a history with forages," he explained.

Further, forages for "dollars and cents reason is better soil structure so all the nutrients in there are more available to the plants," he said. Lynch explained that if the soil is tight "the roots can't get in parts of the soil to get those nutrients."

Another huge benefit of forages is "with nitrogen to succeeding crops," he said. "Nitrogen from forages is a slow release organic nitrogen and it is non-volatile. This nitrogen has less greenhouse gasses. This is the original organic non-volatile slow releasing nitrogen, it's the best nitrogen we can get."

Weed reduction or full eradication is also a benefit of planting forages, Lynch said. Crop farmers will know the weed called "Canada fleabane" as it is resistant to some herbicides and it spreads out easily with seeds that are dispersed by the wind. "A good way to eliminate all Canada Fleabane in your soil is to plant forages," he advised. Another weed that is well known is the "Foxtail," this grass like weed spreads fast as it has so many seeds. Again, forages can help, Lynch claims, "Annual grasses like foxtail normally is not a problem after 2-3 years of forages which means a lower herbicide rate is needed if any at all. In my experience, after scouting thousands of acres over the years, Foxtail are nearly non-existent in fields planted in forages." Perennial weeds get naturally snuffed out as they are smothered by a forage crop and will die off naturally in 2-3 years. He explained the perennial weeds include sow thistle and milkweed.

Another revenue source can come from growing the forage of hay. The number one challenge for growing hay for sale is "you need to find your own market," Lynch stressed. He said, in his opinion, finding that hay market to take on a new seller's hay is not easy. There are hay markets out there locally starting with local dairy farmers, "some dairy farmers would rather work in the

barn and rather not be out in the field. These farmers will buy hay- if it's the quality they want."

Another hay market is the labour intensive small square bale market. "Small bales will sell to the horse market, if the quality is there," he said. There is also an export market to the United States.

Lynch stressed that farmers interested in selling hay, need to find the buyer and then plan according to what the buyer wants. "Decide on what to plant according to what your buyer needs," he stressed.

Existing crop farmers have both the expertise and the equipment needed to plant, fertilize and grow hay. There are many custom hay harvesters that can be hired for the harvest. The one new addition for the new hay grower is to "have inside storage," he advised.

What fields to plant to hay in an existing crop farm was the next segment of Lynch's discussion. He said that renting land for hay for long term is often successful because "growing hay shows value to the landlord that you will care for the land as hay is a long time investment to their land."

Hay grows well in fields that are well drained by "not producing well" by other crops plus hay does well in heavy unproductive land and low wet land. "Think about the small fields that can be a nuisance to get big equipment in or the fields with perennial weeds, both could benefit from a forage crop."

"Best corn land is the best alfalfa land. Heavy soil that produces a poor corn crop is best for grass," Lynch advised from his many years of expertise. He added that the first step before planting any forage is a soil test.

Ontario farmers profoundly disappointed at Senate vote on carbon tax relief bill



On December 5, the Senate narrowly voted in favour of a proposed amendment to Bill C-234, the Act to Amend the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act. The amendment excludes heating and cooling of livestock buildings and other agricultural production facilities including greenhouses from the federal carbon tax exemption proposed under the Bill. These are activities for which clean and viable alternative technologies are not yet available for farmers.

This amendment, which passed by a vote of 40 to 39, had previously been rejected by both the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food and the entire Senate at report stage, and now prevents the Bill from becoming law and providing immediate relief for farmers, businesses and consumers.

"We are profoundly disappointed at this outcome. Bill C-234 would have greatly benefited both farmers and consumers by excluding critical food-producing activities from the federal carbon tax. This vote to amend the Bill will have significant financial implications for Canadians already struggling with inflation and affordability and poses long term threats to our ability to produce food, fibre, fuel and flowers." Drew Spoelstra, President, Ontario Federation of Agriculture.

Bill C-234 is a private member's bill introduced to address an oversight in the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act of 2018, which placed a regulatory charge on fuels like gasoline, natural gas and propane to encourage industries to become more efficient and use cleaner technologies. However, scalable and affordable solutions that could offer viable fuel alternatives are still years away from being accessible to Canadian farm businesses, leaving farmers without alternatives and facing high carbon tax bills for essential farm activities.

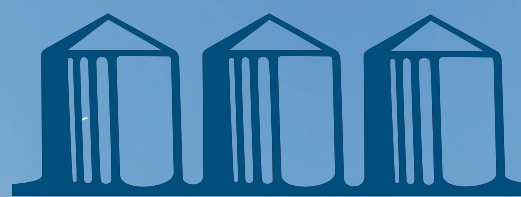
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Merry and bright Woodville Santa Claus parade enjoyed by all

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill



The float pictured above was a cute sight at the Woodville Santa Claus parade. This float was from the Kawartha Lakes Milk Producers and featured a large crowd of people dressed in black and white cow costumes.

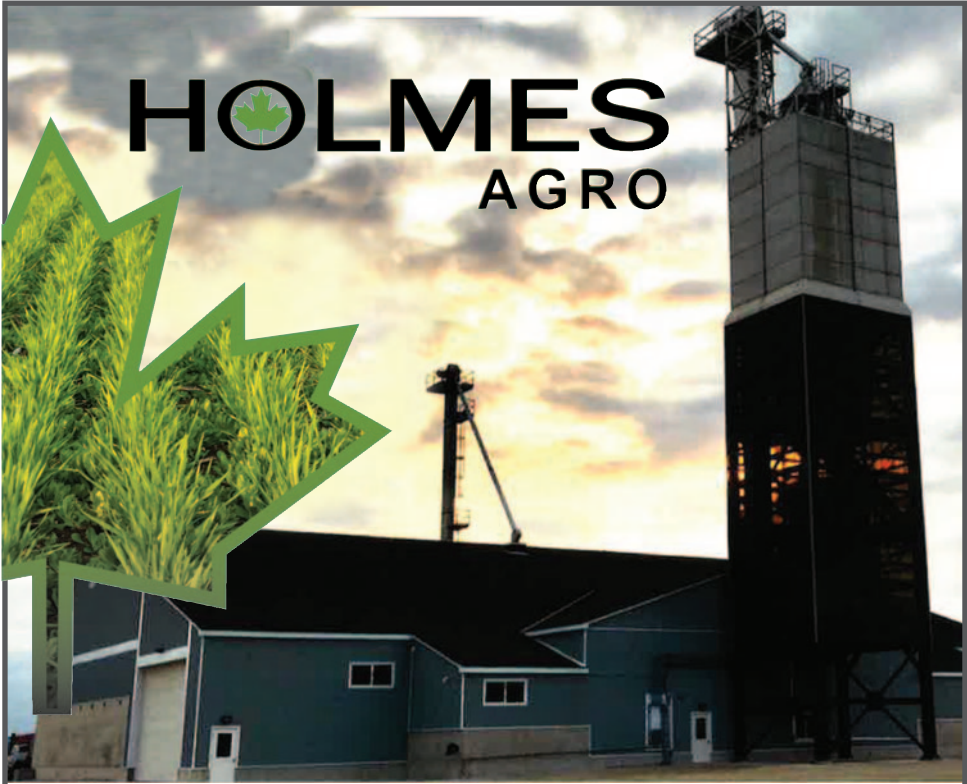


The Woodville Santa Claus parade was super bright due to all the Christmas lights. It must have taken a long time to get all these lights onto this truck owned by the Imrie Family, who are owners of The Imrie Group from Woodville.

Agriculture is important to the Woodville community. There were many floats from the farming community including this one shown below announcing the date of the 2024 International Plowing Match. Pictured towing the float is Charlie Clark, one of the many volunteers now planning for the 2024 International Plowing Match that will be held in Kawartha Lakes. Charlie Clarke is a beef/sheep and crop farmer from Lindsay.



These sheep pictured below were decked out in garland Christmas lights for the Woodville Santa Claus Parade. This float is owned by the Gretton Family of Shepherd Crook farm.



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WINTER WORD SEARCH

This month's puzzle is really cool... it is full of wintery words. Solutions may be printed backwards, horizontal or diagonally. Letters may be used more than once.

T	C	B	S	N	O	W	M	O	B	I	L	E	R	I	F
O	D	F	L	N	E	B	G	N	I	Z	E	E	R	F	O
B	L	R	E	I	O	L	B	U	O	N	S	E	E	P	N
T	L	A	I	T	Z	W	S	B	L	I	M	C	S	W	S
S	A	C	G	E	O	Z	B	L	G	A	T	A	E	G	N
O	B	S	H	T	N	T	A	O	E	S	F	L	O	N	O
R	W	E	R	A	S	U	R	R	A	T	I	P	H	S	K
F	O	V	I	K	Q	F	T	O	D	R	R	E	S	T	B
W	N	O	D	S	U	S	L	F	K	D	R	W	O	O	
S	S	L	E	D	D	I	N	G	F	W	B	I	O	B	A
I	N	G	E	I	S	N	O	W	C	C	O	F	N	O	R
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Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP) Information Sessions

Join us for an online information session to learn more about the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP), a funding program being delivered by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association.

Projects will focus on:

- Natural Grassland Establishment
- Perennial Biomass & Warm Season Pastures
- Reduced Tillage
- Tree & Shrub Planting
- Water Retention Features
- Wetlands

During the information sessions, OSCIA staff will walk you through eligibility information, application requirements and how to apply. Sessions will run for 1.5 hours and will include an opportunity to ask questions about the program.

The first intake opened to accept applications on October 24, 2023, at 9am, ET, and will remain open until the budget for this program year is fully allocated. Information on the initiative can be found in the **online program guide**: <https://programguides.ontariosoilcrop.org/>

What do you need to apply?

1. Carefully read the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program Guide as only eligible and complete applications will be considered. The Program Guide provides information on eligible activities and costs, available cost-share, required application documentation, and provides a link to the OSCIA Portal.

2. Applications to the Resilient Agricultural Landscape

Program are submitted electronically through the OSCIA Portal. You will need to create an account and complete the Enrolment Form on the OSCIA Portal to be able to apply.

3. The following must be included with an application submission:

- Application Form
- Valid premises identification (PID) number. For details, visit Welcome Registry (ontariopid.com)
- Certificate of completion for a 4th Edition Environmental Farm Plan
- Documentation to support an eligible farm business (only if an FBRN has not been provided)
- An assessment or letter of support for your project. A template that outlines what must be included in the assessment or letter of support is provided in the Program Guide.

Funding supports projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and sequester carbon, including reducing tillage; establishing or enhancing wetlands, grasslands or water retention ponds; and, planting biomass crops, warm season pastures, or trees and shrubs.

For information on available funding and how to apply, visit www.ontariosoilcrop.org/resilient-agricultural-landscape-program/ or call 519-826-4214 1-800-265-9751.

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SSEA Secures \$25,000 Grant from The Commonwell's L.E.A.F. Program

The Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) is thrilled to announce a \$25,000 grant from The Commonwell Mutual Insurance Group's Learning Engagement & Accelerator Fund (L.E.A.F.) for its "Project SSEED – Severn Sound Engagement and Education" project. This grant provides the funding required to bring free environmental education and volunteer opportunities to the communities in the watershed region.

"Mental health concerns including climate anxiety and 'ecological worrying' are issues among young people. Education empowers people and communities. Empowering young people in our communities provides them with education and knowledge equipping them to make informed decisions and understand their role in and ability to protect their local environment. Thanks to The Commonwell's L.E.A.F. Grant, we're able to take the next steps to provide this education to our communities," says Jon Main, Sustainability and Climate Action Coordinator at the Severn Sound Environmental Association.

Administered by The Commonwell Mutual Insurance Group, the L.E.A.F. program invested \$350,000 in grants this year, scaling from previous years. Tim Shauf, President of The Commonwell, emphasizes the program's impact, stating, "We received over \$2.7 million in funding requests this year, highlighting its crucial role in supporting communities." Shauf adds, "We believe in

fostering strength and resilience within the communities we serve, and this year's projects are positioned to make a lasting positive impact."

L.E.A.F.'s mission is simple: cultivate community resilience and capacity through program development and facility/resource upgrades in places where residents learn, play, engage, and gather.

For more details about Severn Sound Environmental Association's "Project SSEED – Severn Sound Engagement and Education" Project visit <https://thecommonwell.ca/leaf/>.

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 & www.youtube.com/@SevernSoundEA/videos

About The Commonwell Mutual Insurance Group:

For over 100 years, The Commonwell Mutual Insurance Group has provided insurance for Ontario's farmers, families, and businesses. With a focus on the rural lifestyle, The Commonwell believes in giving back to the communities it serves through annual philanthropy efforts, including the L.E.A.F. program. Learn more at <https://thecommonwell.ca/impact2023/>.

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Farm to Forest: Kirkup Woods

Village
stories

by Andrew Hind

Gwillimbury. Here, half of the former farm on the 13th line is now a conservation area known as Kirkup Woods Tract. The tract preserves not only an invaluable natural landscape but also the memory of the family who farmed the land.

The story of the Kirkup family farm begins with Robert and Mary Kirkup.

Born in 1860 in Churchill, Ontario, Robert Kirkup was a farm boy through-and-through. He was raised in the barnyard and on the fields, growing strong as he tended crops and livestock alive.

Mary McCullough, eight years his junior, was born in Northern Ireland and emigrated to Canada as a child. She too had a rural upbringing and was no stranger to hard work and long hours.

The couple married in 1889. Seven children followed, of whom five would make it out of childhood. Unlike Robert and Mary, however, these children's early years were spent not on a farm, but rather in the city: from 1890 to around 1902, the family resided in Toronto where Robert's famil-

Generally, forests give way to farms as land is cleared and land cultivated.

The opposite is true on the former Kirkup Farm in Bradford-West

ilarity with horses earned him steady work as a teamster. But farming was in his blood, and by 1903 he had moved his family from the teaming city to a bucolic farm in Vespra. Perhaps Robert and Mary had been working in Toronto with the intention of socking away money to purchase land to call their own?

Another move followed in 1921, this time to a 200-acre farm in Bradford-West Gwillimbury that they purchased for \$9000. Robert was over sixty at the time, so we don't know what compelled him to start anew, but it was likely with the aim of passing along more and better land to their offspring. Regardless of the motivation, Robert didn't get to enjoy the land for long – he passed away in 1927.

The farm passed to Robert's 24-year-old son Douglas and his new wife Gladys (nee Morriarty). In a sense, Gladys was coming home as the farm had originally been owned by her homesteading ancestors. At any rate, it was now their home, though Mary remained with Douglas and Gladys until her death twenty years later.

Douglas farmed the bountiful fields, resisting the tides of time by continuing to rely on horsepower. He only slowly, and reluctantly, embraced mechanization. Douglas never did bother to purchase a tractor.

Like most farmers in Ontario at the time, Robert had practiced mixed agriculture and Douglas carried on the tradition, raising beef cattle, dairy cows, and chickens, and growing corn and oats. But he did something unusual for the time

when he turned potatoes, a crop not widely grown in the area in the 1920s. Douglas planted field after field of the tubers, earning him the title of "Potato King of Bradford."

Douglas also made extensive use of the woods that dominate portions of the rolling landscape. Maple trees were tapped for maple syrup, while other trees were harvested for milling into lumber or cordwood. The horses Douglas loved so much took to the woods with him, hauling logs and dragging a sleigh laden with maple sap.

Gladys was kept busy raising five children, working on the farm, picking bushel after bushel of thimbleberries from field edges, and teaching in local schools. She also loved hosting communal dances in the summer kitchen.

Douglas and Gladys spent their entire lives on the farm. Gladys died Feb. 19, 1991. Douglas passed away only a few months later, on June 5. Much of the family's farm equipment was later donated to the Simcoe County Museum and remains on display there today.

In 2017, half of the Kirkup farm was purchased by the County of Simcoe as a County Forest. Its wooded landscape, crisscrossed by streams, is now preserved forever.



Gladys Kirkup (at left) with her class at the one-room Coulson's Hill school.



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Agricultural Anecdotes from Farmer Tim

How are a herd of cows and a bottle of fine wine the same?
They both get better with time.

I had a message from a concerned follower the other day. She had heard that dairy cows give an unnatural amount of milk from all the hormones and drugs they have been given. Well let me set the record straight.

Every one of my cows can be traced back generations to my grandfather's and even my great-grandfather's herd. They have come a long way from producing a few litres per day to about 44 litres a day (WITHOUT THE USE OF DRUGS OR HORMONES).

Dairy farmers know their cows and we strive to breed for the "perfect cow". Natural selection, herd classification and advanced genetics have improved the breed in leaps and bounds. Modern cows are bigger, healthier and stronger than their ancestors. I have even noticed a big change from when I was a kid. We have gone from just an "average herd" to a farm with above-average genetics and one of the highest milk production scores in the country.

Modern barns and husbandry practices have greatly improved milk production, cow comfort and overall animal welfare. There have been tons of research done on what is the best surface for a cow to walk on, what size of stalls they need, the best ventilation, bedding material, how much light, pasture species..... the list goes on and on. In fact, some of my milk cheque goes into research every month.

Probably one of the most important improvements has been nutrition. You only get out what you put in so researchers are always developing new strategies to feed cattle the highest quality food in the most balanced way. Devices are even being used to monitor how often a cow chews and ruminates and body condition can even be analyzed by a computer. Feed is routinely tested and analyzed for nutrients and toxins and rations are balanced frequently by a herd nutritionist. Crop research can't be overlooked either with lots of work being done of new varieties of hay, corn etc. that are nutritionally superior to the old ones.

All the above things I mentioned are great but you still need to be a good manager. There are an increasing number of resources available to farmers with the click of a button or the push of an app. We work closely with veterinarians, crop advisors and nutritionists. More and more farmers are going on to pursue higher education before returning to the farm. Vet clinics and feed mills offer great continuing education for their clients. Greater knowledge means greater success.

Yes, cows give more milk than their ancestors but that is because they are milking to their potential, not because of something they have been injected with. In fact, the use of hormones to increase milk production is banned in Canada

#NowYouKnow

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!"

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**TINY MARSH PROVINCIAL WILDLIFE AREA
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- A. North half Lot 22, Conc. 1 and South half Lots 20 & 21 Con. 1, Tiny Twp +/- 100 acres*
B. South West Lot 18, Conc. 1 and South Part Lot 19, Conc. 1, Tiny Twp +/- 60 acres*
C. West Part Lot 17, Conc. 1 – Tiny Twp. +/- 50 acres*

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North East of Coldwater Severn Township**

1. 2052 Upper Big Chute Road +/- 60 acres (Row crops permitted)
2. 1920 and 1968 Upper Big Chute Road +/- 50 acres*
3. 2129 Upper Big Chute Road Severn Township +/- 51 acres (Row crops permitted)
4. 1479 Lawson Line, Severn Township +/- 35 acres*

*** Hay/cover crops – No cutting permitted before July 1st**

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- Five-year term commencing April 1, 2024.
- MTM Conservation Association will grant a non-exclusive land use agreement to successful tenderer for each property subject to terms and conditions.
- For further information and to submit tenders, please contact: info@mtmconservation.org

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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 L6060HSTCC
hours ua: 2041.2, 4wd, cab, diesel, 12x16.9 fronts, 16.9x24 rears, 540 rpm, mid mount pto, grill guard, 2 remotes, kubota l4485 front mount snowblower, Unit is located in Erin **\$43,200**



Kubota M9540DT
hours ua: 1850.8, 4wd, cab/heat/air, 12.4r24 fronts, 18.4r30 rears, 540 rpm, 2 remotes, front grill guard, 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 **\$63,900**



Case IH5120
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**



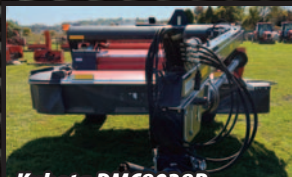
New Holland BC5070
540 rpm, hydroformatic tension, hydraulic pick up lift, hydraulic swing tongue bundle, wagon hitch, Unit is located at Stewart's equipment in Erin **\$27,900**



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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 DMC8028R
S/N: KT471218, Horsepower (min.): 70.0 HP Cutting Width: 9'2" Type: Rubber / Tine, Unit is located at Stewart's Equipment in Stayner (Formerly Earth Power) **\$27,900**

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