

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

A newspaper with something for everyone | February 2026 | Volume 49 #02

**Straight from the Herd:
Beef Day Coverage from
Grey Bruce Farmers' Week!**



Inside this issue: Beef and Goat Day from Grey Bruce Farmers' Week • Marketing Grains from the SouthWest Ag Conference • Fun Farm Science • An update from Clearview ROAR (Resident Owners Against Radar) • Pause on Livestock Traceability Regulations

AGcalendar

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

February 4th & 5th: The National Poultry Show

The National Poultry Show is being held at The Agriplex at Western Fair District, 845 Florence St. London ON. Visit www.nationalpoultryshow.com for more information.

February 8th: South Simcoe 4-H Rally Night

South Simcoe 4-H invites you to the free rally night skate at the Angus Recreation Centre on Sunday, February 8th. Attendees are invited to the gym from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. to explore the clubs planned for the 2026 season. Skating will begin at 6 p.m.

February 10th to April 9th: Winter Webinars & Courses

Grey Ag Services schedule of winter webinars and courses can be found on page 7. Full details can be found on their website www.grayagservices.ca or by calling 519-986-3756.

February 14th: News and Advertising Deadline

The advertising and news deadline for the March issue of Farm View is Saturday, February 14th.

February 17th: Farm Succession Planning

The Regional Municipality of York presents a Farm Succession Planning Workshop on Tuesday, February 17th from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The Workshop will be led by Maggie Van Camp of Strategic Change at Loft32 and Farmers' Bridge. Full details in the ad on page 8.

February 20th: CFFO, Simcoe County District AGM

The Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario - Central Ontario District, invites all members to attend the Annual General Meeting on Friday, February 20th at the Ivy Orange Hall, 5085 20th Sideroad, Ivy (Essa Twp.) Coffee 10:30 am, Meeting starts 10:45 am. The program includes special guest speakers and a hot lunch will be served. For further information and to RSVP, call (705) 424-0968.

February 27th: AgKnowledge Forum

Nottawasaga Futures presents the annual Agknowledge Forum taking place on Friday, February 27th at The Gibson Centre in Alliston. Along with great presenters the vendors market is back by popular demand! Full details and registration information can be found in the ad on page 6.

March 13th: YRFA hosts Emergency/CPR Training

York Region Federation of Agriculture presents Emergency and CPR training on Friday, March 13th. Full details and registration information can be found in the ad on page 3.

March 28th: YRFA hosts a Celebration of Agriculture

York Region Federation of Agriculture is pleased to host a Celebration of Agriculture taking place Saturday, March 28th. Full details and registration information can be found in the ad on page 3.

April 11th: SCFA hosts Keep Kids Safe Workshop

Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture is pleased to once again present the Keep Kids Safe Workshop to be held at Huron Tractor at Cashtown Corners on Saturday, April 11th. Full details and registration information can be found in the ad on page 7.

April 1st: Hall of Fame applications due

Do you know a farmer in Simcoe County that deserves to be recognized by the Agricultural Hall of Fame? If so, please send an email to simcty.fed.agriculture@outlook.com to request a nomination application. All applications must be in by April 1st 2026. If you have any questions, please contact Nicole at simcty.fed.agriculture@outlook.com

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Grey Bruce Farmers' Week

Mastering Goat Kid Weaning

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



Goat kids with a strong start in life will have an easier time at weaning.

Dr. Lisa Sharko, Lead Veterinarian for the Animal Health and Welfare Branch, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), was a speaker during Grey Bruce Farmers' Week 'Goat Day.'

Dr. Sharko practiced for 11 years as a food animal veterinarian specializing in dairy cattle and dairy goats and has a passion for young stock health. Her segment was called: Strong Starts, Smooth Transitions: Mastering Goat Kid Weaning.

She defined weaning as moving from a "diet only of milk to a diet of solid feed." Weaning is a huge step in a kid's life and can be a solid foundation for a healthy productive life or not.

The first critical step in raising a kid is realizing the critical importance of colostrums. "A newborn kid receives passive immunity from the colostrums," Dr. Sharko said, explaining that colostrum naturally contains "antibodies, growth factors, fat, protein and lactose and other essential nutrients that protect the kid from disease."

Colostrum is not an option, it is life. The reason being, the vet explained, "the kid is born with no immunity system."

For colostrum to work, it must be fed at

the right time, right volume and the right temperature.

According to Dr. Sharko, the correct amount of colostrum is 10% of body weight which is, on average, "50 ml per kilogram (kg) of body weight." The correct time for feeding is within 2 hours of birth, with four feedings within the first 24 hours, for a total of 200 ml/kg of body weight. The correct temperature is at healthy body temperature, she explained. She stressed that feeding kids within the 2 hour window of time means "the kid will survive better" and be less likely to get sick.

It seems logical to take a cold kid, one that is suffering from hypothermia and give it warm colostrum. Dr. Sharko referred to a publication by OMAFRA that explains that the kid needs to be warmed up first, then colostrum should be fed so the colostrum can work effectively.

Feeding quality milk must be done using clean equipment. Again, it goes against logic that hot water alone would not remove milk from a container. "Use warm water first to remove milk, then use hot water with soap. Rinse, and then dry," she said stressing that DRY is critical to keeping bacteria out of milk. Bacteria can live in that bit of water in the bottom of a clean feeding bucket- and "that bacteria will move right into the kid," Dr. Sharko explained.

"Clean makes a TON of difference" to prevent kid illnesses, she stressed.

Healthy practices after birth include dis-

infecting umbilical cords under two hours of birth, "the umbilical cord is a wet avenue that goes right up into the kid and can make him sick," she explained. She said the usual practice of giving selenium also known as Vitamin E is "cheap, cheap, cheap" to give and necessary in most regions.

Disbudding, the early removal of horns, should be "done as soon as (horn) buds appear" to reduce the stress on the kids. She recommended disbudding be done between 3 and 15 days from birth. Sick kids should not be disbudded as they are already stressed from being sick.

Rumen development is a critical part of raising quality kids. "Good development of the rumen provides nutrients to meet the physiological needs for the goat for growth, health and development after weaning," Dr. Sharko explained, adding that poor development of the rumen can contribute to diseases of the repository system and diarrhea.

A feed timeline was suggested starting with the necessary colostrum for the first 48 hours. After two days to two weeks, Dr. Sharko suggested that feeding of milk replacer cannot occur only twice a day at chore times. "If kids are only fed twice a day, they can get overloaded. They must have 300-500 ml three times a day minimum, four times a day is best," she said.

Creep sweet feed should be available starting at three days old and continue until weaning. Constant access meaning it never runs out stopping the kids from gorging them-

selves when they find it. Some kids will start eating this in a few days and others it might take weeks. The feed needs to be 18-20% protein and be "highly palatable" meaning the kids really want to eat it. Creep feed means access to water is essential.

At two to six weeks, kids can now be fed twice a day and milk volume can increase. She suggested twice a day feeding of 800 ml per feeding.

Feeding milk replacer properly will not work well if the milk replacer is not the proper type for the kid. "Not all milk replacers are created equally," she stressed adding that the product must be high quality and be "for the species it was made for." Dr. Sharko said cow milk replacer does not work well with kids.

The weaning threshold timeline is, according to this vet with a high interest in young goats, when the kid has increased its weight by about three times and is eating about one pound of creep feed per day. "Common current practice is to wean six to eight weeks of age," she said adding there are two ways of weaning, abruptly or slowly over 5 to 7 days.

Canadian dairy goat producers were surveyed and 40% practiced abrupt weaning when the kids were on average 56 days old and weighed in at 15 kg or over.

Evaluating the weaning program of kids helps to find improvements, after reviewing, each year, Dr. Sharko advised in her closing comments.

Presented by York Region Federation of Agriculture

Celebration of Agriculture

85th Anniversary of the
York Region Federation of Agriculture

Join us for a special evening celebrating York Region's rich agricultural roots, vibrant farm community, and the people who support agriculture—past, present, and future.

Saturday, March 28, 2026

Reception: 6:00 PM / Dinner: 7:00 PM

Celebration of agriculture & Live Classic Country Band to follow.

Mount Albert Lions Community Centre

Enjoy a night of great food, community connection, reflections on agriculture in York Region, and live classic country music to close the celebration.

Tickets: \$30 per person


Get tickets from your local YRFA Director; request a ticket on Eventbrite link:


<https://YRFAAgricultureCelebration.eventbrite.ca>
or call 905-888-1235

Come celebrate our agriculture community and our roots. Farmers, agribusiness partners, community leaders, and supporters of agriculture are all welcome!


EMERGENCY FIRST AID & CPR/AED TRAINING

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 Friday, March 13th
9:00 AM- 5:00 PM

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 Farmers, Farm Employees,
Farm Family Members

 Cost: \$50/person; lunch included.
Register using this Eventbrite link:
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EDITORIAL



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

Much like the rest of the residents in the Springwater Township community, I was shocked and saddened to learn of Linda Belcourt’s sudden passing. Linda was the owner and publisher of the Springwater Newspaper for about four years. She purchased the newspaper from Michael Jacobs shortly after I bought the Farm View. It was wonderful to watch us both learning the trade of publishing and to see the improvements in our skills over time.

Linda was committed to reporting the truth in every story, from local politics to community events. She was greatly admired by her community, and her presence will be deeply missed.

Clearview ROAR has sent an update regarding the A-OTHR Project, please see their letter to the right.

Including Farm View readers in your updates about what is happening in your organizations truly means a lot.

This edition of the Farm View also features excellent coverage from our columnists of local agricultural events, including Grey Bruce Farmers’ Week (Beef Day and Goat Day) and the SouthWest Agricultural Conference. Alongside this, we’re celebrating Heart Health Month with tips and insights from Dennis Gannon to help keep your heart healthy during February.

A couple of years ago, I had the terrific experience of participating in the Good Neighbours podcast. It’s a complimentary service, and I encourage anyone interested to contact them for an interview. A link to my own interview can be found on page 19.

On a personal note—as I like to say—once this edition of Farm View is put to bed, my husband and I have the great privilege of traveling to Quebec to see our son, Trenton, graduate from the Canadian Armed Forces Basic Training Program. I can’t wait to share updates with you all on his graduation and next steps!

Until then,

Take care of yourselves and one another,
Roslyn Watkins

DEADLINE for the March Farm View is February 14th.

LETTERS

Update on Community Action and Federal Petition Regarding A-OTHR

We wanted to share a few brief updates and keep the readers in the loop as this issue continues to unfold.

Our federal e-petition (e-6829) has reached 1,549 signatures and closes on January 23, 2026. Approximately 700 paper petition signatures have also been signed. Petition e-6829 - Petitions

Simcoe–Grey MP Terry Dowdall looks forward to tabling the petitions in the House of Commons and reports that our voice is being heard in Ottawa.

We were disappointed that our request for a meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture and Agri-Food was declined and instead deferred to the Department of National Defence (DND), despite the significant agricultural impacts at stake.

We are currently developing a proposal for an inclusive and transparent forum that would allow those most directly affected by the Arctic Over-the-Horizon Radar (A-OTHR) Receive project to meet with the Department of National Defence (DND) and have their questions answered. We are also requesting that media, along with our MP, MPP, Mayor, and Councillor, be permitted to attend.

Thank you for your continued interest and support. Please don’t hesitate to reach out if you would like further information or updates.

Regards
Terri Jackman
On behalf of ROAR

Information can be found on FaceBook Clearview ROAR and emails are welcome at Clearviewroar@gmail.com

A Long-Time Reader’s Thank You

We pick up our Farm View at our local farm dealer and it is much appreciated. We have probably been reading it since day one!

We have placed many free ads over the years with good results.
A big thank you for all the work you do.

John and Rosemary Dunsmore

*Dear John and Rosemary,
I especially enjoyed meeting you when I first became publisher and having the chance to visit you at your family farm. That visit left a lasting impression on me and showed me exactly why Farm View matters so much. It’s about real people, real farms, and strong community connections.
Your continued readership, your use of the free ads over the years, and your encouragement make all the hard work worthwhile. Thank you again for taking the time to write.*

Roslyn

Farm View is available at the following agricultural businesses.

- ALLIANCE AGRI-TURF in Ivy, Bolton, Fenelon Falls, Baxter and Lindsay
- BARRIE KOA (Seasonally)
- BRADBURY SMALL FAMILY FARM INC.
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- LEGACY FUNERAL AND CREMATION SERVICES INC in the Barrie Cedar Pointe plaza
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- SOBEY’S in Angus and Bradford
- STEER ENTERPRISES
- STEWART’S EQUIPMENT in Cookstown and Stayner
- THE UPS STORE in the Barrie Cedar Pointe plaza

The Farm View is delivered to these businesses between the 25th and 29th of each month, with copies available while supplies last.

If you would prefer to have The Farm View mailed directly to your home, one-year subscriptions are available for \$45. For more information or to subscribe, contact Roslyn at 705-722-0138, by mail at 8 Luella Blvd., Minesing, ON L9X 0W7, or by email at 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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Visit us on the web: www.farmviewonline.com

A forum for the Agricultural and Rural Community
The farm newspaper that covers Simcoe and Dufferin County, York, Peel and Muskoka Regions, keeping farmers and rural home owners informed about local and national news that affects their farm business, family and rural lifestyle.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

\$45.00 including HST for 12 issues

The publisher shall not be liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. The publisher’s liability for other errors or omissions in connection with any advertisement or for omitting to publish an advertisement is strictly limited to publication of the advertisement in any subsequent issues or the refund of any monies paid for the advertisements.



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.

“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

2026 ADVERTISING RATES

Full Page.	\$995./month
2/3 Page.	\$775./month
1/2 Page	\$525./month
1/3 Page	\$395./month
1/4 Page	\$310./month
1/6 Page	\$205./month
1/8 Page	\$150./month
1/16 Page	\$100./month
Business Card	\$88./month
Ag. Business Directory	\$700./year

Please visit www.farmviewonline.com or call Roslyn at 705-722-0138 for rate reductions based on frequency.
The ad deadline is the 14th of the month for the following month’s issue.



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Energy Retailers in Ontario: What Farmers Should Know

By Leah Emms, OFA Member Services Rep.

At the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA), we regularly hear from farmers who have questions or concerns after being contacted by an energy retailer. These contacts often come as in-person cold calls, and while energy retailers are legitimate businesses, it is important for farmers to know what a proper sales interaction should look like.

Energy retailers in Ontario must be licensed by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB). Their sales representatives are required to follow strict rules designed to protect consumers, including farmers.

When a sales representative contacts you in person, they must clearly identify who they work for and make it clear that they are not from your local utility. They are required to wear an identification badge that includes their name, the name of the energy retailer, and a photo. If asked, they must also provide a business card with the company's contact information.

Sales representatives are not allowed to misrepresent themselves as being from Hydro One, Enbridge, or any other utility, nor are they allowed to imply that you are required to sign a contract.

If a representative asks to see your utility bill, they must explain why they are asking and what information they are using. Resellers should be willing to provide you with documentation to explain their offer, and you are not obliged to respond to it right away. Taking time to review reseller information is not only allowed, it is encouraged.

It is also important to remember that energy retailer contracts usually cover only the

commodity price of electricity or natural gas, the part of your bill that pays for the energy itself. Your delivery charges, which pay for maintaining power lines or gas pipelines to your farm, are still billed by your local utility. In addition, other regulated costs, such as the Global Adjustment for electricity, continue to appear on your bill. The Global Adjustment covers the cost of generation contracts, conservation programs, and other system wide expenses and can be a significant portion of a farm's electricity costs. This means that even if a retailer offers a lower commodity rate, your overall bill may not be lower, especially for farms with high energy use or peak demand loads. Understanding exactly what is and is not included in a contract is critical to making an informed decision that will not lead to unexpected costs.

If you do choose to sign a contract, Ontario law requires that you receive a written copy, and you have a 10 day cooling-off period after receiving it during which you can cancel without penalty. Long term contracts may include cancellation fees, so understanding the terms is critical.

Energy is essential to farming, and margins are tight. Decisions about energy contracts should not be rushed or based on unclear promises. Farmers deserve clear information, honest answers, and respect — and that is what OFA continues to advocate for on your behalf.

Please visit our website for more information. <https://ofa.on.ca/resources/facts-energy-retailers/>



Farm Fresh Futures: Launching Your Local Food Business

February 27, 2026

The Gibson Centre, 63 Tupper St W, Alliston

Forum: 8:30 am–12 pm • Vendors Market: 12 pm–3 pm

About The Event

Grow Within the Agricultural Community

Learn, Grow, Connect & Shop

- Learn: Hear directly from local farmers as they share their experiences.
- Grow: Learn strategies for a successful farm start-up.
- Connect: Network with the local agricultural community.
- Shop & Sample: Explore our Vendors Market (Open to the public, no registration required).

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Call: (705) 502-0311

Email: Robin@nottawasaga.com

Registration is at 8:30 am and a hot breakfast will be served. Registration not required for the vendors market portion of the event.

Grey Agricultural Services Winter Courses and Webinars

For complete information and to register please call
519-986-3756, email info@greyagservices.ca
or visit www.greyagservices.ca/courses-webinars
Grey Ag Services is located at
206 Toronto St. S., Unit 3 Markdale, Ontario

Scamdemic: Fighting Fraud in a Digital World

Date & Time: Tuesday, February 10th, 7:00 - 9:00 pm.
Presented by: Kody Lyons, OPP
Location: In-person at Grey Ag Services.
Course fee: \$20.00 per person.

Preparing for Calving

Presented by: Dr. Lisa Sharko, Chad Mader & James Byrne, OMAFA.
Date & Time: Thursday February 12th, 10:00 - 3:30 pm.
Location: In-person at Grey Ag Services.
Course fee: \$40 (Lunch included) Farm tour included in afternoon.

Chronic Diseases of Sheep

Presented by: Dr. Chris Buschbeck, Markdale Veterinary Services
Date & Time: Tuesday February 17th, 7:00 - 9:00 pm.
Location: Hybrid, attend in-person at Grey Ag Services or online through Zoom.
Course fee: \$20.00 per person.

From Scraps to Soil, Composting Made Easy

Presented by: Brian & Jeanette French, Lennox Farm
Date & Time: Tuesday February 24th, 7:00 - 9:00 pm..
Location: Hybrid, attend in-person at Grey Ag Services or online through Zoom.
Course fee: \$20.00 per person.

The Economics of Dairy Goat Farming, from a Farmer's Perspective

Presented by: Elo Bowman, Rosymill Enterprises, Dairy Goat Producer since 2001
Date & Time: Wednesday February 25th, 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Location: In-person at Grey Ag Services.

Horse Health Night

Presented by: Dr. Tee Fox, Markdale Veterinary Services
Date & Time: Thursday February 26th, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Location: Hybrid - attend in-person at Grey Ag Services or online through Zoom.
Course fee: \$20.00.

Building for the Future: Considerations for New Dairy Barns

Presented by: Cynthia Miltenburg, Angie Wilson, Christoph Wand, & Tom Wright, OMAFA
Date & Time: Monday, March 9th, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm.
Location: In-person at Grey Ag Services.
Course fee: \$20.00.

Separating the Grain from the Chaff in Soil Health and Regenerative Agriculture

Presented by: Andrew McGuire, Washington State University
Date & Time: Tuesday March 10th, 6:00 - 7:00 pm.
Location: Webinar
Course fee: \$12 OR FREE for OSCIA members.

Learn & Practice 5 Basic Hand Stitches for Mending or Sewing Clothes

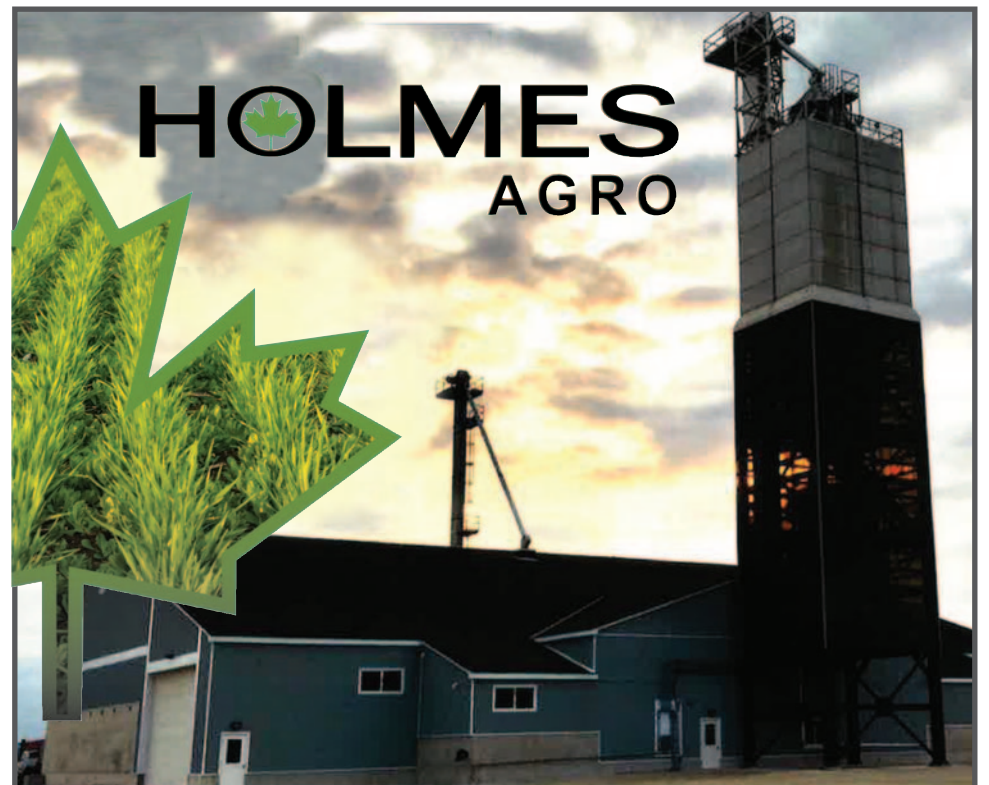
Presented by: Valerie Cheaney, Simply Farmshed
Date & Time: Wednesday, March 11th, 7:00 - 9:00 pm.
Location: In-person at Grey Ag Services.
Course fee: \$20.00.

Raising Rabbits

Presented by: Michelle Sanders, Cuni-ON, Ontario Rabbit Rancher
Date & Time: Saturday, March 14th, 10:00 - 12:00 pm.
Location: Hybrid - attend in-person at Grey Ag Services or online through Zoom.
Course fee: \$20.00.

Modernizing your Dairy Barn: Financial Aspects and Farm Tour

Presented by: Cynthia Miltenburg, Angie Wilson, Christoph Wand & Tom Wright of OMAFA, & Cam Mock, Farm Credit Canada. Farm tour included in afternoon.
Date & Time: Monday, March 23rd, 10:30 - 2:30 pm.
Location: In-person at Grey Ag Services.
Course fee: \$40 - lunch included.



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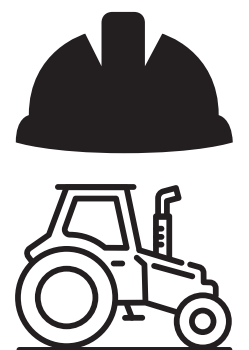
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SouthWest Agricultural Conference

“Marketing is now critical” says grain marketing expert Steve Kell from Simcoe County

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

Steve Kell of Kell Grain Elevators is enjoying his “retirement years” by working with 4 grain elevators selling 5 million bushels of grain annually along with working his own farm in Simcoe County. The expert in grain marketing has a 34 year- and counting- career in the grain marketing business and was the speaker at the Southwest Agricultural Conference in session #17 titled Marketing Masters 1.

Kell predicts the key to making profit in the future in grain production is to be good at marketing. The simple harvest then sell at harvest time plan is not going to work, if profits are the goal.

“The biggest mistake producers make in grain marketing is having unrealistic expectations,” he said explaining holding on to something for a long time to get to a dreamed for price and then having to finally sell at a loss makes no profit. “A small difference in price have a huge impact on farm profitability,” he stressed.

The reason that marketing is so critical now is because “grain supplies (in the world) are not tight.” There is no big surge of demand as supplies are good- and that is unlikely to change because grain farmers today are extremely good at producing grains, according to this expert.

“In the 1980’s there were some bad farmers in Ontario. We saw fields of mixed grain which was half weeds and stooked hay out

in the field from the year before. These fields were owned by guys (people) who were not good producers. The economy has peeled all of them out, they are gone (out of the business). Farmers now are either very good or great, there are no bad ones left,” Kell explained.

“Next cut, I believe, are the guys (people) that are good financial managers and the ones who are not,” he said adding that knowing the true cost of production is the first step. He said that, for example, he knows that on his farm in Simcoe County that it takes \$7.03 to produce one bushel of soft red wheat which works out to \$258 a ton. He pointed to a chart of prices for the year and it was clear there was only a small window in March and April when his crop could be sold to make a profit.

“The reality difference between \$7.30 a bushel and \$7.60 a bushel is a full doubling of farm income,” he said explaining using his \$7.03 cost of production that he knows as a fact.

The key to selling is “to avoid getting backed into a spot where you have to sell inventory,” he advised.

The United States (USA) corn crop in 2025, according to Kell, was “the biggest corn supply in history in the USA.” There will be about 2 billion bushels left over on September 1st 2026 which is “why future prices are so flat now, nobody believes we

are going run out of corn.”

The 2025 Ontario corn market was “two distinct corn crops.” In western Ontario, it was a good crop but from east of Highway 400 to Kingston, the grain expert explained, “it never rained so yields went from bad to worse to corn insurance write-offs.” Kell reported that there was a boat load of corn “from Ontario to Ontario.”

In a price graph, it was clear that in the last two decades, that there are specific times prices of global corn go up. Kell explained that after Canada Day 2026, 2026 corn should have been sold as the best prices are gone for the year 2026 and “if you have really got a lot of nerve, sell the 2027 by then too.”

He said from his personal experience on his farm, “I have the crop half sold before I plant it. If I can’t factor in a profit before I plant it, I probably should not plant it,” he advised.

The USA wheat crop has been the same size for the past two years. The biggest exporters in the world market are Argentina and Australia. With so much of the wheat crop harvested in the same season, marketing wheat futures ahead was advised. “The only reason we go into a contract is that we like the price. The stuff selling next week is being sold for something other than price.”

He said that on Friday, December 19th, there were 55,000 contracts of wheat to be

sold, 5,000 bushels each of wheat sold meaning 277 million bushels or 7.5 million tons of wheat was sold that day. To put that in perspective, that was 3 years worth of Ontario wheat production sold- in one day,” he explained stressing selling wheat up to a year and a half into the future often has positive results.

He reported the soybean crop has only two options, to crush it here or export it. There are two soybean crushing plants, at Windsor and Hamilton, both with access to global markets.

The world soybean is 40% from Brazil, 28% from the USA and Argentina at 12%. Canada produces 2% of the world’s soybeans.

The Brazil soybean crop is growing at incredible levels, in 2015/2016 there were 33,300 hectares harvested and in 2025, there were 43,950 hectares harvested.

We all can see there is a lot going on in the world right now- and nobody can predict what could happen next. Grain producers need to be ready with a plan- before planting- if world events are likely to cause a huge market shift. Kell said, “be prepared to switch up crop rotations. If the market is not apt to grow to give you a chance at a profit, don’t plant it,” he advised adding, “lock in profits when they are available and don’t be shy going into forward months.”



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Strengthening Our Agri-Food Future

A message from MPP Jill Dunlop

I want to send my warmest wishes to everyone in Simcoe North and across Ontario's agri-food community, as we manage through this winter season. 2026 brings fresh opportunities, renewed energy, and a shared commitment to building stronger, more resilient farms and food businesses.

I'm pleased to highlight a recent development that stands to benefit the entire agri-food sector, a nearly \$24 million investment in a new food processing facility, the first of its kind in Canada for non-GMO soymilk powder. This project will not only create good, paying jobs and strengthen Ontario made exports, but also reinforce the value of Ontario grown crops, benefiting farmers and processors from fields to shelves.

This announcement reflects a larger vision for a competitive, innovation, driven agri-food sector. As we look ahead, collaboration between producers, processors and communities will be key to seizing new markets and adapting to global challenges. Supporting the agri-food sector also means helping it weather any storm, be it economic, environmental, or logistical. As we continue with winter and plan for the seasons ahead, I encourage you to think ahead to ensure operations are secure, supply chains are supported, and local communities stay connected and resilient.

But beyond business and preparedness, this is also a time to celebrate community, family and tradition. I hope 2026 brings you strength, prosperity, and meaningful connections. Whether you're planting seeds, running a processing facility or simply enjoying farm life with loved ones, thank you for your dedication, innovation and care.

I look forward to continuing to work with you to support agriculture, build strong local economies and nurture vibrant rural communities across Simcoe North.

CFIA Pauses Publication Of Federal Livestock Traceability Regulations

An update from the Beef Farmers of Ontario

Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) is aware of questions and discussion regarding the proposed federal livestock traceability regulations and their anticipated implementation timeline. We want to clarify that the regulations did not come into force on January 1, 2026.

On January 10, 2026, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) announced a pause on the publication of the proposed amendments to Part XV (Traceability) of the Health of Animals Regulations until the proposed changes are more widely understood and concerns are heard and taken into consideration. The announcement further clarifies that these amendments are not currently in place and have not been finalized.

On January 9, 2026, BFO joined CCA and our provincial counterparts in a call for a delay in the implementation of the proposed federal traceability regulation changes, to allow outstanding industry questions and concerns to be addressed. Producer feedback across Canada has been heard loud and clear that more consultation, discussion and clarification is needed.

For more than a decade, BFO along with national industry partners has been actively engaged in consultations on

proposed amendments to Canada's traceability regulations. These proposed federal changes are intended to strengthen Canada's livestock traceability system by improving the country's ability to respond quickly to animal disease outbreaks and food safety incidents, while also protecting access to domestic and international markets.

BFO's position is supportive of regulated traceability in principle, but conditional on cost-sharing, practicality, and producer-feasible implementation. Specifically:

- BFO supports strengthened, regulated traceability in principle

- BFO agrees that enhanced traceability regulations are important to improve disease response, food safety, and surveillance, and explicitly supports regulatory amendments aimed at faster and more effective responses to animal health threats

- BFO supports specific regulatory tools (e.g., PIDs, expanded species coverage)

- BFO supports requiring Premises Identification Numbers (PIDs) for livestock movement reporting and supports expanding traceability requirements to additional species (e.g., cervids and goats) where disease risk overlaps

- BFO remains concerned about disproportionate costs and operational burden on farmers

- While supportive of the regulation, BFO strongly objects to the assumption that industry can absorb implementation costs (readers, reporting, labour, technology), noting costs are disproportionately high for the cattle sector and likely to be passed on to producers

- BFO supports regulation only if accompanied by flexibility, funding, and transition time

- BFO calls for government funding and grants to offset infrastructure, technology, and training costs, and requests a two-year grace period to allow producers time to learn and comply with new regulatory requirements

- BFO supports outcomes of traceability but seeks practical, Ontario-specific implementation

- BFO supports movement reporting and improved traceability outcomes, but recommends more practical reporting timelines (e.g., 14 days instead of 7) and role clarity to reflect Ontario's production realities and avoid unintended harm to speed of commerce

For more information on this topic please visit www.ontariobeef.com.



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Keeping Faith in Farming





Chickadees at Christmas Pg. 33
by Carolyn J. Morris
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Fun Farm Science

Niche farms around the globe

By Don Beaulieu

Odd, niche, and non-conventional farms range from bio-engineered animal farming and forensic research facilities to vertical urban setups and specialized food production. Unique examples include spider goat farms producing silk proteins, “body farms” for forensic research, edible swiftlet nest farms, and moose milking operations. *Farm View* presents a short list here with the promise of closer looks in future issues as many of them beg questions. Some may indeed use the term *farm* loosely.

Some most unusual types of farms:

Spider goat garms

Experimental farms (such as at Utah State University) raise goats genetically modified with spider DNA to produce milk containing spider silk proteins, which is used to create Bio-Steel.

Body farms

Forensic anthropology research/teaching centres, as the one at the University of Tennessee, use sites for studying human decomposition to assist in forensic research.

Bird’s nest farms

In Asia, specialized high-rise, concrete “houses” with holes, are designed to encourage swiftlets to nest. The build their nests of solidified saliva. These are harvested for soup after chicks fly. Swiftlets are smaller than our swifts here in Ontario.

Moose milking farms

Located in regions including Kostroma, Russia, these farms produce nutritious, slightly acidic moose milk, which is used for medicinal purposes.

Dung coffee farms

These farms harvest coffee beans that have been eaten and fermented in the stomachs of elephants or other animals and are then extracted from their dung to create high-end coffee. Anyone else wonder if *high-end* is the best descriptor?

Floating dairy farms

In urban areas, such as in the Netherlands, these farms operate on water to minimize the carbon footprint, housing cows on floating platforms that utilize urban food waste.

Insect farms

These farms raise crickets, worms, or black soldier fly larvae for sustainable protein sources and pet food.

Pallet/vertical farming

This method involves stacking crops in layers using hydroponics and LED lights to grow produce like lettuce and herbs indoors with minimal water and no soil. This may be the most common method included on this list, with hydroponics being used across *Farm View* territory.

Simcoe County Agriculture Hall of Fame looking for Nominations

The Simcoe County Agriculture Hall of Fame is an organization dedicated to recognizing and honoring individuals who have made significant contributions to agriculture in Simcoe County, Ontario. This recognition highlights the achievements of farmers, agribusiness leaders, and community members who have demonstrated leadership, innovation, and dedication to the agricultural industry.

Inductees into the Hall of Fame are celebrated for their exceptional efforts in advancing farming practices, promoting sustainable agriculture, supporting agricultural education, and contributing to the community. The Hall of Fame also serves as a means of preserving and sharing the history of agriculture in the region. To date, 50 inductees have been celebrated by the Hall of Fame since it began in 1984. Cecil J Chappell, J.J.E McCague and Stewart L. Page were the first inductees in 1984 and Montcalm Roman Maurice and James A. McCague were the most recent inductees to be celebrated in 2022. The directors are looking to add to the list of inductees but they need to have nominations from the community to do so.

To nominate someone for the Simcoe County Agriculture Hall of Fame, there is a Nomination form that requires information about the person’s education and training, chronological involvement in farm organizations, agriculture accomplishments in Simcoe County, community and other accomplishments in Simcoe County as well as any additional information that the applicant deems pertinent.

Letters of support or references from people who can attest to the nominee's impact on the agricultural community and additional materials that demonstrate the nominee's legacy, such as news articles, photos, or project summaries can assist the nominations committee in making their decision.

For more information about the nomination process please contact Nicole at simcty.fed.agriculture@outlook.com.

*I work without hands and pay no wage,
Turn dirt to wealth age after age.
I sleep through frost, wake with the rain,
Broken I grow, whole I remain.
Farmers depend on me each year,
Ignored by many, yet always here.
What am I?*

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The Story of Temperanceville

Village stories

by Andrew Hind

locals' disdain for alcohol. But residents weren't merely teetotalers. They were hardworking farmers, craftsmen, and businessmen who collectively built a tightknit village from what was once dense forest.

While many contributed to the village's growth over the years, it was James Love who got things rolling.

Love was born in Ireland in 1771. Still a babe in arms, his parents boarded ship for America and settled in Pennsylvania. In 1791, twenty-year-old James married Mary Utley (if birth records are accurate, she was just 12 years of age!). In 1804, James and Mary, accompanied by their three children, headed north for Canada, where they put down roots in King Township. James was a man of many parts: farmer, weaver, shoemaker.

Other families joined the Loves in carving farms from the woods. Many, like the Loves, were United Empire Loyalists who left the newly independent United States, fleeing persecution for their support of the Crown during the American Revolution. Soon enough a settlement took root. It was named Love's Corners.

James and Mary were devout Wesleyan Methodists and as a church had yet to be established in the area they offered their home for Sunday services. Once enough settlers had arrived to justify the effort and expense, James led the community in the building of a log church in the northeast corner of King Sideroad and Bathurst Street. In 1854 the aging structure was replaced by a brick church.

Though the Loves were clearly leading figures in the community, the hamlet didn't remain Love's

Huddled around the intersection of Bathurst Street and King Sideroad in York region, Temperanceville is a former farming hamlet best known for the

Corners for long. James was a total teetotaler, vocal in his resistance to alcohol. In an era when taverns and hotels were commonplace and booze flowed freely Love's Corners was notably dry. As a result, the name was changed to Temperanceville when a post office opened in 1871.

As one might expect, Temperanceville included a temperance hall (located on the west side of Bathurst Street, north of King Sideroad) where people could socialize free of the presence of alcohol. At the same intersection stood the village store, initially owned by William Bruce but passing to the hands of David Johnson in 1873.

Also located at the intersection was a blacksmith shop and, beside it, Lonsdale's carpenter shop. A Presbyterian Church was added in 1858.

The last years of the 19th century saw much change in the little community. In 1885, the temperance hall was purchased by trustees of the Methodist Church and moved to a site adjoining the church where it was used for Sunday School and social functions. In 1897, a third and final Methodist church was built, larger and more impressive than its predecessor to reflect a community at the height of its prosperity.

By this time, the store had been burned to the ground, replaced with a new brick building, and passed into the ownership of Harry Teasdale. In 1905, Thomas Legge became proprietor. His son Milton succeeded him.

Like many farming hamlets, Temperanceville faded over the course of the 20th century. Milton Legge closed the store in 1920. The forge in the blacksmith shop went dark around the same time. The temperance hall, closed and transformed into a home in 1915, was demolished in the 1960s. Farms and homes were engulfed by the relentless encroachment of suburbia.

The beautiful Methodist Church, now Temperanceville United Church, still stands on the northeast corner of the intersection, a silent sentinel to the history of Temperanceville and, before it, Love's Corners.



Temperanceville store, circa 1905-1910, under the ownership of Thomas Legge.

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Celebrate Family Day or Valentine’s Day in the Fresh Air!

This Family Day or Valentine’s Day, consider trading screens and schedules for time outdoors with the people you love. A walk through a local trail, a skate on a frozen pond, or even a simple stroll around the neighbourhood can turn an ordinary day into a meaningful shared experience.

Spending time outside encourages physical activity in a way that feels natural and enjoyable. Whether you are walking, snowshoeing, sledding, or playing a casual game, movement helps strengthen the heart, improve circulation, and support overall fitness. Even light activity can boost energy levels and help combat the sluggishness that often comes with winter months.

Fresh air and natural light also play an important role in mental well-being. Time outdoors has been shown to reduce stress, ease anxiety, and improve mood. Sunlight supports vitamin D production, which is essential for bone health and immune function, while being surrounded by nature can help clear the mind and restore focus.

Perhaps most importantly, outdoor activities create space for connection. Without the usual distractions, conversations flow more easily, laughter comes more freely, and shared moments become lasting memories. For families, it is a chance to model healthy habits for children. For couples, it offers a simple yet meaningful way to reconnect.

This Family Day or Valentine’s Day, bundle up and head outside. The benefits go far beyond physical health. A little fresh air, movement, and time together can do wonders for both body and spirit.

Winter Family Fun!

Words may appear horizontally, vertically, or diagonally, forwards or backwards.

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- IGLOO
- SUPPORT
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- OUTDOOR
- PICNIC
- SNOW ANGEL
- TOGETHER
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- TOBOGGANING
- COZY
- BOWLING
- FROSTY
- MITTENS
- FIRESIDE
- LOVE
- S'MORES
- ICICLES
- SKATING
- BLANKET
- FAMILY



Southwestern Ontario Pork Conference

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the 62nd annual Southwestern Ontario Pork Conference on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at the University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus. This year's conference is "Let's Talk About Pork" with new ideas in competitiveness, benchmarking, and so much more!

"It's all about keeping the producers informed in a social environment and providing a place for industry reps to visit with their customers" says Darren Sloan, chair of the 2026 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 2026 conference program features "ROI – It's All That Matters!" with feature speaker Dan Bussieres; "Maximizing Manure Value – Transforming Animal Waste Into Field Profit" with Christine Brown; and "Producer Profile" with John and Dirk Homan of Hihojo Farm. Rounding out the lineup are a producer panel Q&A, "Building a Sustainable Workforce," with Scott Leystra, Cam Farrell, TJ Klopp, Phillip Wiedrick and Mark

Chambers, and "Health Talk – Improving Your Performance" with Ryan Tenbergen.

Please join the SWOPC planning committee at our annual event 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, 2025. Conference information, sponsorship opportunities, and registration can be viewed at <http://www.ridgetownc.com/about/swopc>. Registration includes all the day's activities plus a delicious pork dinner!



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Soul Sisters Celebrations

Silent Prayer of a Wagging Tail

When I step through the door, my dog Reva greets me like a burst of pure joy, as if celebrating my return. Her tail wags with delight, her eyes glow with devotion, and her whole body moves in a rhythm of happiness that feels sacred. Whimpers escape, carrying a message beyond words, a song of love and connection. In that instant, the weight of the day dissolves. There is no judgment, no expectations, only the grace of unconditional love. It is a living reminder that Spirit often speaks through the simplest gestures such as the silent prayer of a wagging tail. Teaching us that true love is infinite, freely given, and always present.

There is a sacred stillness in the way our pets move through life. They do not assume, they do not compare, and they do not worry about tomorrow. They simply are. In their simplicity, they offer us profound spiritual lessons that remind us of the essence of being and the sacredness of life itself. I hope that you have experienced this sensation from your pets; dogs, cats, horses or any of the four-legged friends you spend time with.

When a dog greets us with unrestrained joy or a cat curls up in

peaceful stillness, we are witnessing more than affection. We are encountering a living expression of divine love. Pets are sacred because they embody qualities that many of us spend a lifetime seeking: unconditional love, presence, and trust in the flow of life. They do not question their worth or their purpose. They live fully in the moment, and in doing so, they invite us to do the same.

Pets carry a vibration of harmony. Their energy soothes ours, dissolving stress and opening space for peace. Science affirms this truth, noting that time spent with animals reduces anxiety and promotes well-being (American Psychological Association, 2020). But beyond science lies a deeper mystery: the soul-level bond we share with these beings. They are not just animals. They are companions on our spiritual journey, reflecting back to us the divine qualities we long to embody.

I will never forget the time my mother was receiving chemotherapy. Our dog Gizmo showed a love that felt almost divine. She stayed close to my mother day and night, offering comfort without words, only presence. In what I believe was an extraordinary act of empathy, Gizmo even lost all of her own hair during

that period, as if sharing in my mother's suffering. That moment revealed to me that pets are not simply companions. They embody a love so deep it becomes a silent prayer, a living expression of grace that often arrives in fur and gentle paws.

Perhaps the most sacred gift pets offer is their unwavering acceptance. They do not measure us by our successes or failures. They do not demand perfection. They simply love. In their presence, we glimpse the heart of Spirit, a love that says, you are enough. Let's honor these sacred companions. See in their eyes the spark of the divine and in their presence the whisper of grace. For in the wag of a tail, the purr of contentment, and the quiet trust of a creature sitting in our laps or resting by our side, we find a truth that transcends words: life is a blessing, and love is everywhere.

Animals are teachers. Let our spirits learn from them. Let's be reminded that joy is not found in complexity but in simplicity, in a shared glance, a gentle touch, a moment of connection. They do not cling to the past or fear the future. Their wisdom is silent yet profound: Be here now. Love without condition. Rest when you need to. Play when you can.

In Gratitude, The Soul Sisters
Reverend Erin Wilson and Reverend Kelly Blakely
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SOUL SISTERS CELEBRATIONS

After The Chores: What next, season of Winter

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



Winter is the season of what next can happen.

"I need hay please" is my constant request here. Sweetie drives the Kubota tractor to put out a bale in the feeder just outside the barn door for the sheep. I carry the hay inside to the goats.

Sweetie plugged in the Kubota and does his chores as per a normal winter day. I do my chores to the point where I need that hay. Sweetie comes in the barn after going out to start the tractor and says "no hay today." My response wasn't nice, I NEEDED hay, this was Boxing Day. There was a big storm coming in by noon and we had stuff we needed to get done. I was told to come see why.

The Kubota had only 3 tires, one of the back ones was flat and right off the rim. This was the first time this ever happened. This was Boxing Day, not a chance of getting this fixed today. The animals need breakfast- there is only one thing left standing, people power. Together, we tipped a bale on to its end and weaved off the wrapping- and then proceeded to carry hay. The hay shed is next to the barn but it's not close to the feeder and the sheep eat at the feeder. It took nine trips to get everything fed- for the morning.

Sweetie was positive the tire place would be open on Saturday, the next day. He took the tire to town to only find a closed sign. The next day it was open there were non-stop snowsqualls which means only life threatening reasons should anyone be on the roads. Carrying hay didn't qualify for driving in any snowsquall, I told Sweetie. I just added this to the pile of reasons why I hate winter.

Farmer Sheila from Linden Valley said it best, "Us farmers have PTSD from last winter."

PTSD or post traumatic stress disorder is a mental health condition that is experiencing re-living of traumatic events with the mind cycling in this trauma whenever it is triggered, is the non-medical definition. In easier words, you are big time scared all the bad stuff is going to happen again whenever you get reminded. I now have much more empathy towards people that live with PTSD, I am now terrified when I read the words "potential ice storm."

Never will I forget Sweetie coming to get me in the morning after the Great Ice Storm of 2025 so I could "see the road, you won't believe this" in real. The road was full of downed trees, trees that were painfully bent over and a carpet of broken branches, all was covered in thick, clear ice. The ground was a crunchy floor of more ice. The cracking of trees snapping and crashing down added in were terrifying sounds as one wondered what was going down next.

This year had an ice storm prediction which sent me right back into fright zone. This predicted ice storm preparation had cash in my pocket since the ATM machines might go down again, a full water tank enough to last five full days at the barn, gas tanks in the vehicles full, enough livestock food for a week and protein food cooked that would work as cold meals for us. We also had a brand new generator that lives in town with exceptionally nice people on standby. The chainsaw here is ready to go on first pull. We also had a brand new portable generator owned by a caring person ready to help us out also with one call on the landline. The "ice storm" this time was barely 3 cm of ice that quickly melted.

It wasn't until January 8th, when the Kubota was brought back to the workforce with four functioning tires again. The sheep filled themselves to the very top- and then tried to fit in some more hay when they saw a whole bale in front of them again. My step count has gone down several kilometres a day.

There is never a quiet, peaceful time that long on a farm in the winter with critters, we got another what next now here, and that is a story for another time.....



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Garlic Dill Parmesan Roasted Salmon

Recipe and photo by Roslyn Watkins

If you are like me and indulged in a few too many savoury dishes and sweet treats over the holidays, this time of year feels like the perfect moment to reach for something a little lighter. In celebration of Heart Month, I am happy to turn to salmon, a favourite in my kitchen and a wonderful choice for heart health. Salmon is rich in omega-3 fatty acids, which help lower triglycerides, reduce blood pressure, decrease inflammation, and support steady heartbeats, making it a key part of a heart-healthy diet. I love serving this salmon with



simple sides like rice or steamed vegetables, keeping the meal both satisfying and wholesome. It comes together quickly, tastes fantastic, and makes a great leftover, served cold on a fresh salad for lunch. Use one tablespoon of fresh herbs instead of the dried if you have them on hand.

Ingredients makes 4 to 6 servings

2 salmon fillets (about 450 g each)
2 teaspoons garlic purée (1 teaspoon per fillet)
1 teaspoons dried dill (1/2 teaspoon per fillet)
1 teaspoons dried cilantro (1/2 teaspoon per fillet)
Shaved Parmesan cheese, fresh or dried, to taste

Directions

Preheat the oven to 425°F (220°C). Place the salmon fillets on a parchment-lined baking sheet, skin-side down. Rub each fillet evenly with 1 teaspoon of garlic purée. Sprinkle each fillet with 1/2 teaspoon dried dill and 1/2 teaspoon dried cilantro. Top the salmon with a light, even layer of shaved Parmesan cheese, using fresh or dried according to your preference. Roast in the preheated oven for 12 to 15 minutes, or until the salmon is cooked to your desired level of doneness.

Heart Attack or Sudden Cardiac Arrest: The Difference and How You Can Help

By Dennis Gannon

Do you know the difference between a heart attack and sudden cardiac arrest? Are they the same thing, or just different ways of saying it? And if we encounter someone suffering from either, do we respond differently?

The short answer is yes — there is a difference, and knowing it can save a life.

Although the terms are often used interchangeably, a heart attack and sudden cardiac arrest are very different medical emergencies.

What Is a Heart Attack?

Medical professionals tell us that a heart attack occurs when the flow of blood to the heart is blocked. This blockage is most often caused by a buildup of fat, cholesterol, and other substances that form plaque in the arteries supplying the heart.

A heart attack — also called a myocardial infarction — can be fatal, but treatments have improved dramatically over the years. Heart attacks may strike suddenly, but many people experience warning signs hours, days, or even weeks in advance. The most common early warning is recurring chest pain or pressure that is triggered by activity and relieved by rest.

Heart attacks are often preventable, and while damage to the heart can occur, early treatment can limit that damage and allow people to return to a healthy, active life.

What Is Sudden Cardiac Arrest?

Sudden cardiac arrest is the unexpected loss of heart function, breathing, and consciousness. It is usually caused by a problem with the heart's electrical

system, which disrupts the heart's pumping action and stops blood flow to the body.

Sudden cardiac arrest is not the same as a heart attack. A heart attack is a circulation problem; sudden cardiac arrest is an electrical problem. However, a heart attack can sometimes trigger an electrical disturbance that leads to sudden cardiac arrest.

When cardiac arrest occurs, the heart can no longer pump blood to the brain, lungs, and other organs. Within seconds, the person loses consciousness and has no pulse. Without immediate treatment, death can occur within minutes.



What Can You Do?

For both emergencies, immediate medical attention is critical. Call 9-1-1 right away and provide as much information as possible. Know the address of your location and the phone number you are calling from so emergency responders can be dispatched quickly.

If the person is unresponsive, not breathing, and has no pulse, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) must begin immediately. If you are not trained in CPR, start chest compressions. Keeping

blood flowing to the brain is vital. Even if compressions are not perfect, doing something gives the person the best chance of survival.

Use an AED

Send someone to locate a Public Access Automated External Defibrillator (AED). AEDs are commonly found in shopping malls, ice rinks, community centres, parks, and many workplaces. AEDs will not harm a person who has a normal heartbeat. They provide clear verbal and visual instructions and are invaluable during sudden cardiac arrest.

Public access AEDs are becoming more common as technology has made them more affordable, reliable, and easier to use. Many can now be housed outdoors in temperature-controlled cabinets that monitor readiness and allow year-round access.

Across Ontario, municipalities have begun installing outdoor AEDs so they are available at all times. Community centres, sports fields, tennis courts, libraries now have public access AEDs located outdoors for anyone to use.

A February Reminder

February is Heart Month, a time when we focus on heart health and celebrate love through Valentine's Day. This month, consider learning CPR through an online or in-person course. When you're out in the community, take note of where AEDs are located. You might even consider advocating for or installing one in your neighbourhood.

The life you save could be someone's loved one.

Worth a Chuckle... and life lessons

by Aunt Hazel

Why do cows have hooves instead of feet?
Because they lactose!

Why did the chicken join a band?
Because it had the drumsticks!

Why did the sheep go to the party alone?
Because he was the baa-dest!

What's a farmer's favorite type of music?
Anything with a good beet!

Why did the egg hide?
Because it was a little chicken!

Why did the farmer become a comedian?
Because his jokes were corny... but people were still a-maize-d! 🥰

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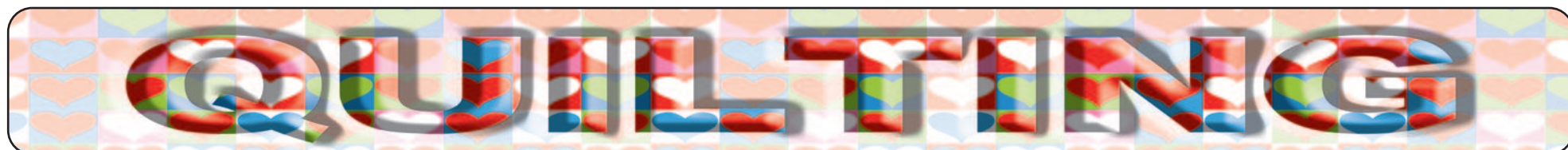
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Quilting Through Winter for Comfort and Community

By Janis Hamilton

Ok, be honest, are you done with winter yet? I keep all my snowmen from Christmas on my staircase celebrating the fluffy stuff because I really do like snow, but this year with days stuck inside it really is pushing many of us to reconsider our decisions of loving winter. I keep the cheerful snowmen out until Valentine's Day and then it's off to the basement until next Christmas. I'll be ready for the melt and the thought of seeing some of the white stuff disappear.

So, what has been your project with alerts telling us to "stay inside-don't travel unless necessary" and going days without a snowplow in sight? I am a member of Simcoe Quilters' Guild that meet from Sept.-June on the 4th Thursday of each month at the Westside Lutheran Church 510 Ferndale Drive North in Barrie. (This January's meeting will be on zoom) but they have an excellent "cuddle quilt program" giving quilts we make to many different groups. Some are Seasons for Grieving Children, Fire, Ambulance and Police departments in Simcoe County. At their last meeting I picked up a kit to make a quilt for this program. One of the members prepares the cut pieces for each pattern and I chose a tumbler quilt to work on. It had 100 tumbler blocks already cut out and all I had to do was figure out which would look good with the next one I chose from the kit. First, I sorted them into categories (i.e., sports, animals, flowers), but quickly realized that with donated fabric—and not something I went shopping for—that would

just not happen with this quilt. I'm not a fan of "scrappy" quilts, I must be honest, but I was determined to make this work. So next I sorted into dark and lights...now I could see my way with success making that decision. With the piles in front of me and the power on my machine I was ready to go. I'd never made a tumbler quilt but must confess it really was easy. One upright and the other upside down and sew them together. Very quickly I had the top done and now to sort them into rows. Well, that needs space and I don't have a design wall so used my hardwood floors. Fabric slips around easily so moving them into their new row was a

breeze. A few hours later it was done. Filled the bobbin again and off I went. Ok, now the top is all together, but I like consistency when a quilt is done, so a border was in order. Sort out the tone on tones (similar colour in the fabric but one has more shading so it looks mottled). Now, no one who quilts will admit this, but we have fabric in large quantities called a "stash." This is invaluable when sewing late at night, before stores open or on holidays when shops are closed. So, the stack of fabrics came out, and I set them beside

thumb is 6" is quilted then you can leave a space and do the next 6" of quilting. However, you can do them as close as you want. When I do the waves, I say wave up and wave down in my mind, so if you can't see the stitching and you have to stop you know where to go next. Please wear your free motion gloves so the job is easier. The grippy fingers are so helpful.

A few examples

Shown below to the left is a quilt where sashing has been added between the tumbler blocks.

To the right is a photo of a tumbler quilt made with carefully chosen fabrics, resulting in a very different look.



Janis Hamilton's Tumbler quilt for the "cuddle quilt program."



Technique

Now how do you do the wave, well here are a few very helpful links. Just click on the link and you can get some videos and tips.

<https://www.hhstitches.com/https://www.on-williamsstreet.com/blogs/tutorials/how-to-free-motion-quilt-filled-waves>

This one expands on the wave and gives you a challenge if you like free motion quilting.

If you are interested in learning about free motion quilting here is an excellent start at the beginning.

<https://www.allpeoplequilt.com/beginners-free-motion-quilting-11708157>

If you are reading this online, remember you can right click on any link above and it should say Open Link and there it is ready for you. Happy quilting and maybe challenge yourself to try something new.



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Grey Bruce Farmers' Week

Beef Prices Soar By Cathy Hamill-Hill

Anne Wasko has been a market analyst for more than 40 years and currently works for Gateway Livestock, based in Taber, Alberta. She and her husband operate a commercial cow-calf operation in Eastend, Saskatchewan. She has also volunteered at the Calgary Stampede for 20 years. Wasko was a speaker at Beef Day during Grey Bruce Farmers' Week, where she noted that beef prices remain extremely high and the future depends largely on actions by United States (US) President Trump.

The closure of the Mexican border for live animal imports to the United States is a major reason cattle prices have been so incredibly high over the past year, Wasko explained. The Mexican border was fully closed in May 2025, with partial shutdowns before that, after the country was found to have New World screwworm. This parasite is spread by a blow fly that eats the living tissue of warm-blooded animals, often killing them within days of infection. The disease had been fully eradicated in the United States in the 1960s.

According to Wasko, usually about 1.2 million head of feeder cattle from Mexico go into US feedlots. With that 1.2 million number going to 0, this triggered the supply and demand ratio to be off. Less cattle meant paying higher prices for what could be found.

Wasko reported that when word came from Washington that the Mexican border might reopen, the markets reacted, and then reacted again when U.S. President Trump commented on the beef industry in the United States. "The impact fundamentals, the supply and demand, did not change, but the worry about them did," she said, again commenting on how "volatile the cattle market is."

Another factor driving prices so high is that both the U.S. and Canadian cow herds are now very small. Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) heavily impacted the cow herd in Canada, "there was no money to be made," Wasko said explaining that through that time, "We (Canada) lost 25% of our cow herd and 33% of our (cattle) producers."

"There is the smallest US cow herd now since 1961," she said adding that there is an expected increase of more cows coming into that small herd in 2026 which is good news. With the higher prices, farmers have been inclined to increase their herds as heifer feed-

ers have dropped, those heifers are being kept for future cows. It follows the same pattern here in Canada, in Western Ontario, there were 14% less heifers marketed meaning they stayed in their herds for the future. Western Canada has 88% of the beef herd in Canada.

The Canadian beef market is heavily export-dependent, with about 50% of Canada's beef leaving the country. Of those exports, 75% are destined for the United States and 9% for Japan. "Canadian beef is very much in demand," she added.

While the cow herd is small, the US and Canadian beef farmer is doing an incredible job producing beef that is of high quality. "Beef quality remains high, 80% of fed cattle is triple AAA quality-or higher. In 1992, this quality was met with only 18%," she said adding that this high quality is matched with heavier carcasses at average 942 pounds whereas in 1992 it was at 725 pounds.

Wasko said she expects the Mexican border to reopen later this year, a move that would signal that record-high cattle prices have likely peaked. She noted that this is the cow-calf sector's time to shine and encouraged producers to take advantage of current conditions to put themselves in a stronger position, as these prices will not last forever. She added that cattle feeder operators face risk on all sides, with potential losses ahead.

She explained that right now it's a mostly all "good news" story for the Canadian beef cattle industry. For the average finished carcass today, there is a \$639 per head profit that is spread through the entire system from calf to carcass with each sector getting some of that. In the dark days of BSE, there was a loss of \$72 a head that was shared through the sector.

There have been a lot of comments over the high retail prices in Canada, she said, "Retail prices being high is how we rebuild our industry."

Beef prices are high but consumers are still consuming that high priced beef that hit the record high of \$9.40 for one pound of ground beef in North America. "Overall demand for direct protein is strong. COVID taught people how to cook again," she said adding that trendy diets now also focus on protein which is good news for the cattle industry.

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Community spirit fuels drive for food bank's refrigerated truck

By Don Beaulieu

Support of Wasaga Beach's Ministerial Food Bank comes from many sources. At the end of December 2025, there was a fundraiser to aid in a specific goal of the food bank. The aim is to purchase a refrigerated truck.

The "Warm Hearts, Cool Truck Fundraiser" at The Hive Restaurant and Pub on Saturday, December 27th was presented by David Grossman; Mortgage Broker, Wasaga Beach Bite, and The Hive Restaurant & Pub. The event successfully raised \$2,020 to support the Wasaga Beach Ministerial Food Bank in acquiring a refrigerated truck which would significantly enhance the food bank's ability to provide fresh and nutritious food to those in need.

The event featured over a dozen local musicians including David Cubitt, David Angelis, Michael Mangov, Lesley Joosten, Campbell Forbes, David Grossman, Carol Bateman, Bryon Douglas Johnson, Wayne Fennell, James Meschino, Wendy Caudle and Len Corkum who entertained throughout the evening. David Grossman also holstered up his guitar to take part in the entertainment.

Key organizers offer a heartfelt *thank you* to the sponsors: Wasaga Beach Brewing Company, Don Beaulieu (open mic host), Vectoria Creative (promotional artwork) and of course, to all the talented musicians who generously donated their time and talent. Together, the power of community spirit and generosity was showcased.

The Wasaga Beach Ministerial Food Bank's Mission Statement is: To bring glory to Jesus Christ by using our God-given resources, to provide food and spiritual support to disadvantaged residents in the Wasaga Beach area in a dignified and caring manner. It is a registered charity that accepts food donations and charitable contributions. The organization is run by volunteers and solely funded through the generous donations of the Wasaga Beach community.

Member churches are: Prince of Peace Anglican Church, Faith Missionary Church, Clearview Community Church, Wasaga Community Church, Wasaga Beach United Church and Wasaga Beach Community Presbyterian Church.

Wasaga Beach Bite operates under the formal mandate of "Taking the Bite out of Hunger". The organization is not only focused on food bank support, but also on building a stronger, more connected community. Their mission goes beyond fundraising, aiming to support local businesses and bring residents together through events that make a real

difference. President & founding member Councillor Ellen Timms along with vice president and fellow founding member Kelly Kramer work with 12 other board members.



Bryan Davies captured this shot of three of the dozen local musicians who took to the stage during the fundraising event for the Ministerial Food Bank's refrigerated truck. From left to right are Michael Mangov, David Angelis and David Cubitt.

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Free classified word ad's can be mailed, emailed or faxed by the 15th of the month for the next month's issue. Telephone orders are invoiced at \$15 for the first 25 words. Ad's run for one month only and must be re-submitted each month to be repeated. Mailing information is on page 4.

OBITUARY

BELCOURT, LINDA JANE (nee MARCHANT)

Linda Belcourt unexpectedly passed away from a heart attack at the age of 62 on December 29, 2025, surrounded by her loved ones. Linda was born and raised in the Elmvale area. She was the daughter of Morley and Margaret Marchant. She spent her young adulthood building a successful IT career in Toronto all while enjoying traveling and making lifelong friendships. She returned to her roots in Elmvale to meet her best friend and the love of her life Brian Belcourt, they were married for 32 beautiful years and spent 32 years laughing, camping and loving each other fiercely. In 1996 Linda had her first daughter and best friend Kari Belcourt, Linda was her biggest supporter. In 1997 she had her second daughter Marie Belcourt, who she was so proud to share her accomplishments with. She was a beloved grandmother to Evelyn and Harrison Belcourt, the amount of love and laughter they shared will never be forgotten.

Linda was an incredible Mother, Wife and Grandmother. She was a staple to the Elmvale community, operating the Springwater News and being involved in many community organizations such as the Elmvale Lioness and Girl Guides of Canada.

She will be deeply missed by her husband Brian, her children Kari and Marie (Brett), her grandchildren Evelyn, Harrison and her well awaited new grandson, her mother Margaret Marchant (nee Dundas), her siblings Glenn (Giselle), Joyce, and Chris (Cindy). She is predeceased by her father Morley Marchant.

AUCTIONS

Timed Online Consignment Auction

Farm, Shop & Construction Materials and Equipment, Vehicles & Trailers, Etc.

**February Consignment Sale Runs
February 16th - 23rd, 2026**

For more information visit the website!

Sale Managed & Sold By:

**Kevin Barker &
Greg Snoddon
Auctions**

**3484 Hwy. 35,
Lindsay, Ontario**

For more info visit:

www.kevinbarkerauctions.com

Kevin: 705-878-2947

Greg: 705-934-9611

Office: 705-328-1478

"Auctions with Action"

Wanted

**International Super W4 farm tractor.
22 x 32 or 22 x 38 Dion Threshing Machine.
Please phone in evenings 905-983-9331.**

SPRING & SUMMER AUCTIONS

Book your 2026 Spring/Summer sale NOW!

Kevin Scott
**McArthur - Bessey
Auctions**
Farm, Livestock, Estate, Home & Business
*Auctions with experience
& consideration*
Please contact us at
Kevin (519)942-0264 • Scott (519)843-5083
mcarthurbessey@gmail.com
www.theauctionadvertiser.com/KMcArthur

FREE ADS

WANTED, church organist

St Georges Anglican Church in Utopia is currently seeking a person proficient in piano and organ to lead our choir during Sunday morning service 9 am. We are a small congregation and the remuneration would be in the form of a monthly honorarium. To discuss this opportunity further, please call Sandi Schneider at 705-424-5735.

Common No.1 DC Red Clover for sale

55lb bags call for pricing. Seed report available. Please call 289-264-3938.

Wanted Garden Bench

preferably not too large. Also working portable Record player. Please call or text 705-440-3567.

COMING EVENTS

Save the Date!
**AgKnowledge
Forum planning
has begun...**
Feb 27th, 2025.
**See the ad on
page 6 for full
details and
registration
information.**

MASONRY SERVICES

Eli Noble Masonry Specialist

Get ready for Spring! Call for a quote!

905-904-1570
ednoble2@gmail.com
Service areas include
Barrie, Durham and the GTA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This episode of The Good Neighbour podcast focuses on the Farm View newspaper, the ag community, and me! Jeff did a wonderful job drawing me out of my shell so that advertisers and readers can get to know the person behind the paper. Have a listen at www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTuacKHfTdl

Reporter goes through stage, after stage...

Farm View's reporter Don Beaulieu continues to host an open stage in Wasaga Beach in 2026. Beaulieu has hosted thousands of open stage evenings over the decades. The excitement and pleasure of introducing and hearing new talent every week "...is something I live for" he says.

He says "Some of the quietest, most unassuming folk become absolutely dynamic when they hit the stage. Those surprises are awesome!"

Beaulieu operates a professional sound system that will have any singer/musician sounding their best. Many performers appreciate his attentiveness to sound and to making performers feel comfortable.

There is no limit to the age or ability of talent, no auditioning. Sign-up for a time on stage when you arrive. Beaulieu thanks The Hive Restaurant & Pub in Wasaga Beach for allowing him to present this opportunity to the community each week.

OPEN STAGE
Wednesdays
6 to 9 p.m.
Hosted by Don Beaulieu
Bring us music, poetry, stories or comedy!
at The Hive Restaurant and Pub
1441 Mosley Street, Wasaga Beach
Seating reservations required:
705-429-2773
Performer questions: Don at don@donshots.ca

**FARM VIEW
NEWSPAPER**
with
Roslyn Watkins
GOOD NEIGHBOUR PODCAST
WITH JEFF & SEAN

Free Classifieds

Free classified word ads (maximum of 40 words) are for non-profit individuals and farm groups. Ads can be mailed or emailed. They must reach us by the 15th of the month before the next month's issue. Telephone orders are invoiced at \$15 for the first 25 words. Word ads run in one issue only and must be re-submitted each month to repeat. For mail-in ads, use the space below to neatly print out your FREE classified word advertisement.

Email: farmview@on.aibn.com
Mail: 8 Luella Blvd., Minesing ON L9X 0W7



Sales - Parts - Service - Rentals

Stewart's Equipment Stayner Location:
6837 ON-26, Stayner, Corner of 26 & center line rd
ON, LOM 1S0 **705-428-3132**

Erin Location:
9410 Wellington Rd 124, Erin,
Corner of 124 & 24 ON,
NOB1T0 **519-833-9616**

Cookstown Location:
4321 Line 13, Cookstown,
Corner of 27 & line 13 ON,
LOL1L0 **705-458-0871**



Snow - meet your match.

Kubota's range of attachments will make the choice for snow removal an easy one. Choose from blades and blowers that go on easily – so you can spend less time out in the cold and more time in the heated, comfort-driven cabs. Additional attachments like spreaders, allow for anti-slip sand and salt treatments, so you can keep your property clear long after you've done your job.

Used Equipment


Kubota B26
hours showing :134.5, diesel, hydrostatic trans, rops with canopy, 23x8.50-14 fronts, 12.4x16 rears, bt820v backhoe with hydraulic thumb, t1500 loader with 60" bucket, in Erin. **\$48,900**


Kubota MX540HSTRC
hours showing:564, diesel, 4wd, rops with canopy, one remote, 3rd funtion hydraulic loader, ss q/a , 72" bucket, bh92 backhoe 18" pin on bucket, 540 pto, industrial tires, In Stayner. **\$57,800**


Massey Ferguson 235
hours showing: 891.3, gas, 540 rpm, open station with no rops, loader and bucket , 6:00 x 16 front tires, 13.6 x 28, Unit is located at Stewarts Equipment in Erin. **\$5,800**


Case 570MXT
5151.4 hours ua, cab with heat, 4wd, with loader, 12x16.5 front tires, 17.5x24 rear tires, bucket and pallet forks, horst lasb400010 blade, and bauman 2260h sander, In Erin. **\$36,900**


Daewoo MG200-III
hours showing: 1124, original one owner! 4wd, loader, cab with heat and air, side mirrors , 20.5r25 tires, Unit is located at Stewarts Equipment in Erin. **\$78,500**


Kubota BX23S
hours showing: 146.8, 4wd, foldable rops, la340 loader with bucket, front grill guard, bt603 backhoe with bucket and mechanical thumb, rck54d-26bx mower deck, in Erin. **\$28,900**


Kubota BX2680
hours showing: 242, diesel, 4wd, 540 pto, turf tires, hydrostatic trans, loader, manual quick attach with 48" bucket, work lights, rear wheel weights. Unit is located at Stewarts Equipment in Cookstown. **\$18,200**


Caterpillar IT14G
8761.7 hours ua , 2006 , cab with heat and air , 17.5r25 tires , auxilliary hydraulics , bucket with cat it24 quick attach, Unit is located at Stewart's Equipment in Erin. **\$63,900**


Kubota L4310
Hours showing: 1847.60, 4wd, open station w/foldable rops, 540 rpm, one remote, glide shift, 8-16 fronts, 14.9-24 rears, grill guard, kubota la682 loader with bucket, Unit is in Erin. **\$14,900**


Kubota L4060
1,380.5 Hours, Cab/Heat/Air, Radio, Diesel, 3 Range Hydrostatic Trans, 4wd, 2 remotes, 540 PTO 9.5-32 Rears, 8-16 Fronts,bauman 1040h spreader, and hla lasb3600 v blade, In Erin. **\$24,900**


Case Maxxum 125
hours showing:458.5, 4WD, cab/heat/air, 14.9r28 fronts, front fenders, 18.4r38 rears, 2 remotes, 16x16 auto shift, fender mounted switches, 540 rpm, metal plessis snow blade **\$126,900**


Massey Ferguson 240
hours showing: 797.4 , open station with rops , 2wd , 540 rpm , 1 set of remotes , 11lx15 front tires , 13.6x28 rear tires , power steering, unit is located at Stewarts Equipment in Erin. **\$11,800**

STEWARTSEQUIP.COM

Erin 519-833-9616
Cookstown 705-458-0871
Stayner 705-428-3132

  
Follow Us



From all of us at Farm View

Bringing you agricultural news since 1977

Serving the Agricultural communities of Simcoe and Dufferin Counties and the Regions of York, Peel and Muskoka.

As well as farm communities in Grey, Bruce, Victoria, Durham, Wellington and Haliburton Counties.

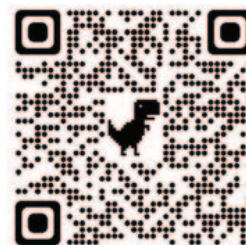
**Farm View
is proud to
support**



Community
Events



A newspaper with something for everyone



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