



# Junior Farmers' Association of Ontario 2024 Annual Report



Years of Building Leaders, Building Communities

# Thank you to our 2024 Partners!

## JFAO Gold Partners



## JFAO Bronze Partners



## 2024 Friends of JFAO Sponsor



## March Conference Partners



## OYFF 2024 Sponsors

### Bronze Sponsors



Promoting Profitable Sugarbeet Production in Ontario

## 80th Anniversary Sponsors

### Banquet Dinner Sponsors



### Bronze Sponsor



### Event Sponsors



East  
Central  
Region

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## Fueled by eggs.

Being part of a busy family can be exhausting, even for Ontario egg farmers like the Elgersma family. So when life gets hectic, they spend time together and recharge with the nutritional goodness of the eggs they work hard to provide.

**Life changes. Eggs stay the same.**

To meet more Ontario egg farm families,  
go to [getcracking.ca](http://getcracking.ca)



# JFAO Through the Years

For 80 years, the Junior Farmers' Association of Ontario has been marching right along. We have marched along through good times and bad times, through peace and war time, all across our province and far beyond its borders. Now as we stand on the beginning of our 8th decade as a province-wide Association.



first board of JFAO with the Dept of Ag staff Founders of JFAO 1944

Our roots extend beyond the 80 years we celebrated in 2024 to agricultural short courses in the early 1900s. The first clubs were formed in 1914 (Durham, Middlesex, Peel, and York Counties) and the idea soon spread like wildfire to every corner of this province. By 1944, we had progressed far enough to feel the need for a unifying body and this need was confirmed by a historic meeting on April 4, 1944, in the Parliament Buildings in Toronto. This meeting voted to form a provincial association, and Gordan Orr, from York County, became our first president of the organization.

One year later, at the first annual meeting, a 20-point plan for action was adopted and it is interesting to compare the

concerns of that day with those of today. A few, such as a Provincial War Services Fund, Home Beautification Projects and Farm Radio Forum Groups have fallen by the wayside but many others are still operating today. Regular monthly meetings (including online participation) remain the basis of our organization; short courses on leadership became intensive weekend workshops and seminars in 1980s; regional field days are today known as Summer and Winter Games; provincial public speaking, drama and amateur entertainment contests have been renamed to Sing Swing (and former event Culturama); and our annual March Conference continues to this day.

Some of JFAO projects and events include Leadership camp, first offered in 1947 and this is where Margaret Watson wrote the "Junior Farmer Song"! Camp has been offered almost continuously since its inception. In 1950, four Junior Farmers, and one leader travelled to the United Kingdom as representatives of JFAO. This evolved into the travel program, which is still offered today in: Scotland, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Austria, Germany, Switzerland, and Tasmania. The Century Farm sign project was initiated by Junior Farmers in Canada's Centennial Year of 1967. This program still continues to this day, and has expanded to French signs and add on signs; 125, 150, 175, 200, and 225 years.

JFAO is ever evolving with the times, embracing and overcoming new challenges. We are finding new ways to communicate to its membership, alumni, and the community, whether its through social media, attending trade shows, phone calls, or meeting stakeholders in the community. Much has changed in 80 years but a lot is still the same. Our foundations have retained the same spirit but over the years we have evolved to arrive at the remarkably diverse program structure that we have today. The JFAO's motto, formerly known as "self help and community betterment" has been updated in recent years "building leaders, building communities." JFAO strives to always encourage new growth and new development of our membership which is the most important part of our Association. Through the continued dedication of our membership, JFAO would not stand where it is today. There will always be a need for young people to learn social, communication and leadership skills and for them to practice those skills in their local communities. Through talking with some of the alumni at the 80th Anniversary and hearing their stories and memories from their times in JFAO, I look forward to witnessing the progress that future generations of JF's will make and I look forward to reminiscing on my JFAO memories.



*Jolande Oudshoorn, 80th Past President*

# Purpose and Principles

JFAO provides opportunities for young people of all backgrounds, but especially those in rural Ontario, to take on the challenge of exploring their individual talents and potential to develop personally while being involved in improving their communities, networking, and having fun. Members are guided by the motto “Building Leaders. Building Communities.” and the mission “to build rural leaders through personal growth, travel, experiences, and community betterment” as they conduct positive social and educational activities which satisfy their personal needs and interests while conducting service projects which support the needs of their communities. Programs and opportunities provided by JFAO and its affiliated clubs help develop in members a sense of social and environmental responsibility, the ability to provide effective leadership, and an awareness of good citizenship within the community and world around them. JFAO serves as the means through which the mission and principles may be developed and maintained throughout Ontario. JFAO provides coordination and leadership to clubs and provides opportunities to network through a variety of inter-club competitions, activities, and exchanges. JFAO gives future leaders a chance to become leaders of today and tomorrow while maintaining a connection with our roots.

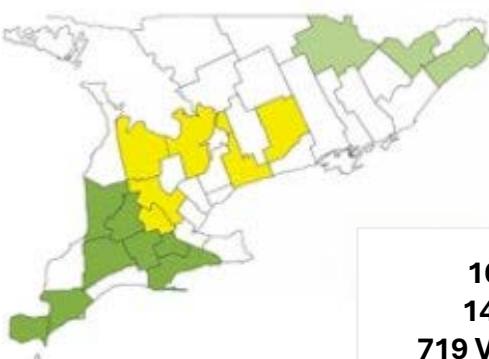
## Affiliation Requirements

Any group of individuals may show their desire to become affiliated with JFAO by paying membership fees for each member (aged 15-29 as of the first of January) and presenting a list of officers to JFAO. Clubs must conduct a continuing program of activities throughout the year to meet the following minimum requirements:

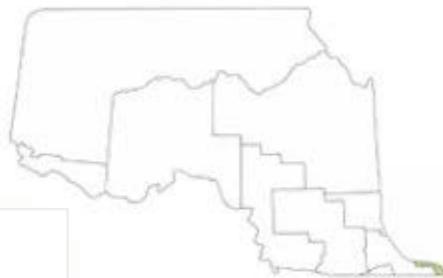
- a) Submit a current club photo, labelled with member's names and executive positions for archiving purposes.
- b) Complete at least one community betterment project.
- c) Complete at least two of:
  - a. A joint JF/youth activity, or
  - b. A conservation project, or
  - c. An agricultural education activity, or
  - d. A social engagement club project.
- d) Have at least one event reported on by television, radio, print, or social media.
- e) Submit a minimum of five photos of activities.
- f) Submit one article related to the history of JF in the area (optional).
- g) Have a meeting or part of a meeting on:
  - a. The structure and purpose of JFAO
  - b. Effective meeting procedures.
- h) Submit a copy of the official minutes for two club meetings.

See [www.jfao.on.ca](http://www.jfao.on.ca) for updates, forms, and more information.

## 2024 Membership Statistics



**165 Members  
14 JFAO Clubs  
719 Volunteer Hours  
\$107,156 donated**



# 2024 Club Donations

Coldest Night of the Year - 1  
Ronald McDonald House - 1  
4-H Clubs - 7  
Agricultural Societies - 11  
Mental Health Groups - 1  
Scholarships - 4  
Food Banks - 13  
Hospitals - 7

Women's Shelters - 3  
Historical Society - 1  
Community Groups - 13  
Operation Sharing - 2  
Hospice - 1  
Schools - 2  
Local Agricultural Groups - 8

**Total Hours - 719**

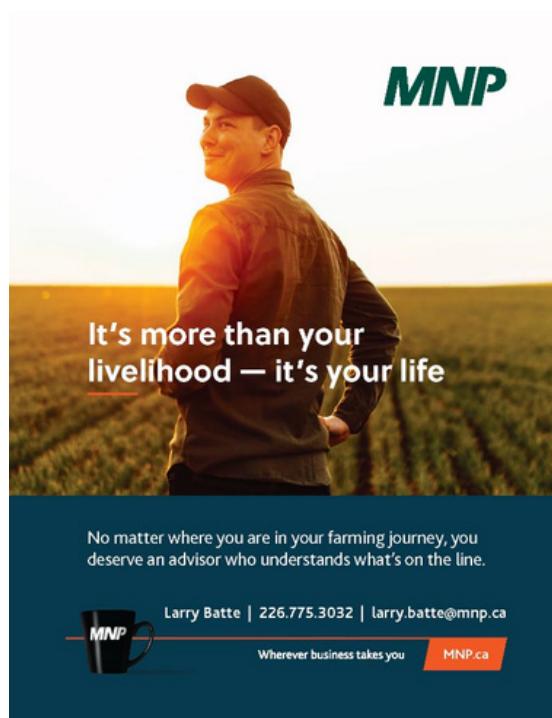
**Total Donations - \$107,156**

## Operations Committee

This year marked a lot of changes in our staffing, as staff progress with their lives. We hired Stacey Leppert as our Office Administrator, who continues to work remotely providing great assistance to the organization and clubs, including being a major assist in helping our members attend the Royal Winter Fair, administering the Century Farm Sign program, and bringing a cheerful attitude to every meeting. Thank you to Jacqui Dennis for all your hard work over the years as the office administrator while JFAO turned hybrid. Heidi Danen coordinated another successful March Conference with the help of the committee and thank you for your 3 years of commitment, paving the way for Cecelia McMorrow, 64th President, to coordinate March Conference 2025. Christina Hyatt did an excellent job coordinating the Ontario Young Farmers Forum with the OYFF Committee. Lastly, we hired Jeanette Schramm as our Fund Development Specialist, who is doing a great job on making and maintaining connections with our sponsors and working closely with various committees to help maximize sponsors opportunities to work with JFAO. Thank you to Christine Wyville for all your hard work and commitment to JFAO as our Fund Development Specialist over the past few years. And our last hiring of the year was for our Annual Report Author. Kimberley Snyder has done a fabulous job at creating this annual report. JFAO also continued our contract with Doug van Wolde of We.Go.ca Website Developers Inc. for website and email services. Doug continues to ensure that our website is functioning well and assisting our committees to all their needs. Susan Elliott continues to do an excellent job as bookkeeper for JFAO. Her exceptional attention to detail with the recording of day-to-day financial transactions, and vast experience with not for-profit regulations continues to make her an asset.

**Jolande Oudshoorn**

*Chair of Operations Committee*



## President's Message

What a year it has truly been to serve as your Junior Farmers' Association of Ontario's 81st president. Attending events throughout the province has always been one of my favourite parts of JF as I get to see what the other clubs are getting up too. This year gave members the chance to travel throughout the province as we travelled up to Stormont- Glengarry for Winter Games, down to Middlesex for Autumn Profile, and then over to Wellington to participate in Sing Swing! All these events had great turnouts from clubs, and I can say for myself that they were quite entertaining, who knew I had a great singing voice! Every year we have outgoing delegates and this year we got to see five of our members take on the opportunity to represent JF overseas, as we welcomed seven delegates who travelled throughout the province this summer. To end off the exchanges we celebrated our 80th anniversary in Rockton! We had over 200 members, delegates, and alumni in attendance, and it was great to hear everyone's Junior Farmer, exchange, and Farm Show stories, along with seeing people catch up with one another. Another great opportunity this year was to attend some trade shows with OFA. At Canada's Outdoor Farmshow we also partnered up with OFA to host a meet the presidents night. It was a great opportunity for both OFA and JF to talk with young farmers and rural leaders across the province. One of our main goals in the coming years is to work towards increasing our membership, so make sure to be that friend that is bugging others to come out to Junior Farmers, there is something for everyone in JF. This year, a whole new group of Junior Farmer members stepped up to take on the executive and rep roles. I want to thank everyone for stepping up to the challenge of helping to run our great organization. I can say for myself coming into this role as president I was still unsure how I would feel but with everyone by my side and doing a great job I knew we were going to do well this year. To everyone that joined our committees this past year, thank you for all your hard work as our events this year wouldn't have been the same without the work you have done. This year as your president, I can say has been one of my best years in Junior Farmers, being able to travel around the province and meet more members. I have heard the names of some but being able to meet everyone has even better. I couldn't have done everything I did this year without the help of our exec, our great staff, my family, and my club. You all have supported me in this journey, and I am looking forward to becoming your past president.

**Carson Wagner**  
President



## Past President's Message

2024 marks 80th anniversary of JFAO and it's been another eventful year of positive change. What all started with 48 people from across Ontario meeting in a room to motion JFAO into existence, has led to an organization with members living around the world. The forming executive; Gordon Orr, York County; Howard Laidlaw, Peel County; Warren Emmett, Brant County; Charlotte McCullough, Peel County; and Arthur Martin, Associate Director of Agricultural Representatives, and the board laid the foundation of JFAO today. Members have truly embodied the mission of JFAO over the years "to build rural leaders through personal growth, travel, experiences, and community betterment." As Past President, I had the opportunity to connect with a lot of passionate and engaging individuals that make up JFAO. It's amazing to see how Junior Farmers has impacted the lives of all those around us, whether it's in fundraisers, politics, community betterment projects, international exchanges, or building lasting relationships. This year marks another year of connecting, building, and developing leaders for strong communities for rural youth. From our competitive events hosted by Stormont-Glengarry, Middlesex, and Wellington, to Ontario Young Farmers Forum, and March Conference, members have been actively participating across the province. Clubs enjoyed hosting seven international delegates over the summer across the entire province. To add on to our busy summer, we hosted the 80th Anniversary in Rockton with a full house of alumni and members! However, JFAO can't run without its dedicated members, volunteering countless hours to organizing and running many events, along with all our committees maintaining their organizational duties, like the Policies and Procedures Committee, Operations Committee, and Competitive Events Committee. Thank you to the Board and Executive members for being representatives of JFAO and helping lead JFAO forward. We have made some great strides this year with the focus of the organization and marketing. We hired Kahntact to assist with the recruitment of young, enthusiastic members, who will pave the way for new leaders and change-makers in agriculture, government, and in their communities. It's been a pleasure being the past president this past year, and I thank everyone for your support over the past two years. Thank you to all our alumni, sponsors, and stakeholders, JFAO would not be the organization that it is today without them. I know that the future of JFAO is bright and prosperous with you involved. I have learned a lot and greatly enjoyed my time on the JFAO executive these past three years. I'm looking forward to 2025 and to see where our new members, Board of Directors, and Executive take the organization.

**Jolande Oudshoorn**  
Past President



# 2024 President's Rose Award Nominees

<b>Outstanding Novice Member</b>	Jessica Vehof Paige Fletcher
<b>Outstanding Current Member</b>	Christena Jenkins- Giffen Hunter Woods Jordyn Domio Kelsey Brekelmans Kirsten McIntosh
<b>Outstanding Retiring Member</b>	Arin Douglas Elizabeth Bruce Fred Mahon Jeanette Schramm Jolande Oudshoorn Marissa Mulligan Nic Willemsma
<b>Club of the Year – Top 5</b>	Carleton, Huron Perth, Middlesex, Oxford, Wellington
<b>Agricultural Club of the Year – Top 5</b>	Carleton, Huron Perth, Middlesex, Oxford, Stormont- Glengarry

Winners will be announced at the JFAO Annual Banquet.



## Marketing Taskforce Update

**Members:** Hannah Arnold, Kelsey Brekelmans, Jordyn Domio, Paige Fletcher, Karen Giffen, Keely Henderson, Christena Jenkins-Giffen, Hansford Mahon, Jolande Oudshoorn, Carson Wagner.

At the 2024 AGM, a resolution was passed to use funds from the endowment fund to pay for a marketing campaign to increase membership as it was at an all-time low with only 165 members across the province. As a result of this resolution, a taskforce was formed. Kahntact was the company approved by the board, at the recommendation of the taskforce, to complete the marketing campaign.

Kahntact will be marketing for JFAO throughout 2025 with the goal of increasing membership. The marketing plans include creating a video with member and alumni testimonials that can be shared on social media. Posts made by Kahntact featuring members and events will

also be shared in a 3–5-month social media campaign, with a special focus placed on clubs that are struggling to maintain their membership numbers. In addition, a traditional ad will be placed in farm media magazines and websites. Kahntact will also assist local clubs with their social media and advertising by hosting a workshop at March conference 2025 and by creating social media templates to be used by clubs. Pending sponsorship, the campaign may be able to expand to include other ideas such as a contest for bringing a friend to events.

The taskforce is hopeful that the campaign will significantly increase membership and are looking forward to the coming year!

**Karen Giffen, Chair**

## 2024 Provincial Charity: Feed Ontario

The charity selected for 2024 was Feed Ontario, the organization that represents food banks across the province. Feed Ontario is the province's largest collective of hunger-relief organizations. Together with food banks, industry partners, and local communities, we work to end hunger and poverty by delivering fresh and healthy food, developing innovative programming, and



driving change through research and advocacy. As a province, JFAO donated over \$1300 to Feed Ontario to support the great work they do. In addition, local clubs donated over \$10,000 to their local food banks to support those in need in their communities. We are proud of our organization's ability to help others and look forward to supporting the charity chosen for 2025.

## 2024-2025 Executive

**Back Row:** Christena Jenkins-Giffen (Communications), Karen Giffen (Finance), Dana Quinn (East Zone) and Hansford Mahon (West Zone),



**Front Row:** Sarah Danen (CIP), Jolande Oudshoorn (Past President), Carson Wagner (President), and Keely Henderson (Programming)

**Missing:** Nic Willemsma (Central Zone),

*Credit Doug van Wolde Photography for photo credits of the executive and Board pictures*

## 2024-2025 Board of Directors & Representatives



**Back Row:** Arin Douglas (Wellington), Brian Wetheral (Durham Region), Becca Keitel (Peterborough), Jordyn Domio (incoming OFA), Patrick Sullivan (Carleton), Hansford Mahon (West Zone), Christena Jenkins-Giffen (Communications), Dana Quinn (East Zone), Hannah Arnold (Social Media), Sarah Danen (CIP)

**Front Row:** Amelia Judge (4-H), Ian Pollard (Essex-Kent), Kelsey Brekelmans (Huron Perth), Jolande Oudshoorn (Past President), Carson Wagner (President), Keely Henderson (Programming), and Karen Giffen (Finance)

**Missing:** Nic Willemsma (Central Zone), Preslee Hollingworth (Grey), Fred Mahon (Middlesex), Lauren Rheinheimer (North Simcoe), Emma Pullen (Oxford), Ella Doris (Peterborough), Marissa Mulligan (Renfrew), Dougie Robinson (Stormont-Glengarry), University of Guelph (Emmeline Te Bokkel)

*Credit Doug van Wolde Photography for photo credits of the executive and Board pictures*

## Executive Director of Communications

2024 has been a great year! The bullhorns have been jam packed with everything happening across the province. It has been a pleasure collaborating with all of the JF clubs and piecing together the 32-40 page bullhorns throughout the year! JFAO has been well represented via our social media and mailouts. During my 2024-2025 term, I arranged sales for JFAO Capital March Conference sweaters to have ready for march conference (hopefully you are enjoying your order now). I was able to connect with 4-H and share their ads as well as send some JFAO promotion into the 4-H newsletter. I also assisted with several committees including the March Conference, OYFF and New membership Recruitment committees. The website committee has made quite a few updates to the

website including new photos for events and updated information. My hope for the future Director of Communications is to add short videos to each event for people to get a glimpse at what we do for each unique event in addition to the current writeups. For 2025, JFAO will be featured in The Agrarian, an online agricultural magazine, in a 4-part series titled Family Farm Quotatior Heritage. Watch for these feature issues in the May, June, July, and August editions of The Agrarian! Cheers to another fantastic year in JF and many more to come!

**Christena Jenkins-Giffen**  
*Director of Communications*



## Executive Director of Programming

What a wonderful year it has been for JF! We've had so many amazing events throughout the year from provincial events and club events.

Though the provincial event schedule didn't start off strong with the cancellation of Leadership Camp due to the threat of severe weather, the rest of the year more than made up for it. In August, we came together to celebrate 80 incredible years of Junior Farmers. The banquet was a great success, with over 200 alumni, delegates, and members joining to celebrate this organization we all love. In the fall, we had an amazing time at Autumn Profile, hosted by the Middlesex Junior Farmers. The event included exciting game shows and a thrilling race around Alisa Craig through their rendition of Amazon Race.

A few weeks later, Sing Swing, hosted by Wellington, had a fantastic turnout. The afternoon was filled with

engaging workshops where members got to try blacksmith and cookie decorating.

These events were followed by OYFF conference in association with the OFA AGM, once again in Toronto. The event offered the opportunity to tour a meadery and a polo training facility, along with excellent presentations for farm finances, grant programs, and the robotics industry. The beginning of this year is off to a great start with a great increase of new members. Almost every club is having an increase in membership which is amazing to see! We are now in Niagara Falls to kick off the 2025/2026 JFAO year with an incredible March Conference and a full schedule! It has been a fantastic year of programming, and I look forward to seeing what the next year will bring.

**Keely Henderson**  
*Director of Programming*



## Executive Director of Finance

Despite a challenging start, 2024 was a promising year for JFAO financially. The year began with lower than usual funds due to low membership in 2023 and some losses at provincial events. However, thanks to the great work of our membership, board and executive, we have been able to see some exciting financial growth this year. The 80th anniversary was a highlight and between ticket sales and the live and silent auctions, raised over \$4,000 for JFAO. OYFF was also very successful this year and resulted in a substantial profit.

In addition, our finances benefited from some cost saving measures such as reducing the amount of mail sent out to our alumni for the annual donation request and instead focusing on using email. Other cost savings occurred as events were able to access the leadership grant money for a portion of their expenses. We also updated our GICs in 2024 to ensure there are funds available from a GIC every year. This year, 2025, looks to be continuing the promising trend, as increased

memberships and plans to reduce unnecessary expenses should keep us in a strong financial position.

I want to thank our sponsorship coordinator, Jeanette Schramm for her work in gathering sponsorships this year. And, I want to commend Susan Elliot, our bookkeeper for her diligence, commitment, attention to detail, patience and work throughout the last year. Many of our members have not had the pleasure of meeting Susan, but she is the real force behind JFAO's

finances, and she has been a great help to me as I learned the role.

It has been an honour to serve as the Finance Director and on the executive. I am excited to watch our organization continue to thrive, financially and socially, this year.

**Karen Giffen**  
*Director of Finance*



## Executive Director of Community and International Programs

2024 saw the international exchanges again! We had 5 outgoing delegates: Kelsey Brekelmans (Huron Perth) – Republic of Ireland, Julie DeBruyn (Oxford) - Austria, Jolande Oudshoorn (Wentworth-Niagara) – Northern Ireland, Christena Jenkins-Giffen (Middlesex) - Scotland. We also hosted 7 incoming delegates: Lauren McRoberts -from Northern Ireland, Colin Bryne – from Republic of Ireland, Ryan Lennox – from Scotland, William Campbell – from Scotland, Angelika Zimmerman – from Switzerland, Eva Zaufair – from Austria, Christin Specketer – from Germany. Over 10 weeks the delegates toured around Ontario between many of the different clubs from Ottawa to Point Pelee and everywhere in between. Each summer the delegates really enjoy the time that they get to spend with each club and they get the opportunity to attend a couple provincial events. This year they got the chance to attend and celebrate the JFAO 80th anniversary. During their break week they all travelled together out

West and got to experience the Calgary Stampede and the Rockies. Overall, I would like to thank everyone that was involved in this year's exchange program, thank you to the clubs, the hosting families, tour guides and everyone in between. Inviting the delegates to be apart of your family and your community for their time here in Ontario is what makes this program an amazing opportunity year after year. We are looking forward to this coming year where we will have the opportunity to host delegates again and collaborate with other countries to send our members there. Stay tuned and follow along on each of the incoming and outgoing delegates adventure's this summer!

**Sarah Danen**  
*Director of Community and International Programs*



## Central Zone Director

It's been another great year for the Central Zone, the clubs have been busy working in their community, from volunteering at local fairs to roadside cleanups, participating in parades, hosting tournaments and so much more. Wellington hosted a successful Sing Swing in November and also hosted a curling zone social in January with members from Central And West clubs joining for a day of fun at the Elora Curling Club.

At the January PD meeting I was elected to fill the Central Zone director position that had been vacant and have been working with clubs as the 2025 club executives take over.

**Nic Willemsma**  
*Central Zone Director*



## East Zone Director

I am honoured to have had the opportunity to represent the clubs in the East Zone this past year as their Director. Being on the executive allowed me to get a more fulsome understanding of how JFAO works provincially, and how each decision effects each club, and vice-versa. Throughout my time as East Zone Director I tried to take what I was learning and pass it on to the club level in order to try to ensure everyone had all the necessary information.

What was even more amazing was seeing the inner workings of each club in the East Zone. Seeing the planning process and coordination of all the activities each club was doing as it happened was great. I always knew that each club put in a lot of effort into their community, but seeing the time and dedication, and watching different people step up, was incredible. We have some strong leaders in the East, and better yet, there is some amazing team work happening within each of the clubs.

Each club accomplished so much in 2024 but I wanted to ensure I highlighted a couple great initiatives I took note of throughout the year for each club.

Carleton JF ran their first 4-H outreach evening where approximately 60 4-H members participated in a farm safety briefing and then mini games that was all

organized by Carleton JF. They also hosted the International delegates for the first time.

Renfrew JF held their second annual Farm Safety Day in the summer which was well received by the kids and their parents! They also raised more money for their local food banks during their annual bottle drive that happens during the Cobden Christmas parade.

Stormont- Glengarry participated in numerous Christmas parades, donated to many local charities, and hosted Winter Games for the second year in a row! The support they give to their community is incredible. Great job to all the clubs.

A big thank you for the clubs' support as I navigated this role and for the other members of the exec who answered all my questions throughout the year. I am grateful for all the wonderful people I had the opportunity to work with this year.

I can't wait to see how these clubs develop over the next few years and beyond, and I hope to see more clubs in the East start up!



**Dana Quinn**

*East Zone Director*

## West Zone Director

It has been a great year serving as the West Zone Director. A bonus was seeing 8 of the 12 members of the Executive coming from the West, and made it pretty easy getting information around the zone. We had lots of events that allowed clubs to meet and compete against each other, from paintballing, and learning to line dance, to going to Boot Barn to get new cowboy/cowgirl boots and car rallies.

The clubs themselves in the region have been busy with Huron Perth running a booth at Threshers and serving apple fritters at the Canadian Dairy Expo, and Wentworth- Niagara organizing many tours and socials and hosting the international delegates for the first time! Oxford had another amazing year with the Embro Tractor Pull, and represented their club in the county and Essex-Kent invited the province to join them on an

information webinar about regenerative agriculture while Middlesex held Autumn Profile and a Farmers Night Out Dance. It has been amazing seeing the different clubs busy across the zone.

As the West Zone director, I got to meet new people from across the region and got to learn more about how other clubs operate. I also took part in the Policy and Procedures committee, Communications committee, and the new member recruitment/ marketing committee. I enjoyed getting updates and participating in club events throughout the year. I am working on starting an Elgin JF club and look forward to seeing new members participate in JF events.



**Hansford Mahon**  
*West Zone Director*

# Member Milestones

## Five Year Members

Amanda Bos - Huron Perth  
Amber Siertsema - Huron Perth  
Dakota Jones - Oxford  
Emma Cummings - Durham Region  
Ian Pollard - Essex- Kent  
Julianne Marin - Stormont-Glengarry  
Kelsey Brekelmans - Huron Perth  
Megan Atkinson - Oxford  
Nick Vinnicombe - Huron Perth  
Nicole Danen - Oxford

## Fifteen Year Member

Kate Johnson-Durham Region



## Ten Year Members

Alex Wuehr-Renfrew  
Ben Bruce-Oxford  
Cailen Bromley-Renfrew  
Elizabeth Bruce-Oxford  
Joel Speers-Durham Region  
Johanna Bromley-Renfrew  
John Harrigan-Oxford  
Patrick Sullivan-Carleton  
Samantha Austin-Renfrew  
Tanner Bromley-Renfrew

## Retiring Members

Elizabeth Bruce - Oxford  
Arin Douglas - Wellington  
Kate Johnson - Durham Region  
Frederick Mahon - Middlesex  
Marissa Mulligan - Renfrew  
Jolande Oudshoorn - Huron Perth, Wentworth-Niagara  
Jeanette Schramm - Huron Perth  
Joel Speers - Durham Region  
Brian Wetheral - Durham Region  
Nic Willemsma - Essex-Kent  
Christine Wyville – Grey

## 2023 Rose and Club Award Winners

The idea for the Rose awards was introduced at the very first JF effective speaking workshop – and it comes from a presentation called “flowers are for the living” – that is, the people who can appreciate them now. JFAO recognizes three outstanding members for their dedication and involvement. Each of the individuals nominated demonstrates the JFAO mission to build future rural leaders through self-help and community betterment.

### Outstanding Novice Member

*Jeanette Schramm from Huron Perth*



Jeanette Schramm is a great addition to the Huron Perth Junior Farmers where she is always encouraging others and not only does she make sure they feel included but also that they feel heard. Jeanette took on the responsibility of fundraising coordinator, and stepped up and organized a successful apple fritter fundraiser at the Canadian Dairy XPO, the first time since 2019 and selling the most apple fritters yet! Jeanette was also a major asset to the Winter Games organizing committee. Jeanette took on the responsibility of driving the delegates around for the week and her personality brings so much value to our members. If some members haven't been out to events in a while, she reaches out to them and convinces them to help out or even just keeps them in the loop, so they don't feel forgotten. Her nominator wrote “she is a lot of things JFAO stands for, building leaders, giving back to the community, and inclusivity are just a few and I believe anyone who's had the privilege of knowing her would agree”. Jeanette is a natural leader and has become a vital member as part of the club and it's hard to believe they are a novice member. Congratulations Jeanette Schramm for being the 2023 Most Outstanding Novice Member

## Outstanding Member

Carson Wagner from Oxford



Carson Wagner is a dedicated member of Oxford Junior Farmers, where he is actively involved, having held numerous roles in the club. Carson was heavily involved with organizing the Louisville Farm Show bus trip, and ensuring all members were looked after throughout the whole trip. Each year at Embro Truck and Tractor Pull, you can guarantee you'll find Carson with a smile on his face, happy to help assist anyone in need of help at their largest fundraising event, even during teardown. His nominators wrote "if you asked any member of our club what Carson is known for, many would say welcoming and inviting members to participate and, looking out for all members". Carson is enthusiastic, dependable and personable. While Carson is heavily involved in Oxford JF, he is also involved provincially through attending events and representing the board as the OFA Representative. Carson continues his involvement with Waterloo 4-H, Oxford Federation of Agriculture, and the Outdoor Farm Show. Another nominator wrote "Carson would be who you consider the class clown of the club as they're always keeping members entertained with their shenanigans". Yet he can always get things done. Carson is actively teaching younger members about how the club operates to ensure things run smoothly and can transition over. Carson is a dedicated member to the club and to the community. Congratulations Carson Wagner for being the 2023 Most Outstanding Member!

## Outstanding Retiring Member

Tina Wark from Grey County



Tina Wark joined Junior Farmers in 2013 being a part of Grey County Junior Farmers, and later also joining Huron Perth Junior Farmers when she moved to Huron County. Tina jumped right into the Junior Farmer experience with passion and excitement to make the most of her experience. She served many roles within her club, as Provincial Director for many years, as well as Director of Programming, Director of Communications, and chairing OYFF Committee. Her nominator wrote "Tina has an infectious positive attitude that encourages others around her to do well in their roles, and obtain the most out of their time in a program that holds a history of great role models. Tina encourages every one to try their best, helping encourage members to run for provincial elections and helping them through the election process. She took on challenges such as re-establishing events post-COVID and helped to continue to move the Junior Farmer organization forward. She was instrumental in Grey JF to host Autumn Profile post Covid, and taking a hybrid OYFF back to in person. The events were incredibly well coordinated, organized, and was enjoyed by everyone involved. Another nominator wrote "Tina is genuine, down to earth, and hard-working Junior Farmer member". In her spare time, Tina is involved in the Huron Pioneer Thresher and Hobby Association, Lucknow Agricultural Society and the Perth County Antique Tractor Club. As she retired this past year, Tina will leave an impact on Junior Farmers as an organization and on the members who knew them, as she played a valuable role in making it the great organization that it continues to be. Congratulations Tina Wark for being the 2023 Most Outstanding Retiring Member!

## Club of the Year

*Exemplary Contributions to Forwarding the Mission and Values of JFA – Oxford County Junior Farmers*



Each year, clubs must complete a series of basic activities in order to maintain their status as official clubs and participate as members of JFAO. That includes community betterment, youth and agricultural awareness projects as well as providing leadership growth opportunities for members. The Club of the Year is based on the presentation of these and other club activities in the affiliation reports that are handed in each year. Oxford County Junior Farmers was merited on their club participation and the amount of success their club had, but also making time for socials. Provincially, they attended the majority of events, and had multiple members sit on provincial taskforces and committees. Oxford was extremely successful in promoting the club within their local communities and with their online presence. They did a tremendous amount of agricultural work in their community, including the 2nd annual straw bale maze and Ag Trivia at Tavistock Fall Fair and, helped keep the county clean with an annual clean up day with 4-H Clubs for the 23rd year. Oxford continuously works, tirelessly, organizing the Embro Truck and Tractor pull each year. You can tell that this club, has done a lot of good in their communities and has embodied JFAO's mission "to build rural leaders through personal growth, travel, experiences and community betterment". Congratulations to Oxford County Junior Farmers for being the 2023 Club of the Year!

## Agricultural Club of the Year

*Raised Agricultural Awareness in the Community - Middlesex Junior Farmers*



Each year Junior Farmers recognize a club that stood out with a creative approach to agricultural awareness and farm safety within their community. Clubs are congratulated for their merit for raising the agricultural profile in their communities. This year's winners, Middlesex Junior Farmers ran 2 new events with excellent club participation, Dairy Day and an activity at the London Water Festival. Events have excellent community turnout with over 100 visitors each. With members being passionate about the dairy industry, the club organized a dairy education day, bringing in dairy cows for display and recruiting a dairy educator on a local farm. At the Water Festival, the club taught you about the importance of water for crops and how crops grow with participants taking home a bean. Finally, the club hosted a fundraising evening for farmers, Farmer's Night Out. The goal was to bring awareness to mental health in the agricultural community which resulted in raising \$4,225. Congratulations to Middlesex Junior Farmers for being the 2023 Agricultural Club of the Year!

## March Conference 2024

March Conference 2024 returned to the Holiday Inn Waterfront in Peterborough from March 22-24 with the theme of "It's Game Day." On Friday evening, after the AGM, conference attendees enjoyed a sports themed dinner, JF bingo game, karaoke and pool time. JF's were put into different sports teams



for the weekend, where they would earn points at each activity.

Following breakfast on Saturday morning, members jumped on the bus and were transported to The Escape Maze! The Escape Maze had multiple team building exercises including laser tag and both indoor and outdoor escape rooms. Each activity awarded the

different sports teams for their participation and placements.

The president's reception invitees included the incoming executive, past presidents and special guests. This year brought the return of the reception guests being piped in by Grayson Bowman. The banquet offered an opportunity to celebrate past and present JF accomplishments as well as

to hear from representatives, and from the Honorable Lisa Thompson. Following the swearing in of the new executive, awards were announced for trips, clubs and outstanding members. Another successful silent

auction was held, which earned \$570 from the attendees.



Sunday morning, each sports team rotated through the 3 morning activities; round table discussions, sports jeopardy and a team exercise that brought to light different roles, different personalities, and how we can incorporate all of these skills in JF. Following the activities, we welcomed guest speaker Heather Richardson.

Heather spoke to the group about her farm upbringing, the importance of family and support systems, her experience playing women's hockey and going on to be a professional referee in the women's hockey association.

## Autumn Profile 2024: Come on Down!



### Come on Down!

That is exactly what clubs did on October 19<sup>th</sup> for Autumn Profile hosted by Middlesex Junior Farmers. Held in Ailsa Craig, teams of four gathered to participate in a series of game show themed activities throughout the day and capped it off with a Halloween Dance in the evening. The morning events consisted of Family Feud, Wipe Out, Battleship, Price is Right, 'Plinko', trivia, and pumpkin carving.



After enjoying a delicious lunch together, participants learned about a few exchanges that occurred throughout the summer. For the afternoon event, teams were presented with a clue that started them on

an Amazing Race throughout the village of Ailsa Craig. Through memory games, kayaking, judging events and some grocery shopping, teams explored the village and raced their way back to the finish line. At the end of the day, Oxford Team 2 took home the victory.



# Sing Swing 2024: Winter Wonderland



Wellington County Junior Farmers had a blast hosting twenty eight members from seven clubs in Fergus for Sing Swing 2024. The theme of the day was "A Winter Wonderland" and the event began with participants submitting homecraft entries in the baking, visual arts, handiwork, crafts, antiques, photography, and field crops. Susan Harrop, a Junior Farmer alumni, and Deb Veldhuizen from the Fergus Fall Fair had the difficult job of sorting through over 100 articles in almost 40 categories.

Square dance caller David Lucas, along with square dancers Connie Ferguson and Herb and Deborah Jefferson taught Sing Swing participants the basics of square dance before having them Duck for the Oyster. The square dancing workshop was followed by two-stepping and line dancing competitions where



the song selections kept competitors on their toes. Competitors sang their hearts out in the music section judged by 2004 JFAO past president Jennifer Mitchell. Then were forced to think on their feet in the impromptu public speaking competition and contentious spelling bee facilitated by Junior Farmers

alumni Justin McNally and Junior Farmer friends Janice and Herb Woods.

After lunch, Wellington County Junior Farmers were excited to present the mystery event, The Bucket of Junk. Clubs were partnered up and each group received their very own bucket of junk. Each bucket had the same number of identical, random items. The groups were challenged to work together to use all of the items in the bucket to create a sculpture or diorama. The resulting art work was judged on originality, creativity and overall appearance. Judges also awarded bonus points for use of the Winter Wonderland theme. The goal was to go from a bucket of junk to a prize winning creation. The teams certainly achieved that and judges shared that it was one of the hardest classes to judge.

Throughout the day, Sing Swing attendees had the opportunity to participate in an ornament making activity. Then in the afternoon two workshops took place to introduce members to crafts. A cookie decorating workshop

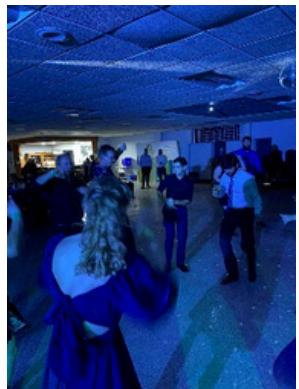
was organized by Junior Farmer alumni Becky Koeslag where participants had the opportunity to decorate their own snow globe cookies and take a tasty treat home.

Wellington County Junior Farmer president Hunter Woods introduced attendees to blacksmithing and gave them a chance to try it with clay. After the workshops, the final events of the day were the Lip-Sync Battle and Gong



Show Competition. Wellington County Junior Farmers was proud to support the food banks of Wellington County with a mini-food drive at the evening banquet and dance. As well Wellington County Junior Farmers shared their appreciation at the banquet for the alumni, family, and friends that volunteered to help the day run smoothly. The club gave special recognition to Kallie Rawn, Elbert Bouwman, and Herb and Janice Woods for their time and contribution to the event.

Congratulations to Keely Henderson of Renfrew County Junior Farmers who received the prize for top individual in the home craft categories and to Oxford County Junior Farmers who earned top club of the day.



# Ontario Young Farmers' Forum 2024

The Ontario Young Farmers Forum (OYFF), *Growing Ontario's Future*, ran alongside OFA's AGM on November 25 and 26, 2024. The event was well attended, with lots of engagement from those in attendance and the speakers kept everyone included with lots to learn. We had 31 attendees from all over Ontario come out with some being from JFAO and others being involved with their local OFA federations. On our first day, we got our introduction to the OYFF conference by OFA's Vice President Sara Woods. After the introductions, we made our way on to the bus and started off the conference by going to our first tour stop which was Fox Den Farms, which hosts the Old Toronto Polo club. At the polo farm, they explained to us the details on what is all involved when getting ready for a polo season, as well as the training aspects for it. They have members from all over the world that will stay in the area and come to their arena to train and participate in tournaments. Our second tour of the day was quite close by as it was the neighbouring farm! We went to Circling Hawk Honey and Meadery. They explained to us how they bought the farm and wanted to get into working with bees. They started up with some small hives and were slowly working to get more hives in an hour radius of the farm. So far, they have 23 locations that have hives on them as they have some full-time people working specifically on the hives. Another interesting aspect of the farm is that they are making their own mead on the farm, currently they have a wide variety of meads on hand and are looking into making more varieties as time allows. We finished off the night with a group dinner and being able to attend OFA's opening reception to mingle with everyone.

Day 2 started off with the Honourable Senator Rob Black coming to do the morning introductions to the OYFF participants and talking about his time when he was a JF member as well. Our first speaker of the day was with one of our sponsors for OYFF which was the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC). ACC spoke to us about the financing options that they offer to provide to young farmers in Ontario to help get past any challenges that may arise each year. They also talked about what to look for when working to get a loan or a credit from companies and how it could affect you or work in your favour, the group was very invested



in talking with ACC about farm financing and how they could get into it. Our second speakers of the day were the knowledge and research team from Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association talking to us about the importance of conducting on-farm research, and how to use the data from these trials to make informed decisions on your farm. They walked our delegates through the steps of setting up proper trials, how to infer from the information collected, and how to use these findings to make your operation more efficient. We broke out into several small discussion groups, and each group came up with a topic they wanted to research, and the best way to carry out

this project to get meaningful results. Our last speaker of the morning was from Haggerty Robotics. They are working hard on bringing robotics into the Ag industry to try and help improve production and decrease the work load on farmers. They were showing us robotic equipment that they have imported over the past 10 years and explained to us if this equipment was a good buy or if it just wasn't a right fit for the industry. As of now, they have been working more with Wineries and Vegetable farmers as the Robots are better suited to those farm standards; to just be removing weeds and doing small tillage work. The morning speakers were well received by everyone and it gave us a chance to break for lunch as we could sit with our counties at the OFA AGM. Many of these counties had sponsored members to go to OYFF so they like to hear about what we are learning and offer any insight on how to improve it. In the afternoon we attended the discussion panel that OFA had put on in the afternoon as was suggested by previous attendees that they would have liked to have done a little more with OFA. Doing this on the second day gave us the opportunity to include everyone with it. To finish off the day attendees had the opportunity to buy tickets for the harvest banquet which is a well-run event by OFA featuring local grown food from other fellow groups such as Beef Farmers of Ontario, Chicken Farmers of Ontario, and Turkey Farmers of Ontario. The event was a big success as we had a lot of positive feedback from the attendees saying they would be interested in going again as well as looking into signing up for Junior Farmers.

## Social Media Representative

I really enjoyed having the chance to be the social media representative over the past year. I haven't been part of Junior Farmers for very many years so it definitely gave me the opportunity to become more involved. I loved seeing clubs come together to send me their own local events to share on our provincial platforms. The best part was attending a provincial event, zone social, and/or a local event and capturing videos/photos throughout the event and compiling everything into a post. I tried to encourage a lot of engagement on our social media this year, especially through Instagram, Instagram stories, Facebook, and Tik Tok. With the showing statistics our social media platform increased significantly. Our best engagement posts were club events, provincial events and exchanges/delegates. These posts highlighted some of our clubs best events such as Embro tractor pull (Oxford), Farmers Night Out (Middlesex), our 80th anniversary, Winter Games, Autumn Profile etc!

Our delegates this past year shared a lot of their experiences with us through their personal social media which we were able to extend the reach by sharing through ours. Our delegates experiences were created into videos which were a huge increase in engagement on our TikTok platform. I felt like these posts really inspired members and/or new members to take the step and travel to experience the JF exchange program. With social media being a huge factor with our upcoming generation I think it's a great way to promote our association and share what we have to offer. I look forward to seeing what our next social media representatives can bring to our clubs in the upcoming years.

**Hannah Arnold**

*Social Media Rep*



## 4-H Ontario Representative

This past year as JFAO's 4-H Representative has been a learning curve. This was my first time being on the provincial board, and I have to say that there was a lot of things to learn. This past year, I received a copy of a past Junior Farmer's 4-H Manual. The goal of this project was to attract more members to Junior Farmers, simply by doing whatever activities your club was already doing. Overall, it has been a fun Junior Farmer year, but I wish I had done more to improve the communication between our two organizations. Thank you to everyone else that

was on the JFAO Board of Directors you have done amazing work to keep this great organization running. And another thank you to all the Junior Farmer clubs across Ontario for continually trying to attract new members to this amazing program!

**Amelia Judge**

*4-H Representative*



## OFA Representative

JFAO and the OFA have had a great relationship with one another over the years, and I feel that in 2024 we made even stronger strides to support this relationship. This year we had the opportunity to join OFA at the Ottawa Valley Farm Show and Canada's Outdoor Farm Show, where we got to interact with the community and really spread the work about JFAO. We collaborated to host 'Dinner with the Presidents' this year at COFS, which was a great networking event for younger farmers and gave them the opportunity to interact with Drew Spoelstra, OFA President, and Carson Wagner, JFAO President. Events like this helped JFAO to engage with

many of the issues that the agricultural community is facing right now. I also helped to facilitate this year's Ontario Young Farmers' Forum, an event that coincides with the OFA AGM in November. This forum brings out the younger members of the Ag sector, to discuss pressing issues our industry is currently facing and to integrate our younger farmers into the world of OFA. Our delegation got to sit in on some of the panel discussions and resolutions and got to network with many members of the OFA delegation, industry leaders and political officials.

JFAO enjoys working alongside the OFA, for the betterment of the community and advancements in the agriculture sector. We look forward to another prosperous year.

**Carson Wagner**

*OFA representative*



# 2024 Winter Games: Winter Rodeo

On Saturday February 24th, the Stormont-Glengarry Junior Farmers were happy to host their first provincial event, Winter Games.

Welcoming 10 teams from across the province, the Junior Farmers hosted the games at one of the high schools in Casselman Ontario. This event was followed by their annual SnowBall, a dinner, silent auction and dance. This year the proceeds from the SnowBall will be donated to the Hospice Care of Cornwall. The theme for the Games this year was Rodeo and teams were encouraged to dress-up and the Junior Farmers even had some themed games. Starting the morning off with volleyball, drawing, chuck ball, barrel racing and shootout. After lunch break, they had floor



hockey, herding, basketball, pinball and music

trivia. The games were finished off by a fend for yourself game of roaming dodge-ball. The SnowBall was held at the new hall in Moose Creek, Ontario. There was a dinner with a silent auction and a dance to follow. The Junior Farmers welcomed back all the teams from the games. The winners of the games were announced, and Carleton Junior Farmers took the glory. The highlights of the evening included the photobooth and a lot of line dancing.



After everything was said and done the Stormont- Glengarry Junior Farmers are happy to say they will be donating over \$4,000 to the Hospice Care of Cornwall. they look forward to hosting an event again soon and many more exciting things to come this spring and summer.

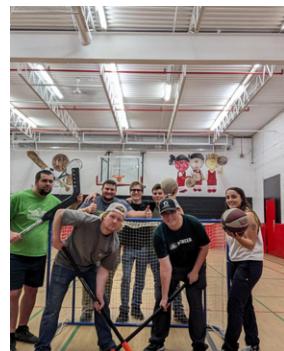
## Club Reports



### Essex- Kent Junior Farmers

The Essex- Kent Junior Farmers have been enjoying the winter months and are excited to kick off a new year filled with Junior Farmer activities, meetings, and social events. Recently, our club held its Annual General Meeting

(AGM), and we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Morrison Family of Bally Bright dairy Farms for graciously hosting the event.



Looking ahead, our members are eagerly anticipating the next social event, which will take place at the

*Flying Squirrel Trampoline Park in Chatham, Ontario on February 15th.*

We would love to extend an invitation to all clubs—if anyone is interested in joining us, please don't hesitate to reach out for more details.

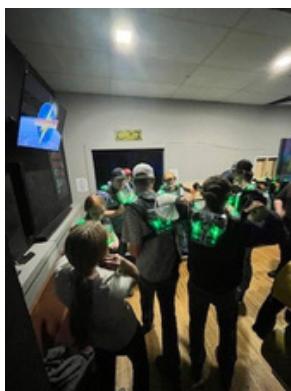
As we move forward into 2025, we would also like to take a moment to acknowledge and thank Nic Willemsma, who is retiring from the club this year. Nic played a pivotal role in revitalizing the Essex-Kent Junior Farmers in 2016-2017. His leadership, positive attitude, and organizational skills have been invaluable to our club, and we will certainly miss his contributions. We wish Nic all the best in his future endeavours and know he will continue to do amazing things.





## Grey Junior Farmers

In 2024, Grey County Junior Farmers had a highly successful year, filled with a variety of activities and community events. The year kicked off with the Annual Hockey Tournament, followed by the Baseball Dance, Beef Farmers Dinner and Dance, and the First New Year's Dance, all of which provided great opportunities for members to connect and celebrate. The club also hosted several social outings that helped welcome new members into the group, building a strong sense of community. Additionally, Grey County Junior Farmers participated in a Roadside Clean-Up, demonstrating their commitment to keeping the local environment clean.



Members also assisted with set-up and take-down at local fairs, ensuring that these

community events ran smoothly.

Throughout the year, the group made donations to support the fall fair and other local organizations, showing their dedication to giving back. Overall, the year was filled with both fun and meaningful contributions to the community, making 2024 a standout year for Grey County Junior Farmers.



## Huron Perth Junior Farmers

Huron Perth has so much to be proud of this year. We started the year off strong, with a busy January and February. We had members attend the skating social in Oxford, made a video showcasing the different industries



for Canadian Ag day and attended Jamie's Roast and Toast in Renfrew. For our February meeting we were even joined by a few members from Wellington. Winter Games was held in the east and we were able to send 5 members. The theme was "Rodeo" and the club had a lot of fun dressing as rodeo clowns for the day's events and making videos for TikTok, trying not to take ourselves too seriously!



Unfortunately, this year we had to take a break from our "Who Let the Hog's Out" fundraiser, however we were able to donate 404 lbs of pork to the Huron County Food Bank Distribution Centre from the previous year's efforts. We also had a great year making apple fritters at the Canadian Dairy XPO; it's a big undertaking but it gave us the opportunity to send donations to women's shelters in both Huron and Perth Counties. The club also made it out to several events with other clubs including the West Zone tubing social, Wellington's murder mystery night and even Middlesex's Farmers Night Out.

This summer was a busy one. Two of our members caught flights to Ireland: Kelsey went to the Republic of Ireland and Jolande went to Northern Ireland for their exchanges. It's always an incredible thing to learn about other cultures and agriculture in other parts

of the world, which is why we also loved hosting this year's international delegates. Hosting allows us to show off the unique and interesting sights of our counties, taking them to places like Rheo Thompson Candies, Kampkreek Dairies, The Old Mill and Tannery and more. The club was also very involved in the community this year. We had members volunteer at the Water Festival, the Seaford Fall Fair and even at Blyth Festival. Blyth Festival was an exciting event for our volunteers because it was for the show Onion Skins & Peach Fuzz. This play is about the Farmerettes, the incredibly driven women who worked in farmers fields while the men were off fighting in World War II. This show actually had a couple Farmerettes in the audience and we were able to present them with a

donation for the documentary telling their stories.

Our final big project of the year was the Blyth Threesehers Reunion. We attend every year and



have a tent full of animals. This is a great way to connect with the community and teach them about the agricultural industry. This year we had several bird breeds, alpacas, pigs, sheep, cows, and goats. We also had agricultural work sheets and stickers for the children. In addition, our members made a video sharing interesting facts about some of the animals to connect with people who weren't able to make it out to the event in person.

We had several great socials including activities like mini golf, pumpkin carving, curling and Christmas ornament making. Our members worked really hard but also had a lot of fun this past year. Whether we were racing through an obstacle course at Autumn Profile or waving to folks from a Christmas Parade float, Huron Perth made the most of each and every experience!



## Middlesex Junior Farmers

Another year has come and gone for Middlesex JF. It has been a busy year that started with our *Annual Farmer's Night Out* dance that raised over \$10,000 for the London and Region Cancer Centre. In the spring, we also had many social activities from brunch at McLachlon's Pancake house, to rollerblading, and tubing with the rest of the west zone. At March Conference, we had 3 members join the JFAO executive with Christena Jenkins- Giffen taking the on the role of Communications Director, Hanford Mahon taking on West Zone Director and Hannah Arnold becoming the new Social Media Representative. we also took home the 2023 JFAO Agriculture club of the year, and best Scrapbook Page award.



As spring turned to summer, we put up agricultural information signs across the county with the Middlesex Federation of Agriculture, and helped out with a tractor pull at the Tri-County Heritage show in Ilderton. We hosted the delegates in August and had a packed week highlighting the diversity in Middlesex with tours like Van-Osch' Beef feedlot, to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and Crump's Family farm. We also had a lot of fun going to pub trivia in Grand



Bend, to pool parties and enjoying some nights out. The delegates ended their stay by helping us with our most popular event of the year, *Day at the Farm*. We opened up one of our member's new Dairy Barn to teach the public about where their food comes from. We had over 350 people show up from London and the surrounding areas who had lots of questions answered and got to enjoy walking amongst the cattle while viewing a live milking demonstration.

At the end of summer, we were busy with weddings for members Will and Alicia Johnson; and Hadley and Karen Giffen as they tied the knot. We also bartended for several other weddings and had a food booth at the Middlesex Ploughing Match. Summer ended with a busy weekend helping out at the Ilderton Fair, where some of our members were showing their 4H animals, others were running tractors, our club information booth, or helping with the tractor pull.

In the fall, we held Autumn Profile in Ailsa Craig. It was an exciting day with game show themed activities being played by the participants, from Are You Smarter than a 4H'er, to Price



is Right, and Wipeout, we finished the day with an Amazing Race around the town. We held a Halloween Dance in the evening that went well into the night. I would like to thank all the clubs that attended!

Middlesex also went to Sing Swing held by Wellington JF and had most

of our members attending for the first time. We had a great time there, won a few awards and got 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall.



Back in Middlesex, we handed out 251 Harvest Bags to farmers in the community to help with the harvest. Fortunately, (or unfortunately) harvest went by quickly in our area, and most of the combines were already done by the time we got to distributing them!

We look forward to another great year in 2025!



## Oxford County Junior Farmers

2024 was a year filled with many ups and downs, with lots of happiness, and challenging moments for Oxford JF. This year our club had lots of fun together and raised lots of money for our local communities. To start off the new year we welcomed our new 2024 club executive. Our president for the year was Julie DeBruyn with the vice president being Natasha Bolander and our Past President being Elizabeth Bruce. Our secretary was Jessica Vehof, Treasurer was Sarah Danen, and Provincial Director was Emma Pullen. For our committee members we had Ryan Ball as our Agriculture Representative, Kelly DeBruyn as our Media Rep, Amy Danen as our Fundraising Coordinator, Amy Danen And Sophie Daniel as our Social Coordinators, and Finally, Jan Dewit as our OCFA Rep. Throughout January members were busy getting ready for our first social of the year!



Our first social was some skating taking place at the Tavistock and District Rec Centre. In February Oxford club members helped to donate \$5,000 to the food for friends program, a program that provides food for those in need throughout the community. Also in February



Our club celebrated Canadian Ag Day with social media posts from members across the county. In February we also celebrated our annual banquet. We had many awards given out and thanked everyone who put another great meal together. In late February we had 10 Oxford members travel to Stormont- Glengarry for Winter Games! Thanks to the Stormont- Glengarry Junior Farmers for the amazing event! Later on in March Oxford traveled to Grey County to play some hockey. Although not coming out on top we all had a great time. We also had many members travel to Peterborough for March

Conference, congrats to Oxford who won *club of the year!* Along with the award, three of our club members were voted on the JFAO executive, and congrats to Carson Wagner for being the recipient of the *Outstanding Member* rose award. In the month of April some of Oxford's members took on Bowling and laser tag at Palasad south in London. Thanks to Christena our West Zone director for joining us! In May we took the opportunity to tour one of our members 2000 head finishing barn near Plattsburg Ontario, thanks to the Vehof family for a great tour! In June we brought back our ice cream socials, our first one was at Bartleys in Woodstock! In July we said goodbye to member Julie as she took on Austria for her exchange! She had a wonderful time and we encourage everyone to take on an exchange somewhere someday! During the extra long weekend in 2024 we hosted our annual Embro Truck and Tractor Pull! Our club raised lots of money to donate throughout Oxford and neighbouring counties. Although having to cancel Friday's



events we had record attendance on the Saturday! In August we had some members attend the JFAO 80th anniversary, thanks to the planning committee for a great event! During the month of September Oxford decided to have an end of summer bonfire. October we had a car rally and although the attendance was low the members and guests that attended had a great time. In November we took on the challenge of attending Sing Swing. It was a great success and we thank the Wellington Junior Farmers for hosting a wonderful event. In December our club had our annual meeting along with our Christmas party. We also had a few members take part in a couple Christmas parades. We are looking forward to what 2025 has in store and we thank everyone for another successful year.



## Durham Region Junior Farmers

Durham Region is working on wrapping up another quiet year! Our AGM will be held in January. This year, we completed another successful run of the annual Bathtub Races in April at the Sunderland Maple Syrup Festival, with a record number of 11



teams! It's always fun to see the fun costumes that our teams come up with! The Bathtub Races have been passed to the Brock Rugby Club to continue in the years to come. In April, 2 of our members were also able to be present and



spread the JF word at the annual Durham Farm Connections Grade 3 program & Open House which took place in Brookline, ON. This program aims to promote and educate young children about agriculture and the

different farms. The Open House happens in the evening and families, leadership programs (such as JF and 4H), and local dignitaries are invited to come take part and learn about farming.





## Renfrew Junior Farmers

For the Renfrew County Junior farmers, 2024 was a year to remember. We started the year off the same way as we do every year by selecting our executive. Of which few changes were made from the previous year. We welcomed Brady Wytenburg as our new President and welcomed back Brayden Campbell as our Vice-president. Jocelyn Smaginski was welcomed back as our treasurer; Marissa Mulligan came back as our Provincial Director and Sophie Dwyer was elected as our new Secretary. As we elected our new executive, many of our members were hard at work to prepare for the upcoming Roast and Toast for Jamie Schultz, that we hosted on January 20th. It was a great night with lot of laughs with 120 people attending! Soon after the Roast and Toast we held our annual curling social in Cobden where we had a fun afternoon with lots of laughs. After a big first two months, we took a step back in March to prepare for events in the upcoming months. In May we hosted our second annual farm safety day, this year switching locations to make it a little bit easier for some to attend. It was a beautiful day with many people attending. A huge thanks goes out to all of the people in the community that help us teach the importance of safety on the farm! As we moved into June, we prepared to host the incoming delegates. This year we were only able to host for a week due to limited availability of some of our members. Though this did not stop us from having a fun week. we were able to show the delegates many things that make up Renfrew County, such as the farms, landscapes and small local businesses that provide us with



whatever we need. We look forward to meeting the incoming delegates in 2025! As the summer came in, some of our members helped out at the Tour de Whitewater serving lunch to its participants. With around 250 participants it was a busy day! Soon after we put



together a beach day social to help reward our members for all the hard work they put in, in the previous months.

It was a fun filled day of relaxing, fishing, and swimming. To cap off the summer we again volunteered at the Cobden fair, doing their 50/50 draw and then helping them clean up after the demolition derby. As fall came in, a few

of our members were able to travel to Middlesex for Autumn Profile. It was a fun filled day, with a great dance in the evening to cap it off. Thank you to Middlesex for hosting! Soon after two of our members traveled to Wellington county for Sing Swing, once again it was a

fun filled day with a lot of laughs, capped off with a delicious supper and dance. A huge thanks goes out to Wellington for hosting! Then at the end of November, we put on our annual bottle drive. This year we were able to raise just under the \$2,000 mark for our local food banks. A big thanks goes out to all of the people that keep and donate their empties to us! As the year



began to come to an end, we held our annual Christmas party to celebrate the fun filled year and to recognize all the hard work that our members put in to make it the success that it was. After seeing what 2024 brought for us, we can't wait to see what 2025 has in store!





## Peterborough County Junior Farmers

Junior Farmers in Peterborough County had another great year. We stuck with our annual traditions of roadside cleanup (along county Rd 2 just west of Keene), Halloween Food drive and having a fantastic week with the delegates. It was also great to have March Conference 2024 right here in Peterborough.

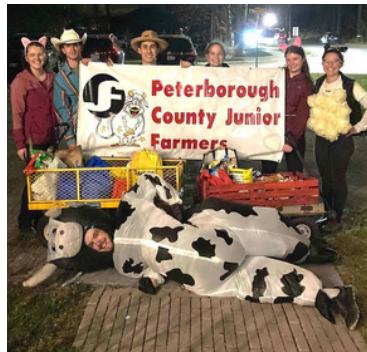


In bittersweet news, in 2024 we officially passed the operational

torch of one of our most successful fundraisers to another deserving community group. The ongoing bottle drive at Three Roads Farms store in Keene, was started in



2019. Over the years this bottle drive has raised upwards of \$6000. While we are sad to see this go, a huge thanks



goes to the Atkinson family for hosting the bottle drive at their store, the Keitel family for offering temporary bottle storage and every person who helped sort through 400+ empties twice a year!



We rounded out the year with a few members leading a "Learn to Line Dance" evening that was very well received by the community. We look forward to doing more in 2025.



some of our annual community involvement activities including hosting a euchre tournament, helping with a local Tractor Jam that raises money for a local charity of choice, helping at a 4H judging night, cleaning up the ditches of a local road, and handing out cheese strings at the Metcalfe Santa Parade.

Some of the new community events we had the opportunity to participate in include; volunteering at Breakfast on the Farm, helping with the Carp Fair Swine show and auction, and



## Carleton Junior Farmers

2024, what a great year for Carleton! It was a year filled with fun, growth, and forward momentum! Though our members may not have been super active provincially, we were able to step up in our community and for one- another. Returning members alongside new members, were active participants in the club. From meetings to community events, and at club socials - Carleton members showed up this year!

Some of our highest attended social events this year included bowling, a puppy social, a spooky night at Acres of Terror to get us in the Halloween Spirit, and various sport outings; NHL and CFL games, and a Team Scotland vs. Canada Rugby game! We also were able to continue with



and hosting a Farmer olympics at the Metcalfe Fair. It was great to be able to interact with so many members from our community and doing so throughout Carleton County!

We also hosted 4-H Outreach night which included farm safety and a mini version of our Redneck Games. This

brought out approximately 60 4-H members and was a great way to further our connection and support to 4-H.

The 4-H members left with smiles



on their faces, and many of their parents expressed appreciation for the event. But that's not all! 2024 marked the year that Carleton officially hosted the international delegates and what an amazing week! It was so fun to be a tourist in our own city while also seeing our county through their eyes. There were so many laughs, friendships were made, and we can't wait to do it all over again this upcoming year with the next group of delegates!



We can't wait to see what 2025 brings!



## University of Guelph Junior Farmers

The University of Guelph Junior Farmers had a fantastic year in 2024, welcoming in new exec members, and hosting many events. We started out with teaching a learn to square dance event, with a great turnout and participation of over 60 students. Following that, in anticipation of College Royal and our two sets that competed, we hosted a square dancing practice to prepare for the competition with the help of guest caller Dave Lucas and opening it up to all college royal participants. At our Annual General Meeting. We were pleased to welcome four new executive members, an exciting



development for our growing club. In the fall, we had the privilege of supporting Gryphon Camps, where we taught young children about agriculture and traditional dancing, fostering community engagement. Additionally, we participated in the Royal Winter Fair and hosted several other events, ensuring that

our activities were accessible to all students on campus. We are excited about the future of Junior Farmers on campus and are looking forward to this upcoming year.



## Wellington Junior Farmers

A special thank you to our retiring member Arin Douglas, for her dedication and years of service with Wellington JF. We hope to see you out with our alumni at future events!

This year we had an amazing time hosting the JF Central Zone Curling Social! It was great seeing so many familiar faces and having our alumni join us for a fun-filled day. Thanks to everyone who came out and made it memorable!



Another special shoutout to Arin Douglas- Happy 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday! Here's to many more years of curling and community!



## Wentworth-Niagara Junior Farmers

The Wentworth- Niagara Junior Farmers had a great time making it through our first year of being a club, and all the excitement that comes with it. We held our monthly meetings, organized social events, hosted the international delegates, went on exchanges and got involved with our community.



We participated in many community events, including the Niagara Federation of Agriculture's Farm Day, Niagara dinner at the Dairy, and The West Niagara Fall Fair. Many of our members also volunteered at the Ancaster Fall Fair this year. We used these events to help get the Junior Farmers' name out there in the region again and recruit potential members. We held many social events throughout the year, including going for



ice cream at the beginning of the summer, and a mini golf night in Niagara Falls later in the fall. Our most successful social was our Boot Barn trip in May, where we travelled across the border to Niagara Falls, NY to go to their Boot Barn store. We were joined by members from Oxford and Middlesex clubs and a few went home with some new cowboy boots. We partnered with a local winery to host a learn to line dance night at the end of October, which was attended by many JF and community members alike. We also had the opportunity to bring our members to tour a local

lily greenhouse and celebrated the Christmas season with a festive cookie decorating night.



This year our club was able to host the international Delegates for their first week here in Ontario and show them around the Niagara Region. We organized a couple of farm tours, a trip to a winery, and took them to all the great tourist spots around the region. This of course included the Falls where they got to experience the power station allowing them to go down beside the falls to view it from a different perspective. They also took the Maid of the Mist ensuring they got an up close experience with the power of the water. The day at the falls ended at Clifton Hill taking them on the sky-wheel and racing each other in go-carts.

Two of our members also got to go on outgoing exchanges; Kelsey headed off to the Republic of Ireland, and Jolande traveled to Northern Ireland.

Our club attended many provincial events this year, including Jamie's Roast & Toast up in Renfrew, March Conference, the West Zone Paintball Social, the 80th Anniversary, Autumn Profile and Sing Swing.

We did particularly well at Sing Swing this year, with many of our members winning awards in the baking, home crafts and photography competitions. We plan on working on our skills and doing even better next year.

To raise money for our club, we have been working with SGS Labs out of Hamilton, who graciously donate all their grain samples once they are finished with them. We

then go and sell them to our local grain elevator. So far, we have used some of this money to fund club excursions with the international delegates. We even got a hefty sample of edible dry beans once from SGS, that we were able to donate to a local women's shelter. We had a very eventful 2024 and we look forward to what 2025 has in store!



## Stormont Glengarry Junior Farmers

The Stormont- Glengarry Junior Farmers started their year by welcoming their new executive members at their AGM meeting in January. In February we hosted Winter Games in Casselman and our annual Snowball dinner and dance in Moose Creek. We had a great day full of fun games, and then at the dinner and dance we were able to raise \$5,000 to Cornwall Hospice.

In April we did our Roadside Cleanup.

Maxville Fair is the first fair of the season which we donated \$500, helped with the bingo night and The Donkey Show. Next up was our Post Planting Party that was very successful. We had over 300 people attend. We hosted the delegates for a day, went to Calypso and visited the St-Albert Cheese Factory where some of the delegates tried poutine for the very first time. We also donated \$500 to the Calf rally for Avonmore Fair, and Bartended/ served ice cream at The Stormont County Fair.



This year in October we had a Roast and Toast for Jeff and Marvin Waldroff, it was a very well attended event. We had lots of laughs, roasts and a silent auction. The funds were divided between Avonmore Fair and Stormont County Fair.

We were very excited to receive the news that we were approved to host Winter Games once again next year. While also having 1 member attend OYFF. We'd also like to congratulate this year's winner of the Stormont- Glengarry Junior Farmer bursary, Bobby Robinson.

We finished the year with our annual December Christmas Potluck and organized floats for 4 Christmas Parades where we handed out chocolate milk, cookies and cheese strings. We look forward to 2025, hosting Winter Games again, staying involved and helping out our community and, most of all, to keep having fun and building great connections!

# 80th Anniversary Banquet and Dance

This year, JFAO celebrated 80 years at the Rockton world's Fairground, 812 Old Hwy 8, Rockton, Ontario on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, with the theme; Making Connections.

We had over 200 people in attendance for the dinner and dance. Reminiscing with members new and old for this special milestone. Of this great turnout, there were 19 Past Presidents who

came for the celebration. We had some great presentations from featured guests; Lisa Thompson, JFAO Past Presidents and our current President, Carson Wagner. Another highlighted presentation was the one from the International Delegates. They had everyone laughing and guessing as they had a “which delegate was this?” game. We had 6 delegates in

attendance who gave their presentation showcasing their 10 weeks travelling across the province. These delegates came from the following countries: Scotland (2), Republic of Ireland, Switzerland, Germany, and Austria. Part of their presentation included handing out awards. The recipients for the esteemed awards left with a certificate and of course bragging rights.

If one thing was clear it was that the delegates had a blast spending time with all of JFAO's clubs making it hard to say goodbye. Though with the Scotsmen teaching guests the *strip the willow* ceilidh dance it was a sure way to end the exchange on a high note.



Overall, the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary was a blast from the past with memorabilia on display and many conversations with alumni many new connections were formed! This event raised just over \$4,200 for JFAO as well as a bar income of \$3,100 donated to our provincial charity, Feed Ontario.

Carson Wagner, our JFAO President said “The event was a great success, and the committee did a great job organizing everything!” He continued, “Thank you to everyone for supporting Junior Farmers over the past 80 years and continuing to support us as we move on to more years ahead!”

Shout out to our event sponsors: Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA), Grand river Agricultural Society, Kendal Farm Products, Farm Credit Canada (FCC), and the East

Central Region crop & Soil Improvement Soil Association. We'd also like to Shout out all our auction item donors: Mountainoak Cheese, Stratford Farm Equipment- Gord Mills, MNP, Greenhawn Equestrian Sport- Beamsville, Beef Farmers of Ontario, O'Neil's Farm Equipment, Equipment Ontario, Pride Seeds, Space Ontario, Pride, Durham Farmer's Co-op Orono & Grafton, TCO Agromart Colborne, The Lass & Ladle Restaurant, Callahan Farm Supplies and all JFAO county clubs.

If you are interested in learning more about JFAO's exchange oppourtunities, would like to keep in touch for next year's banquet, or would like to reconnect with past delegates, please feel free to contact [cip@jfao.on.ca](mailto:cip@jfao.on.ca).



# International Exchange 2024

## Jolande Oudshoorn – Northern Ireland

This past summer, I took a step outside my comfort zone and went on exchange to Northern Ireland. I arrived prior to my exchange starting to reconnect with some of the past exchange delegates: Hannah Kirkpatrick (2016) and Amy Kirkpatrick (2023) where I got to explore the northern part of the country (County Antrim and County Derry). My exchange officially started on August 2<sup>nd</sup> with the Clark family. For my first week, I explored the Western part of Northern Ireland: County Tyrone, County Fermanagh, and County Derry. During this week, all the exchange delegates toured around together; Marita (Norway), Johanna (Estonia), Elina (Finland), and Alex and Annika (Austria). It was a great opportunity to learn more about the Young Farmers and 4-H programs internationally. Some highlights during this week were: touring farms for the day, exploring the Marble Arch Caves, and participating in Young Farmer Car Treasure Hunts. We also had the opportunity to witness the Derry Day parade, a parade of ~10,000 Apprentice Boys and learn about the history of Northern Ireland. We ended the week having a picnic with the Ambassadors, who are Young Farmers and Alumni that had been exchanges.



I then moved to my next host, the Surgeon's in the East. We explored County Down and County Armagh. It was definitely sunnier on this side of the country! As a group, we all got to see the Titanic Museum and a bit of Belfast before we started our separate ways. In this part of the country, there are large mountains by the sea which were lovely to see. One of my favourite parts of the trip was when I got to spend the day with Lauren McRoberts (2024 Delegate), having last seen her when my club, Huron Perth was hosting the delegates at my parent's place! We got to go around some of Lauren's favourite places, exploring the grounds of a working castle, and seeing a practice match of Gaelic Football. I moved on to the Erwin's on my last two nights, wishing I could have stayed longer! They made my last day very memorable, taking me out to the top of a mountain (without rain!), touring King Charles' Northern Ireland residence and Royal gardens, and crawling through Binders Cove, which was built to hide from Vikings and intruders. My trip ended with meeting up with some Young Farmers and some of the exchange delegates in the oldest pub in Northern Ireland. Overall, I would highly recommend the Northern Ireland exchange to everyone, as well as the other JFAO exchange opportunities. It was an experience of a lifetime, providing me the opportunity to meet many Young Farmers, learn about agriculture, and to see how Young Farmers Clubs shape the lives of the members and their surrounding communities.

Thank you to my hosts, guides, and the Young Farmers in Northern Ireland. You've made my experience memorable and I have gained some amazing friends! I'd also like to thank JFAO for choosing me as the Canadian delegate, to be part of this amazing program.



# International Exchange 2024

## Keely Henderson – Switzerland

I didn't really have any idea what to expect from my 6 week exchange to Switzerland, but I can honestly say the whole experience has exceeded my expectations.

What I enjoyed most about my exchange is that I got to really experience the Swiss culture, from the language to the food and the Swiss agriculture. I never felt like a tourist but a local.



I started my exchange knowing absolutely no words in Swiss German but now I can understand some conversations and say a few words. I can even say Chuchichäschtli (Which means cupboard) decently after being asked to say it many, many times throughout my exchange. I got to try Raclette, Hugo,

Fondue, and even helped to bake Zopf (Braided bread) for Sundays, though I must admit that I am not very good at braiding the dough.

My favourite part of my entire exchange was touring the different farms and helping my host families with their day-to-day chores on the farm. I got to milk Brown Swiss Cows, help with hay cut and I even got to see the beef cows get ready to head to the alps for summer vacation!



I am grateful that I got to experience such an amazing exchange and got to stay with amazing host families, everyone was so welcoming, and I learned so much from this amazing experience.



## Julie De Bruyn – Austria

During my 12 day stay with them (Helene & David) I have seen a lot of the area. This has included shopping at the local on farm stores, picking blueberries, roasting sausage and bread on a campfire, attending friend and family birthday parties, going to a water park and touring both a chicken and dairy farm. We also participated in a biking music festival that had traditional music playing along the bike path. A big highlight has been our time in the mountains. They only live 30 minutes from the mountain area so we have spent many days in that area. We hiked the Grünberg mountain, ridden the Schafberg bahn train, boated the Mondsee, swam in both the Attersee and Wolfgangsee lakes. We also took a day trip by train to the famous Hallstatt which is a picturesque town nestled into the mountains along lake Hallstatt.



The whole area offers amazing views and the lakes are all a vibrant blue. Overall this exchange was an amazing experience. It allowed me to immerse myself in the culture through the everyday life of my host families.

Meeting all these great people made it really hard to say goodbye but made me very grateful that I took this opportunity. Thanks to



Junior Farmers for offering this great experience.

# International Exchange 2024

## Christena Jenkins- Giffen - Scotland

On May 25, 2024, I embarked on my biggest adventure with JFAO yet; going on exchange to Scotland for 3 weeks! I cannot rave enough on what a great experience this has been for me to connect with the Young Farmers in Scotland and to experience travel like a local. The best part of this exchange is all of the new friends I made while staying with hosts and becoming a part of their families. I was able to see a lot of Scotland having hosts in the East, West, and North! My first host even brought me down to the South! Each host was involved in agriculture in some way or form. It was great to learn from them and get to know and be part of their everyday lives, in addition to exploring their local treasures.

I was lucky enough to have 3 wonderful hosts who welcomed me into their families. My first host lived on a Jersey dairy farm just outside of Glasgow in Kilmarnock. Some highlights from my time with them included feeding the calves, Culzean Castle & Country Park, finding Ailsa Craig Island, Dumfries House, Tug of War, the largest wind farm, and travelling to Langholm to visit Skipper's Bridge (built by one of my relatives in the 1700's). I had such an amazing 1<sup>st</sup> week in Scotland and made great friendships! It was incredible, the number of connections I made and things I was able to do, all within a week. To think, I still had two more weeks to explore and dive into Scotland's culture.

My second host lived in Edinburgh and owned 2 horses which we visited frequently and I enjoyed walking alongside them. Some highlights from my stay with them included; the West Fife Show, 2 Young Farmers' Mock Auctions, the Kelpies, Linlithgow Palace, Innovis Sheep



Breeding facility, Arthur's Seat and the NSA Scotsheep Show.



My third and final host lived up North in Alford. Both of their families raise sheep and cattle on pasture. Some highlights from my final week include; the Grampian Rally, the Kildrummy Castle and

rally, highland cows, a pig farm, the Hill of Dunnideer, an abattoir, Aberdeen Grain, and

Balmoral Castle. It is incredible, the amount of ground I was able to cover in just a 3 week period.



I will never forget all of the people I met and made lifelong connections with. I thoroughly enjoyed all of the people, food, culture, and the general atmosphere. I highly recommend everyone goes on an exchange, at least once in their lifetime!



## Kelsey Brekelmans- Republic of Ireland

If I had to describe my trip in one sentence i'd have to quote my last host Diarmuid when he said " we don't know what we're doing, but we're doing it anyway".

I was joined by Louise (Scotland) for the first week and Martina (Switzerland) for all 3 and one thing we learned very quickly was that for this trip we would very much have to "go with the flow". It definitely kept things interesting and while the plans were always changing it was always for the best.

While visiting, I experienced so much of the country as well as many Macra events that I don't even know where to start, therefore I won't go into details (however they can be found in my blog posts on the JFAO website). I think the most important thing to mention is this; I was incredibly fortunate for this adventure and all the people who treated us like family. I definitely made some lifelong friends from the girls who were on exchange with me to the clubs who hosted and everyone in between.

For anybody considering an exchange I can't tell you enough, do it, make it work. As someone who's been on two, it truly is the best way to travel and can make a huge difference in how you see yourself and what you believe yourself capable of. But, if travelling isn't necessarily your thing, try helping out with incoming delegates. The travel program that JFAO offers is something you should definitely take advantage of in any way that works for you.

Ireland, you were wonderful! I'll be back soon.



## International Incoming Delegates Quotes

"An exchange that changes your life"

- Angelika Zimmerman -Switzerland

"I would describe Canada as an unforgettable experience making the best memories along with lifelong friends! The best part was getting to see the country in the eyes of the locals!!"

- Lauren McRoberts -Northern Ireland



"The Exchange was an incredible journey and a Great experience with many new Friends and a lot of fun. I'll always remember the Great time we had together. It was the Summer of my life."

- Christin Specketer - Germany

"IFYE is...

..learning new things about  
..agriculture and culture  
..learning a new language  
..living in the life of a foreign family  
..learning many new things  
..making friends for life  
and having the best summer ever!"

-Eva Zaunmair- Austria

"Couldn't recommend the exchange with Junior Farmers enough, experience of a lifetime where I was able meet so many new people, experience a whole lot of new things, and learn about different agriculture businesses. If I had the chance to do it again next year, you couldn't get me there fast enough!"

- Colin Bryne - Republic of Ireland

you can follow along with the JFAO exchanges on instagram  
@jfao\_traveller

# Past JFAO Provincial Presidents

1944	Gordon Orr, York*	1985	Jim Wert, Stormont
1945	Howard Laidlaw, Peel*	1986	Sandra Quehl, Waterloo*
1946	Wade Emmott, Brant*	1987	J. Allan Cole, Renfrew
1947	Wes Down, Northumberland*	1988	Suzi Stanley, Durham West
1948	Ross Beattie, Simcoe*	1989	Scott Kelman, Brant
1949	Allen Poole, Lanark*	1990	R. Kelley Allen, Prescott
1950	Jack Cockburn, Oxford*	1991	Paul A. Nairn, Perth
1951	Elanor Vellinga, Norfolk*	1992	Daryl Brodhaecker, Wellington
1952	Dave Pelletterio, Halton*	1993	Brent R. Barton, Prescott
1953	Don Middleton, Middlesex*	1994	Keith A. Emiry, Sudbury
1954	Carl Boynton, York*	1995	Murray A. Shaw, Lambton
1955	Myrtle McCutcheon, Dufferin	1996	Carolyn (Wren) Doris, Renfrew
1956	Russell McAllister, Carleton*	1997	Sandi (Brander) Shaw, Halton
1957	Dave Barrie, Waterloo	1998	Jeff Gatcke, Bruce
1958	Kay Somers, Hastings	1999	Craig Spielmacher, Oxford
1959	Jim Needham, Bruce*	2000	Angela Ackroyd-Tearle, Peel
1960	Malcolm Arbuthnot, Russell	2001	Erin MacDuff, University of Guelph*
1961	Edna Richardson, Peel	2002	Corinna Smith-Gatcke, Leeds
1962	Bill Galbraith, Middlesex	2003	Mary Feldskov, Huron
1963	Gordon Murray, Victoria*	2004	Jennifer Mitchell, Wellington
1964	John Elliott, Lennox & Addington*	2005	Ellen (Batchelor) Mason, Grey
1965	Alex Connell, Wellington*	2006	Joe Dickenson, Lambton
1966	Jack Morris, Essex*	2007	Cecelia (McMorrow) McAvoy, Victoria
1967	Pat Kerr, Durham	2008	Brad Found, Durham East
1968	Albert Taylor, Waterloo*	2009	James McMillan, Haldimand
1969	Izett McBride, Renfrew*	2010	Shannon Kelly, Bruce
1970	Bruce Horsley, Dufferin	2011	Camille (Black) Ryall, Peterborough
1971	Don Belluz, Thunder Bay	2012	Sarah Found, Durham East
1972	Claire Belluz, Perth	2013	Doug Skinner, Durham East
1973	Murray Pearson, Oxford*	2014	Claire Bunnik, Kawartha
1974	Glen Reugg, Wellington	2015	Mike Sproxton, Durham West
1975	Donald Mode, Prescott	2016	Kurtis Smith, Middlesex
1976	Bruce Saunders, Grey	2017	Matt Smith, Wentworth
1977	Bill Emmott, Brant	2018	Erich Weber, Waterloo
1978	Bart Johnston, York*	2019	Nicholas Weber, Waterloo
1979	Jim Phelan, Huron	2020	Elizabeth Bruce, Oxford
1980	Tom Callaghan, Victoria	2021	Kylie O'Neil, Middlesex
1981	Douglas Peart, Haldimand	2022	Jamie Schultz, Renfrew
1982	Meredith Brophy, Ottawa Carleton	2023	Jolande Oudshoorn, Huron Perth
1983	Doug Murphy, Haldimand	2024	Carson Wagner, Oxford
1984	Stuart Budd, Norfolk	<b>(*deceased)</b>	

# Past JFAO Secretaries, Treasurers, Office Administrators, and General Manager

1944-1948 Art Martin*	1983-1985 Hal Thompson	2005-2007 Jane Danen
1948-1957 T.R. (Dick) Hilliard*	1985-1987 Nancy (Larmer) Wert	2008-2013 Julia Smith
1957-1964 A.G. (Art) Bennet	1987-1989 Sue Visser	2014-2016 Sarah (Hohnstein) Lennox
1964-1965 Rodger Thompson	1989-1994 Diane Martin	2017, 2018 Kendell Keech
1965-1976 C.L. (Carm) Hamilton	1994-1996 Robyn Garlough	2017 Will Carson
1976-1979 Ken Knox	1996-1998 Michelle Shipp	2018-2020 Vicki Dickson
1979-1980 Rod Stork	1998-2000 Susan Gallotti	2021-2024 Jacqui Dennis
1980-1983 Janet (Whitehead) Horner	2002-2004 Amanda (Bender) Hammell	2024 Stacey Leppert



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# List of Donors

**We humbly thank all you who have supported JFAO this past year.**

**We are fortunate to have so many supporters who help keep us going.**

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Anne & Ron Vernon, In Memory of Bart Johnson	Julie Winch, In Memory of Bart Johnson
Arthur & Helen Levi	Justin McNally
Beef Farmers of Ontario	Kathleen Summers
Bernard Dikkeboom	Kathy Smith
Betty Weinstein	Kelsey Brekelmans
Bruce & Anne Horsley	Kent Daboli, In Memory of Barbara Jean Gray
Callaghan Farm Supply	Kirsten Carberry, Pioneer
Callahan Farm Supplies	Laura Shaw
Cameron McLean	Lois Flett
Carol Pollock	Margaret Lackey
Cheryl Cottrill	Marie McNabb
Christena Jenkins-Giffen	Marion Butterly
Dave Walker	Marlene E. Baily
Don McGugan	Matt Smith
Donald Foster	Merlin & Deborah Knapton
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Edna Richardson, In Memory of Barbara Grey	Nancy Jenkins-Giffen
Edward & Irene Lamb	Neil McLeod
Equipment Ontario	O'Neil's Farm and Lawn Equipment
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Floyd Wills	Paul Nairn
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Heidi Danen	Rosefield Farms - Terry & Janet Linton
Helen Earl	Scotiabank Spark Community
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Ivan Oldfield	Southbrae Farms Inc., In Honour of Steve Flynn
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aider à la réaliser.

Visitez [fac.ca/JeuneAgriculteur](http://fac.ca/JeuneAgriculteur)

*RÊVER. BÂTIR. RÉUSSIR.*

# Financial Statements



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*To build rural leaders through personal growth, travel, experiences, and community betterment.*

**The Junior Farmer Song**

*Written by Margaret Watson-McColl in 1947 at the Junior Farmer Camp*

The Junior Farmers everywhere are marching right along  
Our eyes are bright, our steps are light, and on our lips a song.  
We give our best with all our zest, in harmony we grow.  
The Junior Farmers in the Province of Ontario.  
The land is ours, we treasure it, a heritage have we.  
The country is the finest place on this we all agree.  
So let us face the future one and all with hearts aglow.  
The Junior Farmers in the Province of Ontario.