



Bullhorn

Volume 26, Issue 2 To Build Future Rural Leaders, Through Self-Help & Community Betterment 2015

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In this class of provincial judging competitions, I place the 1st All-Ontario Judging Competition at the top!

On May 30th, the Junior Farmers Association of Ontario (JFAO) hosted the first ever All-Ontario Judging Competition at the Orangeville Fairgrounds. The competition challenged 4-Hers and Junior Farmers of all ages, including alumni and our visiting JF

All-Ontario Judging Competition

International Delegates, to judge a wide range of classes. Participants had the opportunity to give placings for sheep, heavy horses, first aid kits, paintball masks, knitting, canola, soybeans, and hay. As an extra challenge, oral reasons were given for dairy, beef, maple syrup and oat sheaves. To keep things interesting, two quizzes were put into the rotation. One quiz tested knowledge of agriculture

Upcoming JFAO Events

Autumn Profile

October 24 - Perth County

November PD Meeting and Sing Swing

November 21-22 - Carleton

Roast and Toast of Past President Claire Francis (Bunnik)

January 2016 - Kawartha

March Conference

March 2016 - Peterborough



Thank you for your support

Next Bullhorn Deadline is:
January 1



Thank you to all that volunteered and made the first AOJC a great experience for all!



President's Message

Hello Junior Farmer Friends, Alumni and Partners!

Well here we are, at the halfway point of the JFAO year for 2015-16, and one thought has been running through my mind: "What does being a JFer mean to me?" I don't know if it's because of the strategic planning that is on the agenda for our organization lately, or the combination of my analytical and reminiscent sides coming out. I know when I have talked to people who ask me that question (or "What is Junior Farmer's" in general), and I find myself going back to the tried and true mantra: "we are an organization that strives to build future rural leaders through self-help and community betterment". I realize after saying it that Junior Farmers is so much more to me though. To try to do it justice, it's friends and amazing experiences with people, things, and places that wouldn't have even been imagined without the Junior Farmers. Really this summer has been no different; we've had new international delegate friends weave their way across the province, leaving fun stories from near and far behind them. In turn, we've seen some of our fellow JFers strike out abroad to see the sights, sounds, and culture that come with overseas travel or inter-provincial excursions. Those are just the beginning of the examples: closer to home we've seen another great time at JFAO Leadership Camp come and go leaving anticipation for next years installment with all who attended. Along with that, our charity golf tournament went off swingingly, as well as more fantastic local club events than would fit in this space. It all just begins to sum up the joys of the summer and what being a JFer means to me. Not only that, but with a plethora of provincial events on the horizon I know that there are more amazing experiences and good times for all ahead in the lead up to March Conference 2016 and the end of the JFAO year. I look forward to seeing everyone having a great time at Autumn Profile hosted by Perth JF and Sing Swing with Carleton JF this fall. Having written all that, though, one of the greatest things about the JFAO is that everyone can take something different from their experiences as a Junior Farmer. I know everyone reading this will have had different experiences than me and I look forward to learning about as many of these different experiences as possible. I hope to see lots of old and new faces at a provincial event coming soon to a part of the province near you!!

Yours in Junior Farmer spirit,
Mike Sproxton
2015 JFAO President





All-Ontario Judging Competition

in Ontario through a multiple choice quiz, and the other was a challenging identification quiz consisting of various weeds, muscles, animal tracks, farm tools, and lifeskill tools.

29 judges competed for prizes as the top individuals, JF Club, 4-H Association, and for top scores in each judging category. These awards were presented at the Awards Gala following the day's events. The evening portion included a fantastic catered dinner, official reasons and placing for each class, and awards. Participants, volunteers, committee members, sponsors, and dignitaries of the agricultural community shared in an evening of celebration, hosted by JF's very own Justin Williams.

The success of the 1st All-Ontario Judging Competition could not have been possible without the support of our partners. JFAO's Diamond Partners – CYFF (Canadian Young Farmer Forum), North Waterloo Farmers Mutual Insurance and OFA support all of JF's provincial events and we are gracious for their continued support of rural youth in Ontario. **Partners that designated their sponsorship to the All-Ontario Judging Competition were:** Stewart's Equipment and Kubota, Royal Chevrolet Cadillac Inc., Perth Junior Farmers, Direct Genetics Inc. Canada, Murray A. Breckon Farm, Floradale Feed Mill Limited, Woodrill Ltd., Echo Lane

Lavender, Lippert & Wright Fuels Ltd., Palmerston Grain, Betty Hughes, Justin's Maple Syrup, Raymond Wilson, Nic Weber, Mike Gill, John Drummond and Commercial Printers Stratford.

Thank you for your support of the All-Ontario Judging Competition!

A shout out to the 1st All-Ontario Judging Competition's 1st ever committee! Through some challenges the committee came together and worked as a fantastic team to make the judging competition an all day success. Thank you Claire Johnston, Courtney Steven, Crystal Blake, Lee Mayes, and Taylor Campbell as well as co-chairs Sarah Breckon and Alex Mitchell. You were a fantastic team!

Evaluations following the day's events were overwhelmingly **positive**. The participants thoroughly enjoyed the judging competition. Many cited the structure of the competition as a selling point – they liked that time at each class was limited to 15 minutes and that participants had to follow a set rotation rather than being able to rush through the judging, or go to whichever class they wanted to. Other participants were impressed by the difficulty of the classes, and loved the challenge of judging high-quality items. The most common remark heard was that people are happy Junior Farmers is hosting this event



All-Ontario Judging Competition

at all. Judging in Ontario is almost exclusively run through 4-H and therefore only for youth aged 9-21. 4-Hers were excited for the opportunity to participate in a provincial competition, and the Junior Farmers were excited to continue judging in their post-4-H lives!

In talking to participants and volunteers, some exciting next-steps came up. For example, Waterloo 4-H requires every member to participate in a judging competition every year. One Waterloo Junior Farmer Member got permission for her participation at the All-Ontario Judging Competition to fulfill that 4-H requirement. Accreditation of the competition with local 4-H Associations for next year is a great way to strengthen the bond between 4-H and JF, and encourages more 4-H members to attend.

Stay tuned for next year's All-Ontario Judging Competition! For a full list of scores, placings, and quiz answers and awards, [click here.](#)



**Brant Junior Farmers -
Top JF Club**



**Kawartha Lakes -
Haliburton - Top 4-H
Association**

**The Beef Farmers of Ontario recognizes the importance of supporting rural youth in Ontario.
Ask us about our BUILD Leadership Development Program or get involved in the Beef Advocacy Program!**

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Camp this year had quite the chilly start but that is no worry because we made the most of our Friday night by watching movies, having an indoor camp fire, and eating some epic nachos.

The following day was a glittery, greased up party! We had a lot of fun decorating mascots for the weekend and thanks to myself glitter was not in short supply. I really enjoyed the activities that the camp had to offer this year. Delegates got to channel their inner Merida with archery, pretend they were Pocahontas with kayaking, become Tarzan flying off the rope swing into the water, and use their brains to get through the trust activities. I am pleased that our very own JF member Eric McLagen was able to speak to us about his personal adversity and how he overcomes it on a daily basis. It was a very inspirational talk and I am glad that I was there to hear it. We rounded up the day's activities with an entertaining relay race that involved riddles, water balloons, vaseline, mud, and giant Q-tip fights.

On Sunday we had a fantastic talk with the owner of the camp about the adversity he's faced with running a business in such a secluded, northern area. I really enjoyed how it ended up being an educational experience for all parties involved as we got into some of the adversity farmers face as well. The talk/debate was the perfect energizer to gear us up for capture the mascot!

I can't wait to get the video put together of the weekends events so that everyone can really see how epic this weekend really was! Alas no video can show anyone how delicious the food was. I loved working with the camp staff and my committee for putting together this years camp. I want to say a big thank you to the committee for being a huge help and the members who all came out. Without you guys there would be no camp. I hope to see everyone at next years camp and be sure to bring a friend because no one should miss out on the awesomeness that is Leadership Camp.

Heather Thompson,
2015 Leadership Camp Chair

North Waterloo
Farmers Mutual Insurance Company

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THIS IS JF COUNTRY

Brant Junior Farmers 30th Anniversary

Save the date: Brant County Junior Farmers 80th Anniversary Celebration Banquet

Friday, October 30, 2015

Paris Fairgrounds

Social at 6:30 dinner at 7pm

Middlesex Junior Farmers Halloween Dance

Sat. October 31, 2015, 9pm

Lucan Community Memorial Center

263 Main St. Lucan

Age of majority required

\$10.00/ ticket

DJ, late lunch and prizes for best costume!

New Adventure for McAvoys

Former JFAO President Cecelia and former Halton JF President Craig McAvoy have taken off for a new adventure. They have traded in farming in Ontario to experience teaching in Asia. The alumni family wishes them good luck in their travels and new experiences.



We recognize the importance of our future agriculture leaders in creating a strong vision for our future farmers.

Ontario agricultural co-operatives have been working for farmers and their families for 100 years and we have many rural leaders to thank.

Thank you to the young leaders of JFAO!



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Celebration of 100 years of Junior Farmers in Waterloo

After over a year of planning, approximately 200 Junior Farmers spanning 7 decades came together to celebrate friendships, achievements and the history of the Junior Farmers program in Waterloo. The event took place at the Wellesley Community Centre on Saturday, August 22. As Alumni and guests arrived, they were invited to view the displays of photos, trophies and many other treasures of past Junior Farmer events. The committee is thankful to all who came including those past and present Junior Farmers from other counties that came to help celebrate.

During the banquet, past Waterloo County Presidents, Provincial Directors and Provincial Presidents were introduced and recognized. Erwin Hoffman, at age 92, was introduced as the oldest Past President (1947) in attendance. Special guests were the visiting International Exchange Delegates with JFAO. Entertainment was provided by the antics of "Uncle Willie" (Wayne Stoltz). Former provincial champion square dance caller Ted Jacobs, led six sets to start the dance off. Several more hours of sharing memories and stories with friends along with more dancing topped off a wonderful evening.

The first Junior Farmers' Improvement Association in Waterloo County was formed in February 1915, after a special one-month course on Agriculture that was offered by the Waterloo office of the Ontario Department of Agriculture and the North Waterloo Farmers Institute. The next six years saw more clubs form at the close of annual the one-month course.

Clubs' Corner



Renfrew County

This year our little club has had quite the successful and promising start. We started off our year in February when we had an amazing time in Guelph and won Winter Games. We returned home to Renfrew County to much excitement and congratulations from our alumni and some public recognition in our local papers. This recognition increased interest in our club and lead to us adding some new members. Having more members has allowed us to increase our presence in the community, most notably when we wished everyone a happy St. Patrick's Day and put a float in the annual Douglas St. Patrick's Day parade. The Douglas St. Patrick's Day parade was also our first club event where we got to show off our new club signs that were donated as a surprise by the Wytenburg and Schultz family.

[Click here to continue reading...](#)

Dundas JF Food Drive

By Joanna Toonders

I'm not sure about you, but it isn't very often that I'm going to bed hungry. If I feel the slightest bit of discomfort I go to the fridge and see what's new to eat. Unfortunately not everybody has that kind of luxury. For all you know your next door neighbour may be barely hanging on to the roof over their heads; this is very disheartening to think about. So Dundas JF decided that it was time to use the goal of Junior Farmers to better our community. To see how this story ends, [click here](#).



Carleton JF Trivia Night

The theme of the JFAO

Leadership Camp last weekend was "Overcoming Adversity", and oh boy, did we ever overcome adversity to host a fantastic trivia night at the Osgoode Legion on June 12th. Kristy-Anne Wytenburg and I have been excitedly planning this trivia night for months. We dreamt up the idea in March, passed a budget in April, and have been putting in countless hours creating our own questions, meet with the hall, putting up posters, and doing all the prep work. We were both very excited to co-host the evening... until adversity first struck. Kristy-Anne found out in early May that she was going to have an exam in St. Catharines the same night as trivia night in Ottawa. That was a significant blow to the evening, but we didn't let that stop us.

To hear the triumphant conclusion to the story, [click here](#).

[The Friday Painters of Ottawa are looking for 150 year old farmsteads to paint for the 2017 Anniversary of Canada](#)

The Friday Painters are planning a project to build a collection of paintings to exhibit either at City Hall in Ottawa or in a gallery, to celebrate the 2017 Anniversary of Canada.

Their hope is to record and highlight the value of the 150 year old farming communities in Ontario.

The group has members in the Ottawa, Carleton Place and Prince Edward County region and are looking for farmsteads in those areas.

This will also be a great opportunity to highlight the value of the JFAO. Hopefully you can be part of it.

If you are working a 150 year old farm and would like to invite them to come and paint your farmstead please contact:

Jay Anderson at (613)822-0751
jayandersonartist@rogers.com

The Prince Edward County Junior Farmers

hosted an Ag. Information Day at Picton Home Hardware on Saturday August 8th. We gathered information about the various sectors of agriculture including dairy, beef, poultry, field crops, maple syrup, fruit and wine to present to tourists and locals as they stopped by. We had 8 members on hand to answer questions about all aspects of local farming and hand out copies of "The Real Dirt on Farming". Our special guests "Clover" and "Buddy" drew in people of all ages and backgrounds and our two laying hens provided a constant source of entertainment as they planned their escape. Overall, we had a great day and were able to promote our industry in a fun way!



Oxford County Junior Farmers to Distribute Real Dirt on Farming

Sometimes, it seems like we, as farmers, can never get ahead of the bad press surrounding our lifestyle. Whether we are taking flak about spraying pesticides and planting GMOS, or defending how we raise our animals, it seems like we can never do enough to educate consumers about modern agriculture. And for a good reason – 48% of consumers admit they know very little or nothing about Canadian farming practices. But, there is some good news – 66% of Canadians want to KNOW more about farming. (Compare this to the 20% that want to LEARN more about farming).

So, we have our work cut out for us – how do we “teach” people about farming without actually teaching them? And how do farmers, making up less than 2% of Canada’s population, reach the 66% who want to know more?

Enter the *Real Dirt on Farming*, published by Farm and Food Care Ontario. This magazine aims to tackle the questions about farming that consumers have – everything from why we spray and grow GMOs, to why we keep animals in barns.

The “tough” questions, such as hormone implants, are covered as well. The struggle with this is getting it into consumers’ hands – which is where Oxford JF and all the other JF clubs across the province come into play.

Oxford JF has set the goal (and challenges other clubs to beat us) of distributing 500 full (50 page) copies and 1500 digest (12 page) copies across our county. We are well on our way to meeting this goal, having distributed them at doctors, dentists, accountants, hospitals, pharmacies, retirement homes, and businesses across the county. We have also partnered with local vegetable farmers to hand them out at farmers’ markets, and will be passing them out at local fairs and other events.

With the help of JF clubs across the province, we can all do our part in reaching the 66% of Canadians who want to know more about farming. By doing this, we will get the right information into consumers’ hands, and maybe we will have to work a little less hard on fighting the negative media surrounding today’s agriculture.

For more information please contact

Virginia Dibble, Secretary and Media Coordinator,
Oxford County Junior Farmers
519-608-3095 | dibblevirginia@gmail.com



We’re proud to continue our strong support
of the Junior Farmers’ Association of Ontario –
cultivating the next generation of
agricultural leaders.

Ontario’s leading farm advocate for more than 75 years.