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Mark Your Calendar

Winter Games

February 4

Clinton, Ontario

—

March Board Meeting & Annual
General Meeting

March 24

London, Ontario

—

March Conference &
Annual Banquet

March 24-26

London, Ontario

—

Spring Board Training & Meeting

Date TBD

Location TBD

—

Leadership Camp

June 9-11

Orillia, Ontario

—

JFAO Annual Golf Tournament

August 11

Guelph, Ontario

Ontario Young Farmers' Forum — Navigating Your Way To Agricultural Success

#OYFF16 proved to be a huge challenge but ended up meeting the 2 main goals that were set going into the year. The 2 goals were to be revenue positive, and increase registrations. And while the financials are still being finalized, all indications point to a small profit from the event. The other goal was simply to increase registrations to reverse the trend seen in recent years of declining participation numbers. 2015 registrations were the lowest in recent memory at 56, but I'm pleased to say this year we managed to up that number to 83.

I believe a large amount of the credit for increased numbers is due to the tandem of Crystal Blake and Amanda Brodhagen for their efforts on social media. They managed to spread the word and thanks to everyone who liked and shared their posts to help expand the reach we already had. It was also great to see that roughly 60% of the registrants were sponsored by their local federations to attend. We also saw a large increase in first time attendees where 80% were first timers. And even more encouraging is that of those who

(Continued on page 2)



OYFF (cont.)

responded, over 80% planned to attend next year. Our speakers, as a whole, were well reviewed, however a few real standouts that seemed to be most liked were Jodi and Adrian Roelands who presented as the Ontario Outstanding Young Farmers award winners, and Tina Straathof who spoke about her time working on a dairy farm in Malaysia. We also went to a breakout session format for the Monday morning in hope of providing more variety to the group and although a couple speakers were not well reviewed, the concept seemed to be a hit. All said and done, it was a great team effort from the committee along the guidance from a key few within the execu-

tive. My belief is that it's a result we can all be proud of and provides a jumping point to continue the success of OYFF in the years to come. My hope is that a strong candidate with step up to the coordinator roll next year, but I think that with the experience gained in 2016, we can be successful regardless. Thank you to everyone who made OYFF16 happen.

Submitted by Jordan Eastman
Director of Agricultural Programs



Golf with JFAO

11th Annual Charity Golf Tournament

August 11th, 2017

Guelph Lakes Golf and Country Club

golf@jfao.on.ca



JFAO Annual Banquet and Dance

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please contact marchconference@jfao.on.ca



President's Message

Happy New Year! As we look onwards and upwards for the 74th year of JFAO I continue to be truly flabbergasted by the hard work our members do in their communities year after year. Each and every municipality, town, and city that has a Junior Farmer club should be proud of what they do.

As we get closer to March and our Annual General Meeting, Banquet, March Provincial Directors Meeting and March Conference the Executive Team is diligently working on the 2017-2019 Strategic Plan. With the guidance from Helen Scutt, Agriculture Organization Specialist (OMAFRA) the plan will help shape the future of JFAO. I thank all the members, especially the board members that provided their input on this important document.

2017 marks a new journey for JFAO as we transform our database into an online member (and soon alumni) portal access. The new program will allow members to update their personal information, pay for fees, and register for events online. Additionally, this new database will help connect JFAO with our alumni around the world – alumni members can provide/update their information and stay connected.

Keep an eye out for when this new program goes “live” on our website www.jfao.on.ca.

The JFAO year is quickly coming to an end; I am looking forward to adding “Past” in front of “President” and taking on my new role as Chair of the board and operation of JFAO. I encourage each and every member to consider getting more involved at the provincial level - run for an executive position or join a committee that interests you and help shape the years to come!

In JF spirit,
Kurtis Smith
Your 73rd JFAO
President



The Beef Farmers of Ontario recognize the importance of supporting rural youth in Ontario.

Ask us about our BUILD Leadership Development Program!

April 18-21, 2017, Smith Falls, ON

A black and white photograph of a man and a woman standing in a field with several beef cattle. The man is wearing a plaid shirt and jeans, and the woman is wearing a dark tank top and jeans. They are both smiling at the camera. The cattle are grazing in the field.

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Past President Wins Leadership Award

JFAO's 2008 President Brad Found continues to be heavily involved in agriculture after becoming an alumni. Brad recently won the Leadership Award at the Celebrate Agriculture Gala for Durham Region. Brad is currently involved in the Orono Agricultural Society as the Past President, Ontario Federation of Agriculture as a Policy Advisory Committee member, and 4-H Ontario as Vice President. Brad is outstanding in the field of leadership, community involvement, and he has a passion for the agricultural industry. Unlike most of us that have one thing that we get involved in, he is involved in EVERYTHING! He is not only involved in furthering the agricultural industry and working with the commodity groups that directly affect him as well as the industry as a whole, he is dedicated to agricultural education programs as



Brad Found at the Celebrate Agriculture Gala for Durham Region.

well. Brad doesn't have hobbies in the traditional sense. Instead he has filled all of his spare time with being involved in his community and agriculture. He is always able to make time for the people in these organizations even during his busiest times of the year. If you need help with something he is always willing to setup and take charge. There are very few people at any age that have the experience that Brad does running meetings and leading organizations. He is truly dedicated to the agricultural industry and making it the best that it can be. He is also willing to contribute to his community and industry in any way possible.

Congratulations Brad on this outstanding accomplishment and thank you for your continued support of JFAO!

Announcements



Audrey Knudsen kept asking for a sibling, and her wish was granted: now she has 2! In the summer of 2016, Mary Feldskov (JFAO President 2003) and Steve Knudsen welcomed Ellie Carol (b. June 2016) and Dominic Russell (b. March 2015) to their family through the gift of adoption.



Chuck Mattice and Becky Aikens are excited to announce their engagement on January 28, 2017.



Camille (Black) Ryall (JFAO President 2011) and her husband Steve would like to announce the safe arrival of their twins Emylia (6lbs 4 oz) and Paul (8lbs 4oz) on January 9.



JF WANTS TO HELP YOU.....

Keep in touch with old JF friends, share stories & life moments. We are always looking for Alumni feedback and inspirations. Please share your special moments (Births, Anniversaries, Announcements) with us. All information received will be shared in our upcoming Bullhorn.

Email to: editor@jfao.on.ca

Sing Swing—Through The Ages

Sing Swing by the Wentworth-Niagara Junior Farmers at the Ancaster Fairgrounds this year. We had a great turn out and a lot of entries from members who were unable to attend the event in person. It was great to see so many past members coming out to help as judges this year. From start to finish, a lot of time and hard work went into this event and it showed. Aside from the odd schedule conflict from participants the event



It is a joy to see what creative things the clubs come up with for events such as line dancing, alternative dance, and all of the visual arts categories. Events like this make me feel proud to be a member amongst so many talented people.

Submitted by Heather Donkers
Wentworth-Niagara JF



Sing Swing Through The Ages was definitely a whirlwind from start to finish. We saw outfits ranging from neon spanx to fluffy poodle skirts. The day was filled with all sorts of singing, dancing and delicious baking. Every year it amazes me how talented this group of young adults can be. Congratulations to all of the winners and thank you to all who participated. Provincial events would not be possible without the wonderful members who come out to them and the hosting clubs who put in a lot of hard work and hours. It is a beautiful thing to see the magic happen. I think Sing Swing is fantastic because there is something for everyone to participate in.

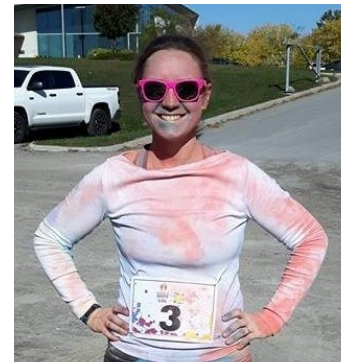


ran smoothly and everyone had a great time. Congratulations to all of the winners. I hope to see even more members participate next year.

Editor's Note

This edition of the Bullhorn is the last I will put together as a Junior Farmer—the next time you read this it will be compiled and edited by a “graduate.” I look forward to joining the ranks of the alumni and continuing to produce a newsletter that showcases what Junior Farmers past and present have been up to.

If you have any content you would like to see in the next edition, please do not hesitate to send it to me at editor@jfao.on.ca.



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Coming up in the next edition of the Bullhorn...

Winter Games
Strategic Plan
New JFAO Executive
Annual Award Winners
...and so much more!

Finishing the Year Strong in Middlesex



As 2016 comes to an end, the Middlesex Junior Farmers have been kept busy celebrating Christmas across the county. One thing that Middlesex enjoys doing every year is taking part in Santa Claus Parades. We grab our Christmas decorations and put together a float to show a couple towns in Middlesex what Junior Farmers is all about while spreading cheer. The two towns that we picked this year were Lucan and Thorndale. December 3rd, 2016 brought the Middlesex Junior Farmers to Lucan with a theme of "A Vintage Christmas". We put a "farmer" spin on this theme. We took an antique plow and tractor

and put it on a trailer. This was topped off with a Santa, lights, music, and other Christmas decorations. We welcomed the Middlesex Queen of the Furrow and the Ilderton Fair Ambassador, both members of our club, to our float. December 18th, 2016 found our club at the Thorndale parade with a truck decked out in bright Christmas decorations. Overall, the two wonderful nights showed that our club has tremendous Christmas Spirit.

Another thing Middlesex JF enjoys doing throughout the year, especially this time of the year, is to donate to worthy causes. We donated gifts to the Christmas program at the Canadian Mental Health Association branch in Strathroy. The gifts for the clients included: mittens, hats, socks, shampoo, deodorant, soap, tooth brush, tooth paste, lotion and disposable razors. In addition, we donated handmade fleece lap blankets to the Secret Santa program for the residents

of the Prince George Retirement Home in Lucan.

Overall, this was a very productive ending to a wonderful year. We are excited to see what 2017 will bring the Middlesex Junior Farmers!



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Perth County JF Elects a New Executive



Back row (L-R) – Eric McLagan (Vice President and Agriculture Representative), Cam Alton (President), Andy (Member), Courtney Steven (Social Director), Thomas Mayes (Treasurer and 4-H Representative). Front row (L-R) - Tracey Stark, (Secretary), Permoo (Perth JF mascot), Dawn (Member), Crystal Blake (Past President, Social Director and 4-H Representative), Jacquelyn Denham (Assistant Provincial Director). Absent – Amanda Brodhagen (Communications Coordinator), Niki Sproxtan (Provincial Director)

Rostock, ON – The Perth County Junior Farmers (Perth JF) held its annual general meeting at the Rostock Hall on Sunday, January 8th, where the membership voted on constitutional amendments and elected a new executive.

After serving a two-year Presidential term, Crystal Blake will now serve as Past President, with Cam Alton as President.

“Crystal has contributed a great deal to our organization and I thank her for her leadership,” said Cam Alton, President of Perth JF.

“I hope to continue and build awareness of Junior Farmers locally and

grow our membership base,” Alton added. “Junior Farmers provides tremendous opportunities to its members including, networking, travel and the chance to gain new skills.”

The 2017 executive:

President – Cam Alton

Past President – Crystal Blake

Vice-President – Eric McLagan

Secretary – Tracey Stark

Treasurer – Thomas Mayes

Provincial Director – Niki Sproxtan

Assistant Provincial Director – Jacquelyn Denham

In addition to the election of the executive, representative and coordinator positions were also voted on. These

roles support the executive to deliver a number of tasks, including community outreach initiatives with like-minded organizations: the Perth County Federation of Agriculture, 4-H and the Perth County Farm Safety Association.

The 2017 representatives and coordinators:

Communications Coordinator - Amanda Brodhagen

Agriculture Representative – Eric McLagan

4-H Representatives – Thomas Mayes and Crystal Blake

Fundraising Representative – Crystal Blake

Social Coordinators – Courtney Steven and Crystal Blake

Farm Safety Representative – Andrew Louwagie

Perth JF donated over \$3,700 back to the community in 2016. The volunteer hours are still being calculated, though Perth JF members contribute hundreds of volunteer hours every year through their many community betterment projects including, roadside clean up, helping at local fairs and events like the Canadian Dairy XPO as examples.

Perth JF upcoming fundraising events:

- Canadian Dairy XPO (Stratford, ON) April 5-6, 2017 - Selling apple fritters
- Stratford Home & Leisure Show (Stratford, ON) April 21-23, 2017 - Selling foo
- **Proceeds raised go towards supporting community betterment projects in Perth County and the surrounding area.**

Amanda Brodhagen
Perth Junior Farmers



Perth County Junior Farmers

Selling Apple Fritters

April 5-6

Canadian Dairy Xpo

Stratford, ON



JF Members and Alumni Explore Agriculture in China

For 10 days in October, we had the amazing opportunity to tour China. After leaving Toronto in the day time, we landed in Beijing during a rainy night 12 hours ahead.

Our first day of touring began in a community park, which was home to the Temple of Heaven, where the Emperor would go to pray for a bountiful harvest. This was an amazing building especially considering when it was built! Next we were delivered us to the edge of Tiananmen Square, and ultimately Forbidden City. Once through the heavy security at the square we were able to enter Forbidden City, the home of the last two Emperor dynasties in China. The architecture for the city of 999 rooms was impressive and strategically defensive to protect the Emperor.

The next day came our workout - climbing the Great Wall. Totally worth the journey as the view was amazing and showed us a different side of China. After all those steps, we headed to a Jade factory. Hours of careful carving and shining leads to the final product. Next stop on our list was a farm tour at Green Yard Organic Dairy Farm. The farm was started in 2008 with research projects being completed with the Beijing University. The farm is set up for touring groups, educating the public, and processing on farm. The herd includes imported Holstein genetics from Canada, Holland & New Zealand. The farm is currently processing their own milk and yogurt on site and looking to make a move into the cheese industry! We were lucky enough to be given some samples, which were delicious!

China has man-made lakes that they

use to cultivate the freshwater oyster industry. They can produce up to 25 pearls in one shell!

We had the opportunity to spend lunch in the Hutong District. This was an amazing insight into the home and lifestyle of a true Beijing-er. We also got to tour the area by rickshaw as the streets are so narrow that cars do not fit. After such amazing hospitality, we ventured off to the zoo! The biggest



attraction here was the giant pandas!

An early morning flight took us from Beijing to Shanghai, where we boarded a bus to Suzhou. At Han Shan Temple, we took time to reflect in the Buddhist temple & Monastery. This destination was just another view of China that was unexpected.

As we veered from the big cities we were able to see more of the everyday culture. A trip to the market is a daily necessity when you don't have a refrigerator. Fresh food is the only way to go! At the market, we realized just



how fresh. The seafood was still alive!

Another large industry in China is silk. Which is what we learned about

at the LanLiyuan Embroidery Research Institute. We were able to see the entire process starting from the silk worms all the way to watching embroiders creating detailed imagery with the silk produced. It was very interesting to learn about the life of a silk worm and all the different ways that silk can be used. Different qualities of cocoons and end in different end products such as: facials swabs, comforters and silk thread.

The next day started with us setting out for Hanzhou. A drive out of the city took us to Longjing (Dragon Well) Tea Farms. The green tea plants were terraced up the side of the mountains in hedgerows. The Chi-

nese drink a lot of tea a day, due to the impact that tea can have on detoxing your body! Our lessons in tea revolved around learning about this detoxing properties and how tea is graded. The first picking results in the most tender and youngest buds, this is known as the Emperor's tea.

Our last and final stop was to Shanghai which is the financial capital of China. It is also the brightest! With spending 1 million yuan a night to light up this city it is hard to miss! The Pudong District has a gross domestic product three times that of the

rest of the country and it is only about the size of twenty blocks!

There were too many highlights on this trip to even count. If you ever have the chance it is an amazing experience! For this unforgettable journey we would like to thank JFAO!

Submitted by Margaret Vincent

Perth County JF

Alumni Abroad- Nín Hǎo from the Middle Kingdom!

In August 2015, my husband Craig and I, along with our two children Felix and Gideon (who were 3.5 years and 17 months at the time) boarded a plane for a new chapter of our life, in China. For a whole host of reasons, we were in need of a major life change, and China turned out to be the unlikely answer to our prayers.

Our new address would be in Anhui province, in the “small” city of Tianchang, about five hours north-east of Shanghai. The population is roughly 600,000, but the footprint of the city is only about 5km end-to-end. The town is mostly organized into large blocks with business around the perimeter and 6-storey apartment buildings (that look like tall townhouses) in the middle. Each community has a small park, public bathhouse, or other such common space.

Tianchang is small, by Chinese standards, and we soon realized that we were perhaps the only foreigners in town. Although many people here would have encountered foreigners at some point, foreign children are a particular rarity. The novelty of our boys’ red hair has not yet waned and they are still featured in selfie shots with strangers on a daily basis (often in exchange for candy, which makes the situation agreeable for them). The people here have been unbelievably welcoming, and we are frequently invited out to dinner by people we’ve just met.

When we first announced to friends and family that we were moving to China, many people responded with “I hope you like rice!” Food is also the first thing that most people ask about when we talk to folks at home. As it turns out, food in China is quite different than the variety we generally find at Chinese restaurants in Canada. We have yet to see chicken balls, red sauce or fortune cookies! Of course China is huge and dishes vary greatly from one region to another.

Dining in China is quite a different experience than at home. In China we often hear that “food is medicine and

medicine is food”. As we eat, friends let us know certain foods are good for your liver, circulation, digestion, etc. We often see fish and fowl served with the heads on “so that you know what you’re eating”. Our kids are always fascinated by this and ask to have the heads on their plates.

Perhaps because this is a rural area and most people are only one generation removed from the farm (if not still actively farming), people are very connected to their food source. Many people keep small gardens on their porch or on any bit of available land. In the market, chickens and fish are purchased alive and for a small fee can be processed on site, or can be taken home to be killed, cleaned and cooked - it doesn’t get much fresher! Many people also catch fish in the local river and dry their own meat in the winter. One major adjustment for us has been the absence of indoor heating. Here in central China, the winter temperatures don’t often get below 0°C and snow is rare. Buildings are constructed with solid brick or concrete walls; they are not insulated and the win-

This goes for homes, schools, workplaces, etc. The absence of snow means that snow pants and boots are unnecessary, but fleece-lined jeans and running shoes are quite common. Quilted pyjamas are also widely available and their wear is not limited to inside the home (quite an amusing fashion statement in the mall with a nice pair of heels!) We were surprised to see many people last winter with purple spots on their fingers and cheeks and shocked to learn that it was frostbite! Needless to say, we run our heaters a little more than the locals.

In the home, most people we know have a washing machine, but dryers are rare and much of the washing is still done by hand. Most modern homes have a solar water heater, so people can shower at home most of the year, but using public bath houses are common in the winter, as electric heaters are still not common.

As for work, teaching here has been an adjustment in many ways: the language barrier, large classes, and a totally different school system. But it’s been great getting to know the students and the best part about my job is how little I have to go! I only teach ten 40 minute classes per week - an ideal schedule for a mom of young kids!

To say that this is a country with a long and complicated history doesn’t begin to explain the intricacies of modern China. It has been a wonderful

learning opportunity for us and above all we’ve learned just how little we know about this beautiful and complex culture. Although we look forward to returning home soon, I will always treasure the time we’ve had and the friends we made here in China. For anyone interested in visiting or working here, I highly recommend it.

We haven’t done a great job of keeping up our blog, but if anyone is interested in more details about the school system, split-pants for toilet training, or our travels here, follow us at craigandcelia.wordpress.com.

Submitted by Cecelia McMorro
2007 JFAO President



dows are not airtight. It’s quite common to see windows open in the daytime. Most people have A/C units which also heat, but locals rarely use them. As a result winter wear is much different than at home. People typically wear their coats inside and out.

BUILD Leadership

The Beef Farmers of Ontario's BUILD program is a great opportunity for young leaders looking to build their leadership skills or even experienced leaders looking to sharpen up their skills and learn something new! Last year I had the opportunity to take part in the program and we learned about everything from leadership styles, communication skills, to how to effectively use social media, how to support your board members and how mission and vision statements work. We also got to learn a bit more about how the various BFO boards worked to get us interested in getting in-



BUILD participants pictured with Ministers Jeff Leal and Arthur Potts.

volved in the organization. This program is a great way also to make new connections as its open to all ages which allows for networking with more experienced leaders who have a wealth of knowledge and experience. Overall I would highly recommend the program as there is something for everyone and I guarantee you will learn something new to take home to your board.

Submitted by Meaghan Weber
Waterloo JF

**For more information and to download the application form go to
<http://www.ontariobeef.com/programs/leadership-development.aspx>**

Know a Business Interested in Partnering with JF?

JFAO is always looking for companies and organizations interested in becoming partners of JFAO to help keep our programs running.

A Benefits of Partnership Package is available by contacting fundraising@jfao.on.ca.

JFAO also offers **charitable tax receipts** to individual donors. Visit jfao.on.ca for information on the many ways you can help! Thank you to all of our alumni who have offered to continue supporting JF in 2016!

The advertisement features a scenic background of snow-capped mountains and a lake. In the foreground, there is a cluster of colorful balloons (purple, pink, orange, green) and a circular logo with a green 'F' on a white background. The text 'Adventure Begins with' is written in a cursive font, followed by the logo. At the bottom, the text 'March Conference 2017' is in a large, bold, outlined font, with 'March 24-26 London, Ontario' below it. The phrase 'make the most of it' is written in a cursive font at the bottom right.

Adventure Begins with

March Conference 2017

March 24-26
London, Ontario

make the most of it

Autumn Profile



Autumn Profile 2016 was hosted by Kawartha Junior Farmers on October 29th at the Lindsay Fairgrounds. This was the best attended Autumn Profiles in recent memory with a total of 33 teams competing. The theme for this years edition was "The Good Ole Days" as Kawartha was celebrating 100 years as a club.

Clubs and members arrived early in the morning and registered for what was to be a fun day ahead. There were 18 different tasks that teams needed to complete throughout the day to see who would be the 2016 champions. Stations this year included Fence



Kim Vos with Rob Vos.
Sep 20, 2016 at 9:07pm • 🌐

The first Junior Farmers' Association of Ontario Alumni sign is installed on our 911 post!
Only 8 more years until we get a Member Lives Here sign for Cameron, right President Smith? Lol.
#ProudJFer



Building, Chug-a-Lug, ID Quiz, Blindfolded Directions, Wagon Pull, Vintage Tractor Game, Auction Competition, Team Building, Tractor Pull, Obstacle Course, Fence Painting, Judging Class, Blindfolded Wheelbarrow Races, Crosscut Saw, Sac Race, JF Knowledge, Horse Harnessing and ID quiz.

Teams made their way through nine stations in the morning and then Mystery Event#1 was held at lunch. Mystery Event#1 was the always popular



Tug of War. A March Madness style bracket was set up as each team competed for the crown. The enthusiasm and comradery of this event was well received with everybody cheering on their favourite team. In the end, it was Perth taking on Wentworth-Niagara in the final. It was a close battle but Wentworth-Niagara were the champions. A delicious and warm lunch was then served by Kawartha-Haliburton 4-H members and parents. After lunch, teams got back together



to finish their final nine tasks. When teams finished their rotation, there was one final mystery event to complete. Curiosity and nervousness could be heard throughout the barn as teams found out Mystery Event #2 was Egg Roulette. It was a messy and entertaining way to wrap up the fun-filled day.

Members then had a chance to rest and wash up from the day and get prepared for the dance that evening. The dance was held that evening at the Cambray Hall and had an Alphabet theme. Each county was assigned a letter and the costume was to start with that letter. There were a lot of very creative costumes including a Happy Camper and the Blues Brothers. The results from the day were announced at the dance. The overall winners for Autumn Profile 2016 was Niagara-Wentworth!

Submitted by Matt English
Kawartha JF

#ProudJFer



Renfrew County Junior Farmers
Jan 30 at 9:45pm • Cobden, Ontario • 🌐

3 generations of Schultz Junior Farmers #proudjfer



Building Relationships Between Canadian and Mexican Young Farmers

Beginning November 21st, 2016 I had the opportunity to represent the Canadian Young Farmers' Forum (CYFF) in meetings held with the Mexican National Association of Young Agricultural Entrepreneurs that took place in Ottawa. The purpose of this meeting was to foster discussion and build a framework on how to continue to build a working relationship between the two young farmer organizations. After meeting the Mexican delegation and doing some ice breaker activities we moved right into presentations from the CYFF and the Mexican National Association of Young Agricultural Entrepreneurs outlining the missions and objectives for both young farmer organizations in their respective countries.

It was very interesting to learn about how the Mexican young farmer organization is run and how large it is with around 1 million members total. The afternoon consisted of very productive discussions around the framework that both countries would like to put together moving forward. In

the end we were able to come up with 6 goals/ objectives.

It was a very productive day of meetings with the Mexican delegation, we wrapped up by creating a mission statement **"Encourage cooperation between the ANAJ and the CYFF through strengthened bilateral relations, and to promote increased participation of youth in the agriculture and agri-food sector."**

November 22nd was a day to allow both organizations delegates learn more about each other. We were lucky



enough to be able to participate in 4 excellent tours. The day began with a tour of the EastGen semen collection site in Kemptville. Following the EastGen tour we visited Oude Egberink Farms in Osgood. On this farm they milk goats and it was very interesting



to see how they modified an older dairy cow parlour to milk goats. The third tour of the day was SunTech Greenhouses in Manotick, where the only thing still growing was cucumbers due to the season. The fourth and final tour stop was St. Albert Cheese. We toured through the newly rebuilt cheese factory and at the end were able to enjoy lunch and introduce our Mexican guests to poutine.

November 23rd began bright and early with attending the Canada Mexico Agribusiness working group. This is a meeting held regularly between the Canadian and Mexican governments

to help foster agribusiness between the two countries and continue to improve agri-trade. It was very interesting to be able to listen in and participate in the discussion.

The next morning started with the excellent opportunity to meet and quickly converse with the Honourable Lawrence MacAuley, the federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, after he welcomed everyone to the meeting he spoke for 15 minutes on what his government has completed and is working on in regards to the Agriculture and Agri-Food folder. Following that meeting I had the opportunity to watch Paul Glenn (CYFF Chair) and Guenette Bautz (general manager CYFF) speak to the

standing ag committee which includes members from all federal parties who hold the agriculture folder. Paul spoke on continued support towards young farmers while Guenette spoke on the importance to support young farmer organizations nationwide.

Overall the four days were very busy and very informative. I

am very happy to have been asked by CYFF to participate in these meetings and look forward to the continued partnerships between the Canadian Young Farmers' Forum and Mexican National Association of Young Agricultural Entrepreneurs.

Submitted by Justin Williams
Prince Edward County JF

Six Goals/ Objectives:

1. Take action to encourage and increase the participation of young farmers in the agri-food sector through outreach activities (e.g., Annual meetings of the ANAJ and CYFF; Alimentaria; Foro Global Agro-Alimentario).
2. Encourage and promote direct bilateral trade among young farmers involved in both organizations, particularly in agricultural products, specifically by sector.
3. Foster exchange/mentorship activities, and sharing best practices matching producers by commodity or interest.
4. Mutual participation as special guests at annual events promoted by Mexican National Association of Young Agricultural Entrepreneurs (Asociacion nacional de agroempresarios juvenes) and the Canadian Young Farmers' Forum.
5. Exchange of information on agri-food sector issues and public policies for the growth and development of the young farmer organizations by regular reporting.
6. Any other activity mutually agreed upon by Young Agricultural Entrepreneurs (Asociacion nacional de agroempresarios juvenes) and the Canadian Young Farmers' Forum.

Renfrew JF Celebrates 100 Years



Past JFAO Provincial Presidents
J. Allan Cole (1987) & Carolyn Wren Doris (1996). *Missing: Izett McBride (1969)*

On Saturday January 28, Renfrew County hosted a banquet to celebrate over 100 years of Junior Farmers in Renfrew County. We had huge support from the community, our families, and alumni. We cannot thank everyone enough for all of their help; we would not have been able to have such a successful night without all the help and support we received. We exceeded all of our expectations and had almost

150 guests of alumni, current members, and club members from other counties (as far away as Haldimand-Norfolk!). We celebrated the past with incredible displays of memorabilia, as well as speeches from a past county president from the 1940s, a past provincial president from the 1980s, & our current president to show how far our club has come in the past 100 years. The night couldn't have been complete without a bit of square dancing. Our 1988 Sing Swing square dance champions even made an appearance and competed against our 2015 Sing Swing champions to see who the true Renfrew County champions were (hint: the true champions had a bit more experience than the other square). It was amazing to see how many people have been a part of Junior Farmers in Renfrew County and how even though the times have changed, some things have stayed the same.



Submitted by Meredith Mulligan
Renfrew JF



1988 Sing Swing Championship Square
Back row (L -R): Shane Bromley, Louis Laventure, Jamie Dewar, Allan Cole (caller).
Front row (L -R): Karen Black, Nancy Schultz, Carolyn Wren Doris, Steve Schultz.


A banner for the CAFA Educational Series. The top half features a green background with a close-up of wheat stalks. The text "CAFA" is in large white letters, followed by "Educational Series" in smaller white letters. Below this, a green bar contains the text "CAFA IS IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF FARM ADVICE." in white. The bottom half of the banner is white and contains the following text: "» Farm Tax Update for Professionals", "» Farm Succession Update for Professionals", "» Farm Management Update for Professionals", "Is your advisor a Certified Agricultural Farm Advisor?", the CAFA logo (a red maple leaf and the text "CAFA CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF FARM ADVISORS"), and contact information for Liz Robertson, CAFA Executive Director, including a phone number and email address.

CAFA
Educational Series

CAFA IS IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF FARM ADVICE.

» Farm Tax Update for Professionals
» Farm Succession Update for Professionals
» Farm Management Update for Professionals

Is your advisor a **Certified Agricultural Farm Advisor?**

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Contact Liz Robertson,
CAFA Executive Director for more
details at 1-877-474-2871
or info@cafanet.com



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