



## President's Message

Beginnings are full of new opportunities, changes and challenges. Spring is here and new life and growth is all around us. This spring, everyone around the world is facing new challenges as we fight the Corona Virus.

I'm proud to say that many of our Junior Farmer members are on the front lines fighting this global pandemic. Our members are nurses, retirement home care workers and grocery store cashiers. Our members are found across the food supply chain ensuring that food from Ontario farms makes it to kitchen tables. To each one of you: Thank you!

Spring also marks the beginning of a new JFAO year. We are faced with a new challenge when planning JF meetings and socials, as we are currently not allowed to physically gather. Despite March Conference being postponed for the foreseeable future, we were still able to hold a successful Annual General Meeting over Zoom at the end of March. I am proud to say that we were one of the first agriculture organizations in Ontario to plan and execute a virtual AGM. During our AGM members decided that Feed ON (formerly the Ontario Food Banks Association) will be our 2020 Provincial Charity. Our local JF clubs have always been well connected with assisting our local food banks, and I look forward to seeing these partnerships continue in these challenging times.

Our members are resilient and creative. They continue to check in on JF friends through texts and phone calls. Many clubs have taken their monthly meetings online using platforms like Zoom. Our creative members have found new ways to host socials. Durham West has planned an online Bingo night; Wellington's been playing cards virtually and several clubs are working on planning online trivia nights.

Our clubs continue to like a good competition. Grey JF has an ongoing monthly photo challenge and Essex-Kent has issued a "Pass it On" video challenge to all clubs. Stormont-Glengarry has created a colouring contest for children in their region.

2020 will be a year of challenges and changes, there's no arguing that. But I believe that this will be a year that will help build us into an even stronger and more connected JF community. A community of leaders where we share our ideas, our struggles and our successes with one another. And together we will get through this, supporting one another. Because nothing can stop a determined Junior Farmer!

*Yours in JF spirit,  
Elizabeth Bruce  
JFAO President*



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*Thanks to the support of:*



## COVID-19

**Due to our current circumstances, all in person activities are postponed. See [Health Canada](#) and the [Ontario Ministry of Health](#) for guidelines.**

**We look forward to hosting our in person events again when is appropriate.**

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# 2020 AGM & New Executive

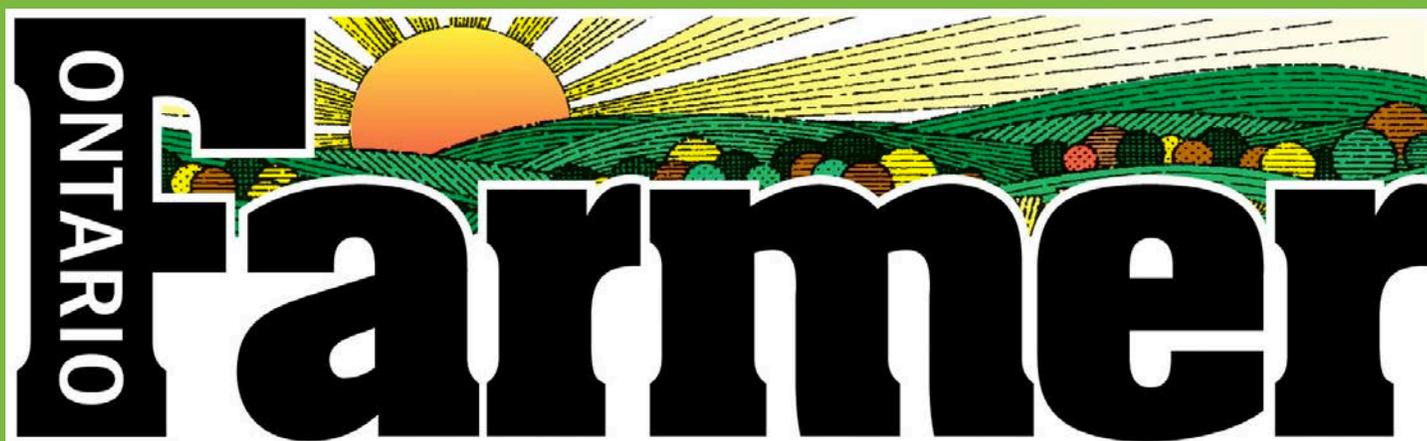
On March 28th at 1pm, the Junior Farmer's of Ontario held their 2020 Annual General Meeting. Due to the global pandemic and regional, provincial, and national shutdowns, the AGM was delayed a week and moved to a virtual platform. In true JF spirit, we didn't let this knock us down! Using Zoom, we had over 60 members across the province call in, making it one of the best attended AGMs in recent history! Thank you to every member who took time out of their days to join- you are who keep JF going!

We heard from each exec member giving a brief overview of their past year and a small insight to what is ahead for 2020. One of the most exciting announcements came from our outgoing Executive Director of Programming, Kylie O'Neil. She has worked very hard this year exploring some member benefits and she was very happy to announce a partnership with Perkopolis! If you haven't heard from her via e-mail or from your PD, please get in touch with the new ED of Programming Ashleigh Beacham and she will set you up!

One of the most disappointing, but understandable, announcements that came out of the AGM was the cancellation of all 2020 ingoing and outgoing exchanges. Our exchange program is very popular and gives members an opportunity to travel the world, as well as share their special part of the world with young people from around the globe. However, with travel restrictions abounding, it was too risky for us to continue. Please keep an eye out for 2021 exchanges though- they'll be back! Remember, 2021 is also a year JF sends a delegate to Tasmania. If you are interested, please contact Rinske van der Steege.

Lastly, we said goodbye to our 2019 executive and voted in 2020's. Our 2019 Past President, Erich Weber, has also retired from JF. Please join me in thanking him for all he has done for us over his many years on the JF executive board. He has been a workhorse, keeping us going and his knowledge and experience will be greatly missed. Please also join me in thanking the outgoing exec for all their hardwork this past year; Kylie O'Neil, Sophia Diebold, Phil English and myself, Christina Straathof, will not be returning to the executive this year. However, three members have and taken on new roles. Nic Weber, of course, is our 2020 Past President, with Elizabeth Bruce voted in as our 77th President, and Patrick Sullivan is taken up the mantle of Communications Director. New members to the board this year are Rinske van der Steege (Community and International Relations), Ashleigh Beacham (Programming), Jamie Schultz (East Zone), Meghan McLeod (Central Zone), and Lee Mayes (West Zone). We wish you all the best this year team, and look forward to what you can accomplish!

*Submitted by Christina Straathof*



# Autumn Profile 2019 Celebrates the Past, Present and Future of JFAO



This year's edition of Autumn Profile was hosted by the Middlesex Junior Farmers in Thorndale, Ontario on October 19, 2019. 17 teams from 12 clubs came to compete in a variety of events that tested their skill, knowledge and luck.

The morning began with teams rotating through stations, competing against other teams. They were creative at the pumpkin carving competition with pumpkins being turned into animals, JF logos and club signatures. Their knowledge was put to the test at the plant and agricultural tool ID quiz and the Go for the Gold trivia game.

Teamwork was important in the duck penning event where teams needed to sort 7 ducks into 2 circles without letting any ducks get away. Other events

included human battleship and a hockey all-star challenge. A highlight of the morning was the tractor driving competition where teams drove a tractor and wagon through an obstacle course and had to back it up into place in the shortest amount of time.



Everyone enjoyed a lunch of pulled pork on a bun with apple crisp for dessert.

After lunch, the mystery event was a square dancing workshop lead by Middlesex JF alumni members.

Following the mystery event, teams had more rotations of activities including a relay, finish the lyrics game, judging a class of plowing match outfits, passing an orange without hands and tic tac toe with a twist. There was a coding activity where teams had to program a robotic toy to get from one spot to another in the least number of tries. The mystery can event involved members correctly locating 5 bolts and corresponding nuts from a can of nuts and bolts. There was a lot of excitement at the office chair demolition derby where teams

moved around in office chairs trying to pop the balloons on the backs of the other team's chairs.

After the events, an impromptu game of kickball took place while we enjoyed freezies.



When all of the events were over, the points were very close. Peterborough 1 came in first place, followed by Peterborough 2 in second place and Carleton 3 in third place.

The fun filled day concluded with a dance where members danced into the night dressed in outfits from the past, the present and the future.



# Sing Swing 2019, Showing Off Your Musical Theatre Knowledge

On Nov 23rd approximately 60 JF members from 13 JF clubs gathered at the Elmwood Community Centre for the JFAO provincial event of Sing Swing organized by Grey County Jr Farmers. Judging in competitive events of various types of singing, dancing, acting, and home craft events took place during the morning. After a delicious lasagna lunch that was thoroughly enjoyed by all a bit more of a relaxing afternoon took place. The gong show, lip sync battle preliminaries and the all important euchre tournament took place in the afternoon.

Everyone returned later that day for the banquet which was held downstairs in the Elmwood Community Centre.

After a delicious meal Celie Diebold, Taylor Dane, and Amelia Judge presented brief slide shows of their recent exchanges to the UK and Wales. After that everyone headed to the upstairs to witness the finals of the lip sync competition. A dance followed after where everyone in attendance had a wonderful time to wrap up their time in Grey County



The winners were:

- University of Guelph(Vocal & Instrumental, Gong Show)
- Carleton(Baking, Dancing, Woodworking)
- Middlesex(Spelling Bee, Photography, Sewing, Lip-Sync Battle)
- Wellington(Metalworking, Needlework, Visual Arts)
- Waterloo (Quilting)

Grey County Jr Farmers would like to thank those who participated, the judges, the caterers, the staff at the Elmwood Community Centre, and most of all the participants for making this year's Sing Swing what it was. We hope all enjoyed their time in Grey and look forward to seeing everyone in the future.

**Submitted by Matt Magwood**

PS: the author would also like to send a big thank you to the Grey County organizing committee of Jasmine Jennings, Christine Wyville, Simon Pennings, Steph Vickers, and Caden Martin



# OYFF 2019: Farming 2020: Shaping the Future

Farming 2020: Shaping the Future was the theme of this year's edition of the Ontario Young Farmers' Forum. Fifty-eight attendees took part in this event, filled with networking opportunities and guest speakers with a focus on the future of agriculture.

Our event kicked off with lunch and an icebreaker activity and a challenge for each participant to set a goal of new connections they would make during the conference.

Our first speaker was Bruce Sargent of Farm Boy Productions. He spoke to the group about Social Media and promoting agriculture in modern times. Dr. Medhat Moussa from the University of Guelph gave us a glimpse into the future of robotics in agriculture. Jonathan Giret engaged the group with his presentation on finding financial resources for their farms such as grants.

Our Sunday evening activities had us taking a bus to dinner at the Mandarin. Once back at the hotel, attendees were split into teams

to complete a photo scavenger hunt where creativity was key in taking the perfect picture to match the captions.

Monday morning began with a look at cropping in different regions of the world by Peter Johnson, better known as Wheat Pete. Then, we joined the OFA convention to hear their keynote speaker David Phillips discuss the future of our weather.

Kelly Daynard from Farm and Food Care shared information and suggestions about farm security measures to protect our homes and businesses. Lunch was spent with delegates eating at the same table as their local federation of agriculture. This lunch was organized in order to help build connections with farmers from our own local area.

Monday afternoon featured an Innovation in Agriculture panel where attendees could ask questions to panelists from Entomo Farms, a cricket farm from Peterborough, Gunn's Hill Cheese from Woodstock and an OYFF attendee that has a cash crop and apiculture business. During coffee break, we had the opportunity to taste test cookies made with cricket flour, which were met with mixed reviews.

Jan and Jony Roos, Ontario's Outstanding Young Farmers, spoke to us about their dairy goat operation and the challenges they have faced along the way.

Margaret Hudson, President of Burnbrae Farms, told the story of how Burnbrae Farms transitions through generations of family ownership. Finally, Jackie Ralph wrapped up our conference reminding us how important it is to ensure we take time for self-care in her presentation about Mental Health Challenges in Rural Ontario.

Overall, it was another successful year for OYFF. Attendees walked away with new friends, new ideas to take back to their farms and a new perspective on the future of agriculture. We look forward to seeing many new and returning friends next year!



# Winter Games 2020, It's Time For a Birthday Party



On February 8th, Junior Farmers from across the province converged on Oxford County to participate in one of the best-attended provincial events of the year: Winter Games, held at Huron Park Secondary School in Woodstock. The event fell on the 19th birthday of Oxford JF member Liam Pullen, making the theme an easy one: Birthday Party!

Taking a bunch of farmers out of the barn and into the gym, members competed in several sporting events, including volleyball, floor hockey, basketball, and soccer. The highlight of the event was the mystery event, where teams had to pack as many members and party supplies into a car, getting points for each item they could fit, while still ensuring the driver could see out the windshield. Members got creative, putting each other in the hatchback or into a car seat, rocking out on the

old boombox, and making sure the pinata could fit as well! After all sports were completed, the over 100 attendees competed in a massive game of dodgeball, West versus East and Central Zones. Although the combined East and Central Zones won the game, a point was awarded to the last member standing in the West winning a point for her team for her valiant efforts.

While we tallied up the scores and cleaned up the school, the competitors were free to enjoy Woodstock for a few hours, and take advantage of deals at local restaurants for supper. After, it was time for the dance! We loaded up the buses and

headed to the Tavistock Memorial Hall, which has a long history of being THE place to host a JF dance. Our bartenders were all JF alumni, who were involved with planning the last time Oxford hosted Winter Games, back in 2003! A great time was had by all, with 180 people attending the dance.



The Overall Winning Team was Carleton JF, who went home with the pinata from the fill a car event earlier in the day, but this time we made sure to include the candy! In addition to providing more leadership opportunities for our members, this was a great for a cause near and dear to many of our members - Oxford JF will be donating the \$2400 bar proceeds to the Alzheimer's Society of Oxford. Overall, hosting Winter Games 2020 was a phenomenal event, giving us a great opportunity to showcase Oxford County, meet new friends from across the province while

reconnecting with old ones, and help build our community and our leadership skills.

*Submitted by Virginia Janssen*



# Club Reports

## Haldimand-Norfolk

Haldimand-Norfolk JF had a very busy week in early October running a food booth at the Norfolk County Fair. This past year marked H-N JF's 40th year of running the food booth! Thank you all the alumni, members, and family who volunteered and helped make it another successful year!



## Essex-Kent

Essex Kent hit the ground running and haven't looked back. Elections were held early in the new year seeing new faces join the clubs executive. Several new members have joined in the month of February alone. Although with everything going on the club has decided to hold off on running fundraisers at this time, but remains positive and continues to brainstorm new ideas for community betterment, recently Essex Kent shared a video of all members passing along their club shirt and have now challenged other clubs to make their own videos!

*By Meghan McLean*

## Wellington

It was a busy few months in 2019 for the Wellington County JF Club.

In April, we held our 12th annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser in support of food banks in our communities. Thanks to the support of the community, generous donations by local businesses and our silent auction we were able to donate \$400 to each of the following food banks: Drayton, Palmerston, Orangeville, Harriston, and Center Wellington.

On April 25th, 3 members volunteered at Minto Clifford Public School with the Breakfast Program along with making a donation towards their food costs.



We hosted the international delegates at the beginning of June for 1 week. Some of our activities included various farm and business tours, club BBQs, and a visit to the Elora Brewing Company for a club dinner.

March marked our new member recruitment night which was a board game cafe held at the Drayton Fair

Grounds.

The club was also able to volunteer at some local events including the Grand River Agricultural Society's Pizza Perfect Event where we helped to teach Grade 3 students about how agriculture plays a key role in all of the ingredients of a pizza. We also attended the Fergus Agriculture Society's Breakfast on the Farm event where we parked cars. Finally, we were able to volunteer at the Farm Safety Breakfast in Alma where numerous families attended and learned some farm safety tips while enjoying a pancake breakfast!

## Renfrew

Have you ever ridden in a bathtub on wheels going full-speed? After one long winter, summer is finally in full swing here in Renfrew County!

The club took the opportunity in May to partner with M&R Feeds, Micksburg and the Micksburg t-ball league, to complete a roadside clean up. We spent a Saturday afternoon clearing garbage and debris from about 10 km of ditches. With the work done, we also took an evening to relax with another "Learn to Two Step" night.



June brought another annual Leadership Camp. A couple of our members made it out for the weekend, taking the opportunity to

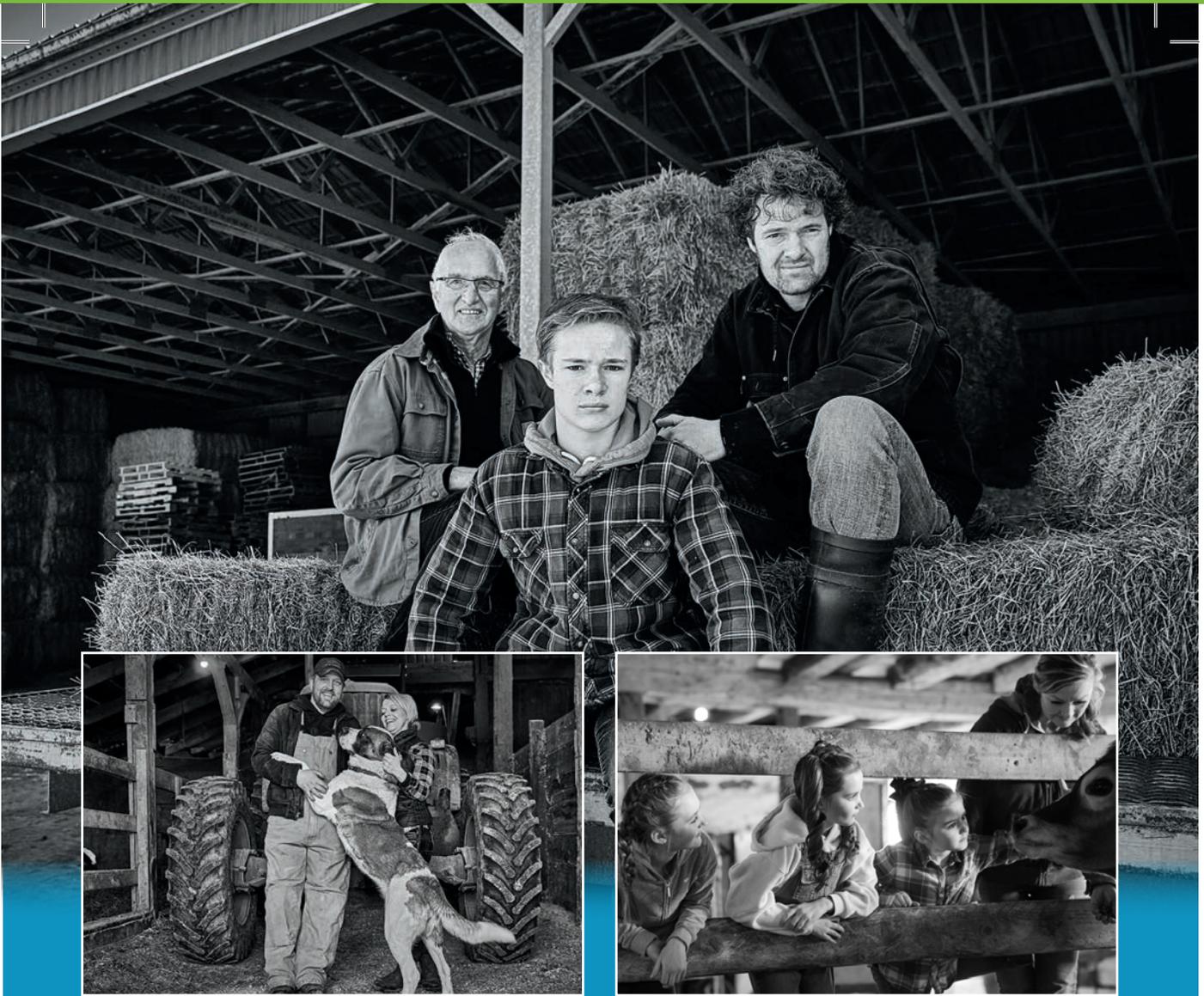
see good friends from all over the province while building teamwork skills. They even got to meet our incoming 2019 delegates prior to their arrival here in Renfrew County! We also sent a team to participate in Carleton County's annual Redneck Games, the day was filled with many laughs and ended with a dance held by the local fair board.



Since June 24th, the club has been touring our 2019 delegates all over Renfrew County for our two weeks of hosting. We have visited many local attractions and farms all over the county including the Bonnechere Caves, Hugli's Blueberry Ranch, Algonquin Park and many, many others. Our club is so grateful to all the farms and businesses who allow us to tour year after year and help us share what makes Renfrew County so special to us! With the delegates time here drawing to a close they are looking forward to spending their last day with us on the Ottawa river whitewater rafting!

*By Johanna Dwyer*





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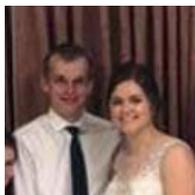


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# Announcements

## Marriages



Congratulations to Drew De Bruyn (Oxford) and Andrea (Smith) De Bruyn on their nuptials on December 7th.



Congratulations to Justin Kidd (Peterborough) and Lora Keitel on their nuptials on January 16th.

## Births



Luke (Oxford) and Kayla Ward (Oxford) are proud to announce the arrival of Jackson James Ward on April 6th.

## Engagements



University of Guelph JF is pleased to announce the engagement of Will Carson (UoG) and Abigail Adam (UoG).



# Professional Director

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## Cheers to Ontario's young farmers

A diverse and sustainable agri-food industry relies on the next generation of young farm families. OFA is committed to ensuring a bright future for new farmers across Ontario. We advocate for policies and programs that strengthen our industry and rural communities today, and lay the groundwork for new opportunities for generations of farmers to come.

OFA proudly supports the work of the Junior Farmers Association of Ontario with our current partnership. We actively invest in leadership programs to develop young leaders who will continue to drive sound public policy for Ontario's agri-food sector and rural communities.

Congratulations on another successful year, JFAO, and cheers to developing young farm leaders.

**OFA: Supporting the next generation of Ontario farmers.**

## JFAO Office Move

This fall the OFA will be moving to a new office and we will be going with them. Watch out for an announcement later this summer!

## Gate Signs

The Junior Farmers' Association of Ontario (JFAO) is pleased to offer gate signs. Gate signs can be proudly displayed at the end of your driveway or as part of your farm gate display. There are two sign options including, "Alumni Lives Here" and "Member Lives Here".

The initiative was launched at the 2016 International Plowing Match held in Wellington County. Due to the popularity of the gate signs, JFAO has extended the availability through an online store.

This is your chance to show your support and pride of JFAO!

Once you have your sign installed, share a photo with us on social media using the #ProudJFer hashtag or email [marketing@jfao.on.ca](mailto:marketing@jfao.on.ca). Select photos may be chosen to be featured on the JFAO website or marketing materials.



**Is your farm eligible?  
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2

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3

Click 'Century Farm Sign' and apply if you meet the requirements.

Contact Rinske van der Steege, Director of Community and International Programs, for more information at [rinske@jfao.on.ca](mailto:rinske@jfao.on.ca)

## All Summer In Person Summer Events Have Been Canceled

All are encouraged to participate in virtual gatherings and events

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and community betterment"

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E-mail: [editor@jfao.on.ca](mailto:editor@jfao.on.ca)

Ontario AgriCentre 100 Stone Rd W Suite 206

Guelph ON N1G 5L3

T: 519-780-5326 F: 519-821-8810 E-mail: [info@jfao.on.ca](mailto:info@jfao.on.ca) Web Site: [www.jfao.on.ca](http://www.jfao.on.ca)