



Volume 36 Issue 3 To build rural leaders through personal growth, travel, experiences, and community betterment

2025

President's Message

Good day everyone! I hope you have all enjoyed your first month into the new year, what a great month it has been with lots of snow. This month has been a busy one for all the clubs as affiliation reports, financial reports, rose awards, and annual reports were all due at the month so thank you everyone for sending it in to help us get ready for the upcoming year! We got lots of fun events that have happened and will be happening coming up, we had an amazing Curling Central zone social that was help put on by Arin and coming up we have our Winter Games up in Avonmore! Who know's maybe while you are up in Avonmore for winter games it might be worthwhile to take a side road trip over to the Rideau Canal and take a skate on the Sunday! Coming up in March we have March Conference which will consist of our AGM on the Friday and our Banquet on the Saturday, it's always a great time and looking forward to seeing you all out at it! These are going to be some fun events and I highly encourage you all to come on out to them. Don't forget if you haven't signed up to be a JF member for this year to do that! Stay safe and have another great month everyone!

In Junior Farmer spirit,



Carson Wagner Your 81st JFAO President



Sing Swing Attendees Nov 9, 2024 Fergus, ON

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Central Zone Director - nic@jfao.on.ca NEW

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Thank you to the support from



Upcoming Dates:

Winter Games Feb 8, 2025 Avonmore, ON

West Zone Social - Feb 23, 2025 St. Mary's Tubing

March Conference March 21-23 2025 Niagara Falls, ON



The Ontario Young Farmers Forum (OYFF)

Farm tour locations: Fox Den Farm Equestrian Facility, Circling Hawk Honey & Meadery

Guest speakers Senator Rob Black, Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC), Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association, Haggarty Ag Robotics, Panel session How to Deliver Powerful Municipal Delegation



Overall we had a great time at OYFF. We toured around the large acreage at Fox Den Farm and learned about pollo. We then went to see the process from hive to honey to mead at the Circling Hawk Honey & Meadery. We learned a lot during the speakers. ACC discussed mistakes new farmers make and how to avoid them. OSCIA talked about how to conduct research on farm and had us do a case study in groups, come up with our own question and how we would measure it. Haggerty Ag Robotics showed us several different innovative machines used on their farm for cultivation, planting and more. We join OFA for some of the meetings like the Pannel Session. We enjoyed spending time with the MFA and socializing. We also attended the Harvest Banquet and enjoyed learning some more line dancing!

March Conference



March 21-23, 2025

Early Bird- \$195 Deadline Feb 10th, 2025 Hotel Deadline Feb 20th, 2025 (not guaranteed after Feb 20th) Regular - \$235 deadline March 7th, 2025

Don't miss out on a weekend full of leadership activities, networking and recognizing those who have shown outstanding community betterment, locally and provincially. An action-packed conference with a dynamic group of speakers, sessions, and activities. The new executive, agricultural representatives and delegates are chosen for international exchanges.

Location: Marriott Fallsview Hotel, 6740 Fallsview Blvd, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada, L2G 3W6

Click here for more details: Delegate Package 2025 (jfao.on.ca)



It's time!! Get your seat reserved on the first JFAO alumni bus tour! Running in conjunction with MC 2025, let's support the current membership and show them what a great time looks like! Email jfaoalumni@gmail.com to book your seat, get further information on the tour including payment options and link to book your hotel room for the night!

ALUMNI - reserve your spot sooner than later, first come, first serve. Deadline to reserve is March 1st, 2025 OR when the bus sells out! 55 seats available!

Can't wait to see you all!!

Reservation-Link (marriott.com)

Link to hotel!

New JFAO Swag



Stay tuned for JFAO sweaters to go on sale!

Outgoing Exchange Application Open



Click Here: <u>Travel – Junior Farmers' Association of Ontario (jfao.on.ca)</u>



West Zone Social



Durham Region





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. 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 in April in Brooklin, ON. This program aims to promote and educate young children on 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 and take part and learn about farming.







Mark your calendars and join us on March 15 in the small town of Woodville, ON for Brian & Meghan's Jack and Jill! Contact Meghan McLeod or Brian Wetheral for tickets.

Essex-Kent



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 endeavors and know he will continue to do amazing things.

Essex-Kent



Get Ready for a Jumpin' Good Time!

Join the Essex-Kent JF Club for an evening full of fun, laughter, and plenty of bouncing at the Flying Squirrel Trampoline Park in Chatham!

Event: Essex-Kent JF Social Date: February 15th, 2025
Time: 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Location: Flying Squirrel Trampoline Park, 730 Richmond St, Chatham, ON N7M 5J5

Whether you're flying solo or bringing your squad, it's going to be an unforgettable experience! Meet new friends, have a blast, and make some awesome memories.

This event is open to anyone aged 15-29. Come hang out, connect, and join the fun!

Pro Tip: Be sure to grab your trampoline park tickets online ahead of time to secure your spot!

Got questions? Feel free to reach out via our socials for more info!

Don't miss out – we can't wait to see you there!

You can purchase tickets here: https://ecom.roller.app/flyin.../jumptime/en/product/1098930

Wellington



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! Wellington County Junior Farmers AGM is officially in the books! A huge thank you to everyone who came out – it was

wonderful to see both new faces and some familiar ones, along with a few

future Junior Farmers!

We're thrilled to announce our

Executive Team for 2025:

President: Amelia Judge

Vice President: Hunter Woods

Secretary: Laura Shaw

Treasurer: Laura Shaw

Provincial Director: Hiam Woods
Assistant Provincial Director: Hunter

Woods

Communications: Hunter Woods

Events: Amelia Judge

WFA: Hunter Woods & Laura Shaw



Had an amazing time hosting the Central Zone JF 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 to make it memorable! And a special shoutout to @arin.douglas - Happy 30th! Here's to many more years of curling and community!

Carleton





As winter has approached, Carleton members have continued to keep themselves busy! In November we did some community clean up by picking up garbage along a ditch. This was quickly followed by hosting a Trivia Night in support of local food banks. Participants were quizzed on a variety of things including animals, agriculture, world flags, movies and tv shows and more! A pie auction was also the cherry on top for a few lucky people who outbid the others!

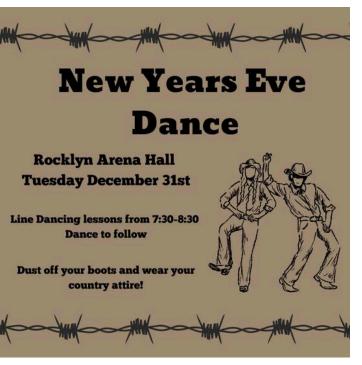
In December, we had the opportunity to participate in the Metcalfe Santa Parade. The Carleton Dairy Producers were kind enough to donate calendars and cheese strings for us to hand out, a fan favourite among many kids and parents. Over 1,000 cheese strings were handed out!

We then got into our Christmas spirit ourselves and handed out thank you baskets to some of our main sponsors and supporters! We also had our final meeting of the year which included a potluck and gift exchange. Carleton would like to wish everyone a very Happy Holidays!

Good luck to the incoming 2025 Carleton Exec, and all club Execs being elected in the new year.

We can't wait to see everyone in the east as our neighbours in Stormont-Glengarry host winter games!

Grey County





Happy New Year from the Grey County Junior Farmers!! Thanks to everyone who came out and danced away 2024 with us!

Come out to our 28th Annual Hockey tournament in March









ATTENTION



JFAO in the Media



December 2024

Better Farming Ontario | December 2024

See JFAO President Carson on Page 28-30



JFAO March Conference Niagara Falls!



March 21-23 Save BIG Early Bird Price \$195

Only until Feb 9!

https://www.jfao.on.ca/event-calendar/march-conference-2025/

Huron Perth

Huron Perth is proud of the things we have accomplished this past quarter. We ended the summer by volunteering at the Blyth festival during their Onion Skins and Peach Fuzz performance. This show was based on the farmerettes. These women looked after the farmland while the men fought in the war looking after the fields and gardens. Recently their work is getting the recognition the farmerettes deserve. It all started with a book, "Onion Skins and Peach Fuzz" by Bonnie Sitter then the play in Blyth by the same name. Now Bonnie is gathering stories from farmerettes who worked long hours during the war capturing the past to share in a documentary. Her dream is to share the story of the farmerettes to the world. As our club learned more about the farmerettes we became very passionate too. Being the next young farmers and workers in our community we felt they could use our help. We were able to use the play as an opportunity to present a donation of \$500 towards the farmerette documentary and are excited to watch when it premieres.



Kelsey, Isabel (Farmerette), Bonnie, Kirsten, Jolande, Jeanette

This September we returned to Blyth for the Pioneer threshers reunion. We spent 3 days in a tent filled with all kinds of farm animals. Our Residents this year included calves, alpacas, pigs, goats, sheep and an assortment of birds. Something new that we added some activities for the kids to take home and we also made a video listing an interesting fact or two about the animals for people who didn't get the chance to come chat with us. Its always fun to help the little ones learn about agriculture.

Huron Perth

In the middle of the month we took part in the Seaforth fall parade enjoying the sunshine. We stayed volunteering throughout the day where we were needed in the lego area, photo booth and ran the pedal pull. Shortly after we had a mini golf social at the Sky Ranch in Goderich. In the photo below there is Chloe, Amber, Kelsey, Will, Cassie, Kirsten, Sean, Amanda, Lauren, Jeanette



In October we got up to some halloween fun starting with Autumn Profile hosted by Middlesex and our club partnered with Wentworth- Niagara. We took to the challenge with bobbing for apples, balancing and group activities. Our members also worked on their artistic skills pumpkin carving. The fun didn't stop there as everyone dressed up for the dance.



Huron Perth

Our club's October meeting was a pumpkin carving, some made jack o'lanterns, one included the Huron Perth logo, there was a cowboy boot, bat, spider and a lamb. It wouldn't be junior farmers without some farm inspiration. In November we challenged our members to some curling at Vanastra's Curling Club testing our balance. Only a few incidents but we kept our balance and had a blast.

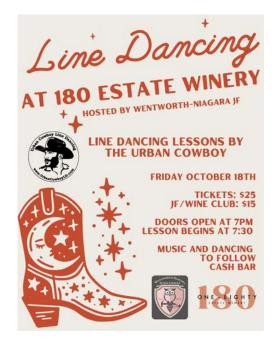


We got into the Christmas spirit at the Listowel Christmas parade Nov 30th and Clinton Christmas parade Dec 6th. For our club's Christmas social we did some ornament painting. Afterwards we made some promotional videos prepping for Jolades roast and toast coming up in the new year on Jan 11. Hope to see everyone there, ware ready for a night of celebration and cheer



Wentworth-Niagara

Wentworth-Niagara held a successful Learn to Line Dance night at 180 Estates Winery back in October. Many members from WN and other clubs came out, as well as a lot of the public. The Lesson was led by Urban Cowboy Line Dancing, and it was a great night of dancing. We will be holding another line dance night in late spring, details will be posted on the Wentworth-Niagara socials.







Wentworth-Niagara





OYFF was held in conjunction with the OFAs AGM once again back in November, with another great turnout this year. On the Monday afternoon, we toured Fox Den Equestrian Facility, which is the home of the Toronto Polo club, where we learned about the sport of polo and the training the horses get. We then visited Circling Hawk Honey & Mead, where we learned about raising bees and making mead, and then got to sample some mead. The second day started off with some great presentation from Agricultural Credit Corporation, **Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association,** and Haggerty AgRobotics, as well as some great networking opportunities with the OFA delegation. The two-day event was full of great discussion and a lot of fun, and some great connections were made. We look forward to seeing everyone again for OYFF next year.







Wentworth-Niagara



On Nov 30, we had the opportunity to tour Van Zanten Floral, a fresh cut lily greenhouse. We learned about how the bulbs are sourced, ways the flowers are grown to maintain it's shape, to being harvested, packaged and stored, and how the soil is prepared for new bulbs. The club also learned about the industry, and it's growth and when the industry struggled. We had a great time learning more about the Van Zanten family and they're involvement in the floral industry in Niagara.





Wentworth-Niagara celebrated the Christmas season with some cookie decorating! Our members got together, shared some laughs, and showed of our skills with some sugar cookie decorating. Our Next meeting will be held on January 9th, details will be posted to the Wentworth-Niagara socials.



Middlesex











Merry Christmas from Middlesex! We had a busy season to end the year off. I would like to thank Wellington club for hosting Sing Swing where we had seven members attend, three of which attended for the first time, and won 3rd place overall! When we headed back we handed out 251 Harvest bags to farmers in the area finishing up corn. Our members also took part in the Thorndale and Poplar Hill CHristmas Parades. On November 22nd, we sponsored placemats for the Ilderton 4H banquet and advertised to the 4 H members in the area. In December we held our annual Christmas Party where we had a butter sculpting competition and enjoyed playing games. We also donated \$400 in toys to London's Children's Hospital. We look forward to having more fun and memories in the New Year!

Sponsors



A Bright Future for Farmers: Setting the Stage to Support the Next Generation

Forty percent of Canadian farm operators are expected to retire by 2033, leaving a potential workforce gap of 24,000. So why aren't more people taking up the mantle and stepping into an industry with potentially plenty of prospects and job security?

One explanation is that young producers simply aren't that interested in following in their parents' and grandparents' footsteps. Another is that farm succession isn't as straightforward as it used to be. Family farms are facing higher costs and increased competition. A lack of rural investment is also pushing more and more young people toward the higher standard of living cities offer.

There's still hope for Canada's family farms, but it will require a coordinated effort by the current and next generation of owners, funders, advisors, and all levels of government.

Key takeaways from this article include:

- Develop robust succession plans: Proactive planning is essential for smooth transitions in farm ownership.
- Increase automation: Investments made today can help maintain productivity, reduce labour demands, and save costs over the long term.
- Enhance educational investments: The next generation needs help managing high operational costs and adapting to advanced agricultural practices.
- Address rural infrastructure deficits: It's time to close the rural/urban divide by improving connectivity and services to make rural areas viable for farmers.



Click here to read full article:

Oxford







Oxford JF has been busy these past couple of months! In October, we attended Autumn Profile in Middlesex County, where one of Oxford's teams came in first place. Middlesex JF put on a great dance and event! We also had a car rally as our October social. It was an enjoyable afternoon driving around Oxford County, completing random tasks and collecting random items. In November, Oxford attended Sing Swing in Fergus. Our members put in lots of entries and brought quite a few ribbons home. It was a really fun day put on by Wellington JF. We have put a few floats in Christmas parades and we just recently had our Christmas party. It has quieted down for the holiday season but we are ready to pick it back up in January for lots more events coming our

way!

Renfrew







We had a great time last weekend with our bottle drive and participating in the Cobden Santa Claus Parade. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the bottle drive—it was another huge success!





Announcements



Amelia Judge & Elbert Bouwman, both of Wellington JF, had their Buck & Doe on Saturday, February 1st, 2025. Started at 7pm at the Erin Legion. There was a door prize, raffles, a cash bar, food, and a live country band.

We hope everyone had a great time!

Wedding Announcements

Congratulations go out to...

DRJF is thrilled to announce the engagement of Brian Wetheral & Meghan McLeod. The date has been set for July 12, 2025.







Have an announcement you'd like to share? Please share your announcement and a photo for us to feature in the next edition!

Email: christena@jfao.on.ca

Baby Announcements Congratulations go out to...



On behalf of Middlesex JF we would like to share the news of Alicia and Will Johnson's newborn baby Anna Grace Johnson born Nov 3, 2024 7lbs 4oz 19" long.

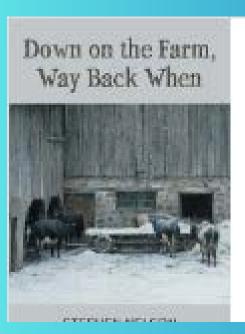
Both mom and baby are doing great



Have an announcement you'd like to share? Please share your announcement and a photo for us to feature in the next edition!

Email: christena@jfao.on.ca

Announcements



Down on the Farm, Way Back When at the FriesenPress...

Dad would warn me to stay back from the barn door when he let the cows out for the first time at the end of a long...

books.friesenpress.com

Stephen Nelson's memoir about growing up on a dairy farm near Campbellford, Ontario.

"A section is about Junior Farmers and 4-H. I think it would be interesting to current and former members. My father, Earle R. Nelson was a former Northumberland County past president."

Regards from Stephen Nelson

Learning Opportunities







Feb. 11, 2025 9 am – 12 pm Kemptville Equinelle Golf Club 140 Equinelle Drive Kemptville, ON K0G 1J0

Feb. 27, 2025 9 am - 12 pm
London
Best Western Plus Stoneridge Inn
& Conference Centre
6675 Burtwistle Lane London, ON
N6I 1H5

Click to learn more

The OFA Financial Literacy and Farm Succession Planning Road Show, presented by **Farm Life Financial**, will provide education on financial strategies for farms and farmers, as well as succession planning tools to keep the farm in the family.

Join us for education sessions focusing on family harmony, tax advantages, and reaching goals of both generations, these seminars will leave attendees with a deeper understanding of how to transition the family farm while being fair to all family members.

This workshop is most suitable for:

- Multi-generation farm families looking for succession planning tools and support
- · Concerns about taxation with rise in farm value
- · Families concerned about maintaining family harmony throughout the succession process
- · Incorporated or considering incorporation

Please note, while these events are snow or shine, if inclement weather prevents you from travelling safely to a workshop, you can always join our virtual workshop on March 6.

Mar. 4, 2025 9 am – 12 pm

Mount Forest

Mount Forest & District Sports

Complex

850 Princess Street Mount Forest,

ON NOG 213

March. 5, 20259 am – 12 pm Dunnville Dunnville Community & Lifespan Centre 275 Ramsey Drive Dunnville, ON N1A 0A7

March. 6, 2025 9 am – 12 pm Virtual Workshop Online Workshop

Learning Opportunities



This workshop is uniquely designed to engage multiple generations working together on the family farm in meaningful discussions to better understand each other's concerns and considerations for the farm's future.

"This was the first time that all four of us have been encouraged to attend the same learning event together. Usually, only one person can attend and attempt to bring home the information and try to relay what they learned. This was a priceless experience."

Attendees will work through sessions on planning, communication, navigating resistance, working with your transition team, and gaining access to valuable resources and tools to help them along the way.

Attendees will be encouraged to ask questions and discuss their farming situations with the group for an opportunity to share insights, transfer knowledge, and network. Farms of all sizes & commodities are welcome.

The Bridging the Gap Workshop welcomes farm families to work with Farm Management Canada and our presenting partners, MNP, RBC, FCC and Ritchie Bros., to help them make meaningful progress in their farm transition journey.

Learning Opportunities



For the second year in a row, the Canadian Dairy XPO is hosting our Canadian Dairy Business Summit in Stratford, Ontario. This year, we would like to grow the opportunity for our next generation to get involved by offering 50% off to anyone 18-30 years of age.

Although this event is hosted by Canadian Dairy XPO and the expo itself focuses on Dairy, we firmly believe the content covered will help those in all parts of the agriculture industry, focusing on integral concepts to the world of business and agriculture and taught by industry specialists. We hope that, by offering this financial relief, we can encourage and enable those that may be at a stage in life where the full cost of the event is a barrier to knowledge and networking.

For all currently published information including our full list of speakers, see our Summit page at https://dairyxpo.ticketspice.com/canadian-dairy-business-summit-2025-

Canadian Dairy Business Summit 2025

Get tickets online for Canadian Dairy Business Summit 2025 here

dairyxpo.ticketspice.com

4-H



Find a 4-H project near you!

Join fellow youth in 2025 to Learn To Do By Doing with 4-H. With hundreds of available projects, there is something for everyone across the province. Learn about available projects here: https://4-hontario.ca/youth/available-projects/

Communications Awards



JFAO-2024-Communication-Awards.pdf

Official Documents and Forms – Junior Farmers' Association of Ontario (jfao.on.ca)

Century Farm Signs

Is your farm eligible? See for yourself! Head on over to https://www.jfao.on.ca/resources/century-farm-sign

Signs are now available in French!

Contact Sarah Danen, Director of Community and International Programs, for more information at sarah@jfao.on.ca









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". Due to the popularity of the gate signs, JFAO has extended the availability through an online store (click here). 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.. Select photos may be chosen to be featured on the JFAO website or marketing materials





Sponsors

2024 Gold Sponsor



2024 Bronze Sponsors



2024 Friends of JFAO Sponsor



The JF Bullhorn is published quarterly by the
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"To build rural leaders through personal growth, travel, experiences,
and community betterment"

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