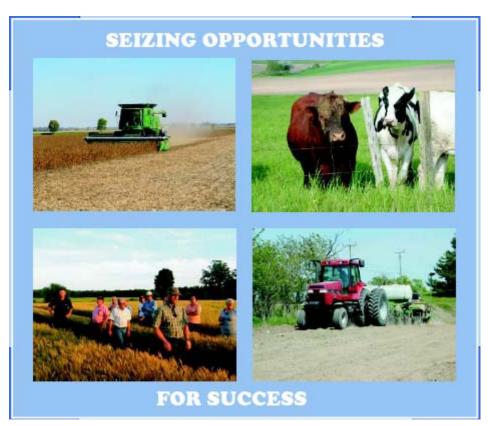
FarmSmart Agricultural Conference 2009



The FarmSmart Agricultural Conference celebrated its 11th Edition on Sat. Jan. 17th, 2009. The conference began at Redeemer College in Ancaster in 1999 and moved to the University of Guelph main campus in 2003. FarmSmart wishes to thank the many participants, organizers, speakers and sponsors who have supported this conference over the past 10 years.

FarmSmart is an agricultural conference designed to address the needs of agriculture in the midwestern to central Ontario regions of the province was held on Sat. Jan 19th, 2008. Over 500 participants attended and over 750 people were involved in the conference. The 2009 conference theme of "Siezing Opportunities" highlighted the many past achievements of Ontario Agriculture and the many opportunities and challenges that face the sector in the future.



The FarmSmart Agricultural Conference is produced in partnership between OMAFRA, Golden Horseshoe and Heartland Regional Soil and Crop Improvement Associations, The University of Guelph and is supported by Ontario's Agricultural Industry.

The conference mandate is to provide an opportunity for farmers, extension, academics and industry to interact and learn from a series of approximately 40 sessions held in concurrent format throughout the day. Topics included crop and livestock production sessions along with nutrient management, alternative energy, business management, general interest and others. A series of computer workshops in the OAC multi media laboratory including various financial and precision agriculture software tools. Participants chose their own program from the diverse slate of topics allowing each participant to tailor the day to their interests and requirements.

The Youth Program was again a great success with close to 40 participating. We continue to emphasize this aspect of the conference. Kids, come out and have a fun and interesting day exploring the University of Guelph and all it has to offer.

Our feature speaker was Mr. Kip Tom from Indiana USA who described his farming enterprises in both the US and Argentina. He challenged us on the changing face of agriculture and how to be an active participation in the exciting future of agriculture.

FarmSmart 2009 was an outstanding success and all the partners are looking forward to bringing you FarmSmart 2009 on January 23rd, 2010. Mark your calendars today, so as not to miss the exciting and informative chance to join fellow producers, industry, extension and academics at next year's event.

Stay current with FarmSmart Ag Conference news by monitoring our website at: <u>http://www.uoguelph.ca/farmsmart</u>

Event Contact

Ian McDonald, OMAFRA, Guelph, <u>ian.mcdonald@ontario.ca</u>, 519-824-4210 ext. 56707