

For Immediate Release

New Farm & Food Care Ontario executive elected

June 27, 2016 (Guelph) – The Farm & Food Care Ontario Board of Directors elected a new Executive Committee at its meeting on June 21.

- **Brian Gilroy** has taken the position of chair, replacing long-time chair John Maaskant. Gilroy is an apple grower from Meaford who was nominated to the board by the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association.
- **Christine Schoonderwoerd** of Mitchell moves into the role of vice-chair. She was nominated to the board by Wallenstein Feed and Supply Ltd.
- New director **Sandi Brock** of Staffa takes over the role of secretary at-large from retiring director Beth Clark. Brock was nominated to the board by the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency.
- **Jim Gowland** of Holyrood is now treasurer. Gowland was nominated to the board by the Ontario Bean Growers and replaces Joe Hickson (nominated by the Ontario Seed Growers' Association) who continues to serve as a director.

Other directors elected or re-elected at Farm & Food Care's annual meeting in April include Bruce Christie (Nutreco Canada), Heather Copland (Grober Inc.), Dave McEachren (Grain Farmers of Ontario), Les Nichols (Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association), Gerald Rollins (Beef Farmers of Ontario) and Peter van Sleuwen (Dairy Farmers of Ontario).

"The people I have worked with through Farm & Food Care Ontario have really inspired me to take on greater challenges," said Gilroy. "There is an ever-increasing group of educated, interested Canadians that we need to reach. We face unique and changing issues, and I hope I can help the organization build on the great work that has already been done."

Farm & Food Care Ontario would also like to thank John Maaskant for his extensive service. Maaskant – who was acclaimed as past chair at the meeting – has held the position of chair since the organization's inception in 2012. He was also chairman of one of Farm & Food Care Ontario's predecessor organization – the Ontario Farm Animal Council – since 2003 and led the organization through the amalgamation process with AGCare. He will continue to be involved with the organization as a board member nominated by Chicken Farmers of Ontario.

"John's contributions to the organization has been an integral part of our direction and our success," said Tracy Hussey, Executive Director of Farm & Food Care Ontario. "He'll continue to be an important part of this organization as we plan for the future."

Farm & Food Care Ontario is a coalition of farmers, agriculture and food partners proactively working together to ensure public trust and confidence in food and farming. For more information visit www.FarmFoodCareON.org.

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