



# CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY REPORT 2009



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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRS



John Maaskant



Richard Blyleven

As the 2009 chairmen of the Ontario Farm Animal Council (OFAC) and AGCare (Agricultural Groups Concerned about Resources and the Environment), we are pleased to be cooperating on this issue of our groups' Corporate Social Responsibility document and annual meetings.

The last few years have brought a shared vision to our two groups that we're both proud to have been a part of. Our groups have worked together for many years, but our partnership really flourished in 2005 when we moved into shared offices in the Ontario AgriCentre in Guelph. The following year we held our first collective annual meeting – a tradition that has become popular with our members and has enabled us to put on a world calibre speakers' program each year for attendees.

In the five years since we took up residence together, our organizations have aligned themselves even more closely. We now cooperate on many new initiatives and budget line items. We also share staff resources. All of these endeavours help to ensure that the limited resources of our small organizations go as far as possible. We know this is the best use of the money entrusted to us by our members and we're aware that every dollar we save in administration costs is another dollar we can put towards further extending our public awareness and issue-based initiatives.

2010 marks another experiment within our two organizations. While AGCare's Executive Director is on maternity leave, we're now sharing an Executive Director and some additional projects. Over the next year, our groups will continue to examine how enhanced partnerships could work in the future.

The last fifty years have seen tremendous changes in farming in Canada. With most Canadians living in towns and cities, the average consumer often doesn't realize how agriculture has changed – or why it has changed. For the last two decades, OFAC and AGCare have increasingly been called upon to serve as credible and knowledgeable voices about farming in this province. As coalitions, we're committed to being communications leaders within the farming community and in the communities that we live in, work in and provide agricultural services for.

As chairmen of our respective organizations, we're proud of the work our groups and our staff are doing – and will continue to do – on our members' behalf. We hope our members feel the same.

Sincerely,

John Maaskant  
*OFAC Chair, 2009*

Richard Blyleven  
*AGCare Chair, 2009*

## OFAC and AGCare's key areas of Corporate Social Responsibility

OFAC and AGCare's 2009 Corporate Social Responsibility document is based on four key areas of service to our members, industry, land and our farm animals through various projects and initiatives in the areas of **Community and Industry Leadership, Caring for the Environment, Farm Animal Care and Consumer Outreach.**



## COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP

### Celebrating Farmers & Supporting Ontario's Food Banks

Over 200 people attended the second annual Ontario Harvest Gala in October which raised about \$8,000 for OFAC and the Ontario Association of Food Banks (OAFB). This event is a celebration of Ontario's bountiful harvest and the people who make it happen. OFAC was a partner in the Buy Local Share Local program, where 235,000 lbs of fresh food was donated at 25 farmer's markets across Ontario to the OAFB. This is just one small example of farmers donating food. There are many other programs and generous individuals.

The event also honoured the partners in the Provincial Milk Program: Dairy Farmers of Ontario, the Ontario Dairy Council, and the Ontario Milk Transport Association who were given the annual Paul Mistele Memorial award by the OAFB. The provincial Milk Program has been an important source of nutritious milk for food banks in Ontario for over a decade. Each year, approximately one million litres of milk are donated and delivered to OAFB member food banks - donated by dairy farmers, transported by the milk transporters, and processed and packaged by the dairy processors.

### Proudly Presenting Agriculture – Young Ambassador Program

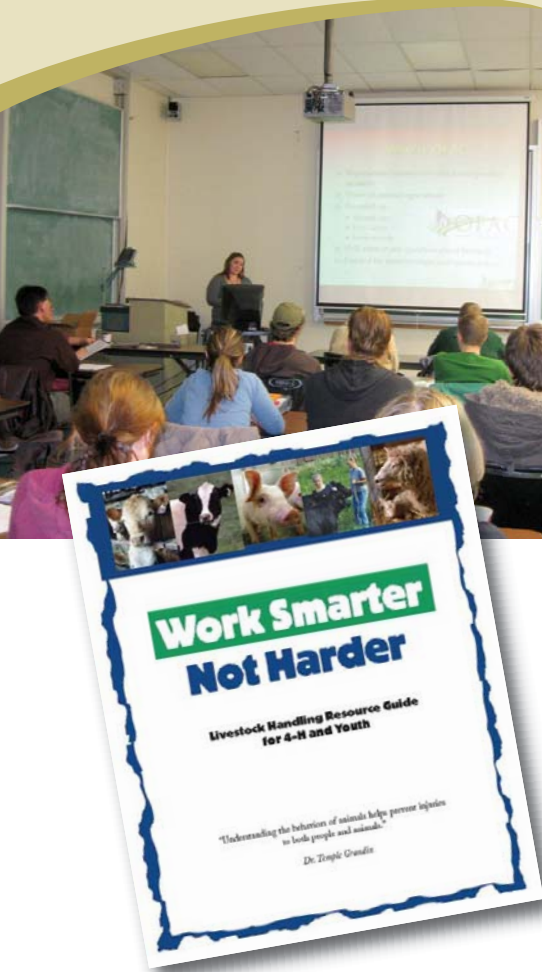
Five workshops were coordinated by OFAC in 2009 to give 160 young agricultural ambassadors the tools they need to talk to the public about food and farming. Students at the Kemptville, Ridgetown and Guelph campuses of the University of Guelph as well as Ontario's fall fair ambassadors and youth attending the Ontario Pork Congress all participated in the initiative in 2009 which was sponsored, in part, by the Ontario Pork Industry Council.

### Resources for 4-H Leaders

OFAC has always believed that reaching the next generation of farmers and ranchers is an excellent investment. For this reason, we partnered with the other Canadian farm animal councils on a new resource for 4-H leaders that focuses on new and improved methods for handling livestock in a low stress manner. A total of 1,800 complimentary copies of a Safe Livestock Handling leaders' package, including DVDs to show at meetings, have now been distributed to 4-H clubs in Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta with more available from the OFAC office. These resources are all featured on [www.livestockwelfare.com](http://www.livestockwelfare.com).

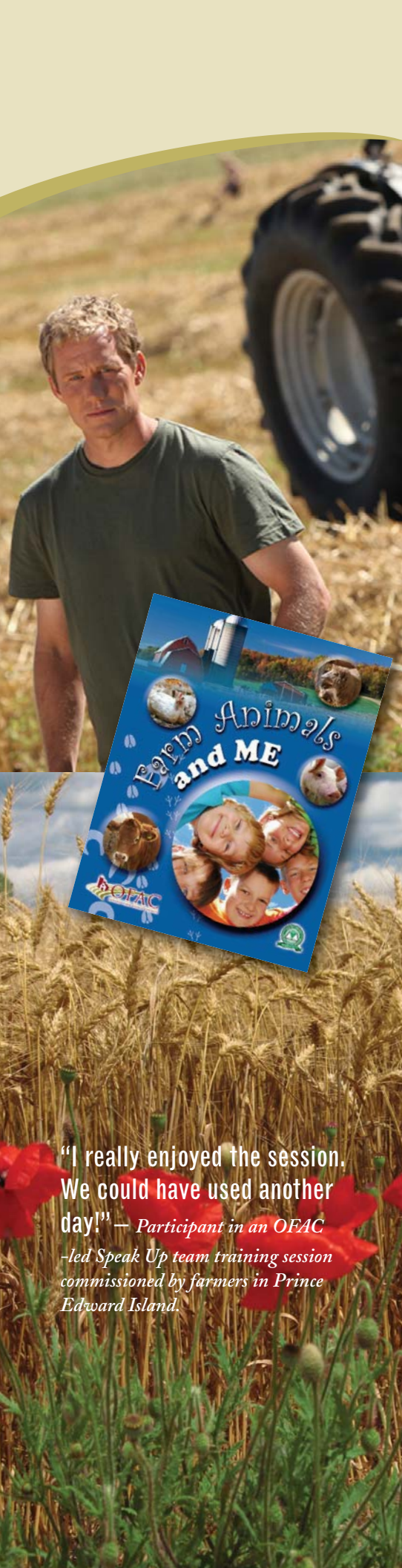
**"Everyone could benefit from expanding their knowledge and abilities and learn to be better ambassadors of agriculture"**

— Proudly Presenting Agriculture Workshop Participant



*Bill Emmott, chair of Dairy Farmers of Ontario, accepts an award from the OAFB on behalf of partners in the Provincial Milk Program.*





**"I really enjoyed the session. We could have used another day!"** — *Participant in an OFAC-led Speak Up team training session commissioned by farmers in Prince Edward Island.*

## Meet the Media

Trying to find a reliable source for articles on food and farming can sometimes be a frustrating process for media unfamiliar with agriculture. To help with this issue, AGCare and OFAC staff have been meeting with media representatives over the last two years to introduce the two organizations and offer up story ideas and sources.

To date, meetings have been held with media in Kitchener, London, Guelph, Toronto and Ottawa. OFAC and AGCare's annual media farm tour program has also helped to further develop these relationships.

Several stories that appeared in Ontario newspapers in 2009 were a direct result of the contacts forged during these visits – including features on speakers at the 2009 annual meeting, farms toured during the Toronto and Ottawa media tours, the London student culinary tour, the Faces of Farming calendar and many more.

## Educating the educators

OFAC and AGCare both depend on Ontario Agri Food Education (OAFE) to reach educators with agriculture's messages and our resources. Both OFAC and AGCare offer up resources, at no charge, to Ontario teachers who are always pleased to have new materials to use in their classrooms.

OFAC cooperates with Ontario Agri Food Education (OAFE) on an exhibit at the annual convention of the Science Teachers' Association of Ontario – a convention that attracts 2,000 teachers over a three day period. In 2009, OFAC launched an updated version of a very popular resource, "Animals and Me" at the convention, distributing it to all primary teachers in attendance. Teachers can order this new resource online at [www.oafe.org](http://www.oafe.org)

## Providing issue-specific expertise

On behalf of its members, AGCare is actively involved in the following committees:

- Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition Steering Committee (OFEC)
  - OFEC Environmental Farm Plan Working Group
  - OFEC Nutrient Management Working Group
  - OFEC Water Quality Working Group
- Ontario Biodiversity Council
- Ontario Pesticide Education Program (OPEP)

On behalf of its members, OFAC is actively involved in the following committees:

- Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition Steering Committee (OFEC)
- OMAFRA Research Advisory Network – Livestock Advisory Group
- Ontario Humane Transport Working Group
- National Farm Animal Care Council

OFAC staff spoke to more than 60 audiences at industry, community and municipal council meetings as well as college and university classrooms in 2009 on topics related to farm animal care.





## CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

### Agriculture Hits the Trails

A series of hiking trail signs highlighting environmental accomplishments by farmers was unveiled by AGCare in Ontario's Greenbelt last fall. Sixty signs have been installed along popular hiking trails covering more than 1,000 km in the Greenbelt – an area of permanently protected farmland, forests, wetlands and green space in southern Ontario – as a way of showcasing the many environmental improvements farmers make to land, air and water.

The signs host information on Environmental Farm Plans, how farmers are reducing greenhouse gas emissions, how farmland provides us with many environmental benefits such as wildlife habitat, how farmers are protecting water quality, and the importance of buying local food.



The *Agriculture Hits the Trails* project was designed to share this information with trail users within the Greenbelt. Many hiking trails within Ontario's Greenbelt are located on or near farmland, allowing trail users the opportunity to see farmers' commitment to the environment first-hand. Regions where city meets farm are also where the greatest efforts are needed to boost understanding between urban and rural dwellers, especially with regards to farming and farming practices. Only approximately two percent of Canadians are directly involved in agriculture.

Partnering with AGCare on this project were OFAC and the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation, as well as conservation partners like Conservation Ontario, Credit Valley Conservation, Conservation Halton, Hamilton Conservation Authority, the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, the Bruce Trail Association and the Oak Ridges Trail Association.

The signage artwork and messaging is available from AGCare for other groups to use to develop and install additional signs in other regions.



### CleanFARMS™ collection program

In October 2009, sixteen locations across Ontario were designated collection sites where farmers could bring their obsolete pesticides, unused animal health products and used sharps (needles, syringes and scalpel blades). The CleanFARMS™ program was part of an Ontario government-supported Great Lakes Basin water quality initiative that offered farmers a free, safe way to recycle and dispose of these items. The concept of collecting animal health-related products alongside pesticides was the first of its kind in North America.



The response from the agricultural community to this collection program was tremendous. Of the approximately 1,000 participants, approximately 85 percent returned obsolete crop protection products for safe, environmentally responsible disposal.

Led by AGCare, the collection initiative resulted in participants returning 1,180 kg of pharmaceuticals, 1,063 kg of discarded sharps and 97,967 kg of pesticides. The project was funded by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs through the Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem, and by CropLife Canada and the Canadian Animal Health Institute. Other program partners included OFAC, the Ontario Agri-Business Association and the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association.



## Source Water Protection

AGCare continues to work within the Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition (OFEC) and with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture to deal with Source Water Protection issues and support our agricultural representatives as the nineteen local Source Protection Committees (SPCs) work on their local plans under the Clean Water Act.


**Grower Requested Own Use (GROU) Program**

How to use the program - a grower's guide  
Issue: 17, 2008

**Background**  
GROU (Grower Requested Own Use) is a federal government program that allows growers to import the 19 varieties of Canadian registered crop protection products for their own use should they be available in the US at a lower price than in Canada.  
The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) evaluates all nominated products to determine their eligibility for the program. The GROU Nominations Committee selects high priority products and requests that PMRA make them available for import.  
Once a product has been approved for import, growers must submit an application for a GROU Import Certificate along with the container label and proof of participation in an acceptable container disposal program to the PMRA prior to being able to bring it into Canada. GROU products can only be purchased and imported by growers for their own use on their land and for non-growing seasons only.

**How to import products through GROU**

1. Complete, sign and date a GROU Import Certificate, version PMRA/AGC A-220 (07/2007). The version code is located in the lower left hand corner of the form.  
Applications for GROU Import Certificates are available from PMRA, their website: <http://www.pmr.gc.ca>, [applications@pmra.gc.ca](mailto:applications@pmra.gc.ca), 1-877-PMRA-0000, 1-877-PMRA-0000 or their toll free line: 1-800-925-0855. To speed up the delivery of Import Certificate applications, growers can fax their documents to PMRA. If you include a pre-paid container return envelope, PMRA will mail the Import Certificate back to you. In Ontario, the regional PMRA office is located at 252 Broadview Road, Unit 20, Toronto, ON M4M 1B7, Tel: 416-925-0855, Fax: 416-925-2125.  
You must fill out a separate Import Certificate form for each product you wish to import, even if you are importing more than one unit. Import Certificates can only be used once, so even if you wish to import more of the same product at a later date, you will have to re-apply for a new Certificate.
2. Obtain a copy of the container label of the product(s) you wish to import. To find these, visit <http://label.consumers.gc.ca>, which is a website where you can search for the label of the GROU approved product list. Container labels and Directions for Use labels can both be found on the right hand side of the sheet of approved products. Print out the container label for the product(s) you wish to import and submit it with your application. You do not need to submit the Directions for Use labels.
3. Make sure you are a registered participant in an acceptable container disposal program. For more information, visit <http://www.agricanadisa.org>. You can register and print your container disposal form on the site. You will need a credit card for payment.



**AGCare**  
www.agcare.ca  
1-800-925-0855

4. Send the completed GROU Import Certificate application, along with a copy of the Import Certificate label and proof of participation in an acceptable container disposal program to:  
**The PMRA/AGC Program**  
270 Riverside Drive, A.J., 16020,  
16020, Ontario  
K1A 0S9  
PMRA/AGC 270-270-2700  
Make sure you keep copies of all of your paper work for your own files.

5. If approved, PMRA will return to you your GROU Import Certificate (issued with the 19 complete for each product). This is the document Import Certificate you will need to import the product.

The approved products can take two to five weeks, which includes Canada Post delivery time.

6. Once you have the approved Import Certificate, you can buy, import and use your product within specific dates.

7. Before buying and importing your product, please note that you should also:

- a. Ensure that you have a valid Canadian passport or appropriate identification. The US will require a passport or US-approved enhanced driver's license for anyone entering the US as of June 1, 2009.
- b. Ensure that you have a Business Number issued by the government of Canada. If you have a GST number, that is your Business Number. If you do not have one, you will need to apply online (<http://business.gc.ca>).
- c. Ensure that you have a valid Canadian passport or appropriate identification. The US will require a passport or US-approved enhanced driver's license for anyone entering the US as of June 1, 2009.
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## GROU Program

Working with parent organizations, AGCare in 2009 again submitted a list of pesticide products important to be nominated for inclusion in the Grower Requested Own Use (GROU) program.

GROU allows farmers to import crop protection products into Canada from the United States for their own use. In order to become part of the program, the products sold on either side of the border must be identical to each other. Currently, there are 19 products approved for import under GROU. However, fewer than a dozen import certificates have been applied for by growers since GROU was launched in 2007.







“This course provided lots of interesting information on handling pigs in an emergency. I work a lot with hog transporters and a lot of this info will be relayed to them.” - Participant in an OFAC-sponsored Livestock Transportation Emergency Course.

## FARM ANIMAL CARE

### Enhancing farm animal care – in transit

In November of 2009, OFAC began offering the new Certified Livestock Transport (CLT) courses for transporters of any farm species in addition to the Transport Quality Assurance (TQA) courses it was offering for transporters of hogs. The course provides a common sense, fact-based approach to give professional livestock and poultry transport drivers the information and the tools they need to safely and humanely transport livestock in Canada.

To date, a total of 70 drivers from 10 livestock transport companies have successfully completed the program with many more drivers registering for the day-long course each week.

### Regulations and Consultations

In 2009, OFAC was active in government consultations on behalf of our members, first with the Ministry of Consumer Safety and Correctional Services on Bill 50 – the OSPCA Act and then again with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs leading up to the introduction of Bill 204 – the Animal Health Act.

On behalf of its members, OFAC presented to the Standing Committee on Justice Policy regarding Bill 50 and then to the Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly with recommendations regarding Bill 204 which passed third reading late last year.

In 2009, the National Farm Animal Council and the Dairy Farmers of Canada took the lead in implementing a new process for developing a new Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle. OFAC coordinated detailed input for this Code on behalf of our dairy industry members and will continue to work with dairy farmers to promote this new standard. Codes of Practice for farm animals are all available on [www.nfacc.ca](http://www.nfacc.ca).

### Barn Fire Resources

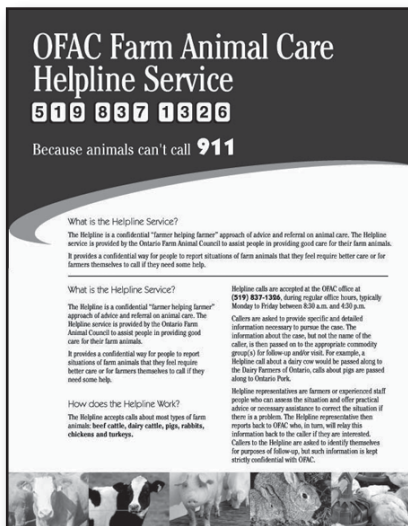
Farm fires are always devastating events and having livestock or poultry on those farms increases the challenges. OFAC continues its work on livestock emergencies and, in 2009, produced a brochure called “Dealing with the aftermath of a livestock or poultry barn fire”.

The document identifies issues that producers will need to address when dealing with a fire. Almost 50,000 copies of the brochure have been distributed through OFAC’s member organizations and through the Ontario Mutual Insurance Association. Additional livestock emergency-related resources are available on [www.ofac.org](http://www.ofac.org).





*Dr. Temple Grandin*



*Livestock Transport  
Emergency Training with  
Jennifer Woods*

## Bringing expertise to Ontario

It has always been important to OFAC to help its members have access to world-calibre speakers and training opportunities.

For this reason, OFAC brought internationally-renowned animal behavioural specialist Dr. Temple Grandin to Guelph in May of 2009 to offer a unique members-only intimate half day session with her. OFAC also offered a first of its kind humane animal handling workshop with Dr. Grandin for 88 Ontario staff working at meat processing plants. This half-day forum focused on the humane handling and stunning of livestock.

OFAC also used the expertise of Jennifer Woods, Canada's foremost expert in livestock transportation emergencies, to coordinate two sold-out emergency courses for 75 police, firefighters and OSPCA officials in Mississauga and Brampton last year. These courses give the emergency personnel the expertise they will require if faced with a transportation emergency on a highway in their coverage area.

## Farm Animal Care Helpline Service – 519-837-1326

In 2009, with the assistance of councillors from the Ontario Cattlemen's Association and staff from Dairy Farmers of Ontario, OFAC responded to 16 Helpline calls across the province related to dairy and beef cattle. In several cases, recommendations were made for improvements to the animals' welfare. Many other calls are dealt with that do not require a Helpline visit, but do provide an opportunity for education and dialogue to improve animal care each year.

The Helpline is a confidential "farmer helping farmer" approach of advice and referral on animal care. It also provides a confidential way for people to report situations where they feel farm animals require better care – or for farmers to call, themselves, if they need some extra help.

## Training for the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

OFAC has developed a solid working relationship with OSPCA staff over the years related to farm animal care. In 2009, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs and the Campbell Centre for Animal Welfare developed a new five day course on farm-animal care for OSPCA inspectors at the University of Guelph. OFAC assisted with course development, helped to arrange working farm tours and provided the biosecurity related equipment. This training, which featured half day lectures and half day farm tours for hands-on experience, is part of a 15 day course for inspectors and is the first of its kind in North America. OFAC also provides resources related to farm animal care to OSPCA staff on an ongoing basis.







## CONSUMER OUTREACH

### FarmzOnWheelz

Almost two years in development, the new FarmzOnWheelz exhibit was unveiled to the public in August 2009 to 1.3 million visitors at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto. Designed and built by the Ontario Science Centre, this travelling Farmz exhibit helps teenagers and their families get a personal look at what's cool about farming today.



The 400 square foot exhibit features interactive kiosks for visitors to experience for themselves how science and technology impacts agriculture and connects them to their food. Featured kiosks include: *Farming Fuels the Future*, *What's On Your Plate?*, *Virtual Farm Tours*, *Weird Stuff from the Farm*, *Take a Spin Around the Farm* and *Tell us what you think*.

A highlight of the exhibit is a new video entitled, "Know Farmers. Know Food." The four minute video features the "I am a Canadian Farmer" rant with many farmers and hundreds of powerful images taken on farms over the last two years. One minute and 30 second versions are also available – perfect for presentations and airing at events to help get the discussion moving forward on farming and food. Copies were mailed to all OFAC members and are available from the OFAC office and online at [www.ofac.org](http://www.ofac.org) and on YouTube.

Funding for the Farmz project has been provided in part by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development (CARD) Program. The CARD Program is administered by the Agricultural Adaptation Council. Other generous project sponsors include the Ontario Market Investment Fund and many industry partners.

"Thank you for another great experience for the Fleming Culinary Students. I have heard nothing but great comments from everybody that attended this year's event. The faculty and students loved the entire aspect of the tour. Words cannot describe the gratitude for your groups' work, to expose the future chefs and cooks of our industry with this first hand look at the agriculture sector." - *Steve Bennis, Chef/Professor, Fleming College*

### Displays in the Public Eye

In 2009, OFAC's large library of displays and farm games was at 37 different events – from Earlton to Ottawa to London and all points in between. Those events hosted a total of 2.5 million visitors – 55,715 of which were school children.

OFAC's displays are available for all members to borrow. A full resource catalogue is available for viewing on the website at [www.ofac.org](http://www.ofac.org)

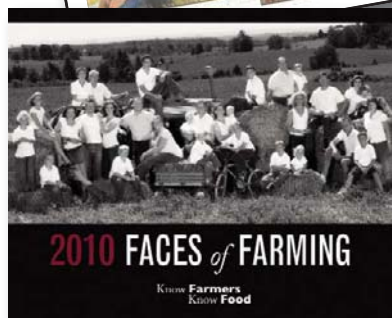
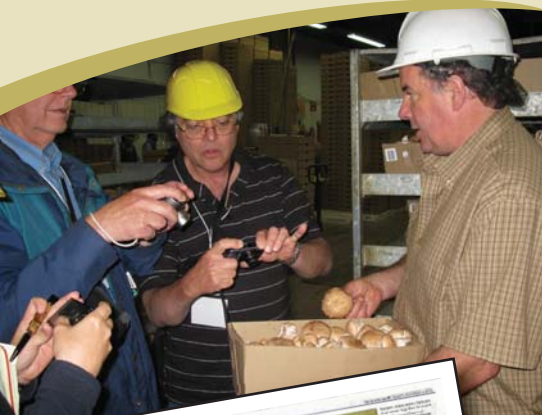


### Culinary Student Farm Tours

AGCare worked with OFAC to organize four culinary student tours to farms this year with chefs-in-training from Fanshawe, Humber, Algonquin and Fleming colleges. This is an excellent opportunity to reach out to the chefs of tomorrow and ensure they know how their food is grown right here in Ontario.

In 2009, AGCare and OFAC were able to partner together to offer four tours for 100 students. Interested colleges were asked to submit their names for a lottery from which the four lucky winners were chosen.

Savour Ontario joined as a program sponsor in 2009, providing funding for "Taste of Ontario" lunches for each tour and the opportunity to students to meet a local chef who caters each lunch and talks to the students about the importance of buying local and knowing the farmers who provide product to their restaurants.



“By taking courses like this, you’re helping your business, agricultural community and yourself to become stronger. Being able to talk to a media person means that you could, in turn, be talking to 100,000 people. In this course you don’t just learn to talk to the media, you also learn how to talk to someone that is not in the business of farming.” – Jason McIntosh, Beef Farmer and Speak Up team participant

## Media Tours

In 2009, OFAC and AGCare took about 50 food editors, writers, home economists and cookbook authors onto farms in the Ottawa and Toronto areas. Originally designed as a ‘myth busters’ exercise to give reporters the facts on farming, this program has exceeded those expectations. Over the last six years, these tours have helped to forge strong relationships between Ontario’s “foodies” and farmers and have resulted in a much stronger sense of the work that farmers put into producing food and many opportunities to get accurate information about agriculture into the media.

Lunch on the tours was sponsored by Foodland Ontario.

## Faces of Farming calendar

In five years, the print run of the annual Faces of Farming calendar has more than doubled from an initial 3,000 copies to 6,500 copies in 2009, thanks to the generous support of the project partners. The purpose of the calendar is to stimulate discussion about farmers by dispelling stereotypes, while generating positive media coverage.

Since its launch last October, the 2010 calendar has generated more than 50 media features including a television feature, 11 daily newspaper stories and 14 radio interviews with calendar participants. The total cost of the production of the calendar in 2009 was equal to the value of one full page ad in a Toronto newspaper.

The 2010 calendar features a record number of Ontario farmers and farm families – 45 in all – and shows the diverse nature of Ontario agriculture. The calendar was distributed directly by OFAC to 1,000 Ontario politicians, 900 media and 1,200 grocery stores.

## Proactive Media Training Program

With the help of OFAC and AGCare’s urban media specialist and trainer Wallace Pidgeon, almost 150 primary producers in Ontario have now participated in 15 sessions of the entry level Speak Up media training program. The program is designed to help farmers feel more comfortable with answering questions and working with the media.

The initiative has also taken off across Canada, with OFAC staff training farmers in four other provinces in 2009.

The proactive media specialist offers ongoing support and advice on issues related to media relations and coverage to AGCare, OFAC and their member groups on a wide range of topics including pesticides, ethanol, food bank programs, organic vs. conventional, industry promotion, egg choices and many others.



OFAC and AGCare are extremely grateful to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Agricultural Adaptation Council for its funding, in part, of the Proactive Media Training Program.



## Media coverage and information requests

Over the course of 2009, AGCare had 28 opinion piece or editorial columns published in Ontario newspapers, and 14 were circulated on Twitter. Media coverage was garnered as a result of the story of the month program, as well as the food media tours.

OFAC was featured in media interviews a total of 110 times in 2009 – including radio and TV interviews, articles in daily and weekly newspapers and OFAC-written columns in many industry publications. Highlights included two full page articles in the Toronto Sun and one in the Toronto Star.

## Communicating – through new channels

The credible voices of farmers and other advocates for responsible animal care often get lost in the swirling animal welfare debate. Canada's farm animal councils, led by OFAC, are working to change that with a newly launched blog (a website diary) entitled "Let's talk farm animals." The site aims to set the record straight on animal welfare issues by providing the public with access to accurate information from veterinarians, farmers, researchers and the media. The site was launched in October and is now attracting about 300 visitors monthly.

OFAC also launched a Twitter site in 2009 and now has several hundred people following its tweets about farm animals and farm events. Follow OFAC @onfarmanimal



## Farming Sources website

In 2009, AGCare and OFAC developed the [www.farmingsources.com](http://www.farmingsources.com) website - a one-stop electronic resource for media looking for sources and information about Ontario agriculture. The site, which allows media to search for contacts by organization or by topic, was developed and launched in 2009 with input from journalists on what they need to help them cover agricultural topics.

The site is updated regularly with news releases from Ontario's commodity groups, as well as current contact information and is attracting about 150 visitors per month. Various media calls and emails to the AGCare/OFAC office have come in as a result of this website – and positive feedback continues to be received during meetings with the media.



"It's so delightful each year to climb aboard a mini bus with a handful of like-minded food lovers to visit Ottawa area farms, check out the greenhouses and meet the frisky animals scampering around the barns. Organized by the Ontario Farm Animal Council and AGCare, the idea of these tours is to better connect chefs, instructors, cookbook authors and people like me with those who produce the wholesome foodstuffs we take for granted at the table. I'm convinced food writers would do themselves and readers more useful service if they better acquainted themselves with where it all comes from -- to understand the food chain and appreciate true conditions down on the farm." — Ron Eade, Food Editor, Ottawa Citizen

## Thank you!

Thanks to our supportive members, active directors and dedicated staff, OFAC and AGCare both take pride in how much we can accomplish with modest budgets. Thank you to the sponsors of all of our projects – government, commodity groups, agribusinesses and individual farmers. Your support is critical to our success. Together we can make sure agriculture's voice is heard.

### *OFAC's Founding Member Organizations:*

Chicken Farmers of Ontario  
Dairy Farmers of Ontario  
Egg Farmers of Ontario  
Ontario Cattlemen's Association  
Ontario Federation of Agriculture  
Ontario Pork  
Turkey Farmers of Ontario  
Ontario Institute of Agrologists

Ontario Fruit & Vegetable Growers' Association  
Christian Farmers' Federation of Ontario  
Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association  
Seed Corn Growers of Ontario  
Ontario Processing Vegetable Growers  
Ontario Bean Producers' Marketing Board  
Ontario Seed Growers' Association  
Ontario Canola Growers' Association  
Ontario Potato Board  
Flowers Canada (Ontario) Inc.  
Ontario Flue Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board  
Ontario Beekeepers' Association  
Federated Women's Institute of Ontario

### *AGCare's Founding Member Organizations:*

Grain Farmers of Ontario  
Ontario Federation of Agriculture

### **An overview of our organizations**

Now in its 23rd year, the **Ontario Farm Animal Council** continues to work with its members, its sister groups across Canada and increasingly with groups in the U.S.A. to advance responsible farm animal care practices and to answer consumers' questions on how farm animals are raised.

The coalition of farm groups that created **AGCare** came together in 1987 to communicate about and provide policy initiatives on agricultural pesticide use. Its role evolved over time to meet new agri-environmental challenges. Today, AGCare is the voice of Ontario's farmers on a wide range of environmental issues from pesticide use and biotechnology to soil and water conservation.



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100 Stone Road West,  
Guelph, Ontario, N1G 5L3

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