

Caring for Ontario's Land and Water Awards **Farm & Food Care announces winners**

(Guelph) – March 10, 2015 – Six awards were handed out recently by Farm & Food Care Ontario at a wrap up symposium for the Water Adaptation Management and Quality Initiative (WAMQI).

Over the last year, the WAMQI program has provided \$1.26 million in funding for 28 unique water and nutrient use efficiency projects carried out by academic institutions, research teams and commodity organizations across Ontario.

WAMQI projects were designed to help Ontario farmers:

- Prepare for, and better manage, the impacts of climate change through the development of resilient farm practices;
- Address issues of water supply by adopting water conservation and water use practices;
- Improve water quality through better nutrient management practices.

Caring for Ontario's Land and Water Awards were presented to six WAMQI project leaders for their ongoing commitments to protecting Ontario's water resources and for their demonstrated environmental stewardship. The awards were divided into three categories with winners as follows:

1. Community efforts In support of water stewardship:
 - Hajnal Kovacs – Grand River Conservation Authority
 - Julie Sylvestre – Algonquin College
2. Commodity support for water and nutrient use improvement:
 - Dr. Ann Huber – Soil Resource Group
 - Dr. Jeanine West – Phytoserv
3. Technologies supporting efficient water and nutrient use efficiency:
 - Ian Nichols – Win Weather INnovations
 - Dr. Laura Van Eerd – University of Guelph

In handing out the plaques, Bruce Kelly, Farm & Food Care's Environmental Program Manager said, "All projects have made significant contributions to conserving Ontario's land and water. These six, however, were chosen for their extra commitments to the program."

Dr. Jeanine West, upon receiving her award, said that it recognizes the great partners she's worked with through the WAMQI initiative. Said West, "By working together, farmers, researchers, consultants and government have achieved some really significant and sustainable results in water and nutrient management."

For more information about the WAMQI program including final reports and links to project videos visit www.farmfoodcare.org and click on the Environment button.

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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. Farm & Food Care provides a coordinated approach and credible information on food and farming in Ontario. For more information visit www.farmfoodcare.org

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