

*For Immediate Release*

*Agricultural advocates honoured*  
**Farm & Food Care Champion award**  
**presented to the Brant County Agricultural Awareness Committee**

April 10, 2019 – (Guelph) The Brant County Agricultural Awareness Committee has been named the 2019 recipient of the Farm & Food Care Ontario Champion Award for its Bite of Brant program.

The award was presented at Farm & Food Care Ontario's annual conference at Country Heritage Park, in Milton, on April 10 by Bruce Christie and Crispin Colvin, past and current members of FFCO's Board of Directors.

The Champion Award has been presented annually, since 1999, in recognition of an individual or group's significant commitment to public outreach, and support for Ontario's farming community.

Receiving the award on behalf of the Brant County committee were Barbara Sheardown and Jayne Miller.

The Brant County Agricultural Awareness Committee (BCAAC) was nominated by Sandra Vos, the Vice President of the Brant County Federation of Agriculture, with letters of support from Carol Ann Sloat, a trustee with the Grand Erie District School Board, as well as Janet Liczkai, retired Member Service Representative with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture.

Chaired by retired teacher Jean Emmott, the BCAAC works to increase awareness of the important role that agriculture plays in Brant County and the province. For twenty-four years, the volunteer-based committee has organized the highly successful two-day event - *Bite of Brant*. *Bite of Brant* brings together more than one thousand grade five students, parents, and teachers, from Brantford and Brant County public, Catholic, private and Six Nations schools for a full day of hands-on learning about agriculture in Ontario. This year's program was held April 10 and 11 at the Burford Fairgrounds.

The goal of this initiative is to have students gain an appreciation for where their food comes from. "It is important for students to gain an appreciation for the high quality of Ontario food and to have some knowledge of how it is produced," says Vos. Twenty stations cover all areas of Ontario's agri-food industry, from wheat to milk production, to food safety and nutrition, to land stewardship. Activities include pressing apples to make cider, "milking" a life-sized cow model, comparing food costs, and milling wheat to make flour.

The activities support the Ontario curriculum in several subject areas including science and technology, social studies, math, language, art and health.

Vos explains that *Bite of Brant* would not be possible without the support of approximately one hundred volunteers, including farmers, retired teachers, and others from the agriculture industry. Bite of Brant also benefits from the generosity of Brantford City Council, Brant County Council, and local service clubs.

BCAAC's "twenty-four years of hard work...showcasing the importance, the experience, and the love we have for our farms, our livestock, our food production, and our industry," is well deserving of the Champion Award, says Vos.

"It is neat to watch the student's eyes light up as they learn about farming and what it means to be a farmer," says Janet Licskai, who has volunteered at Bite of Brant for years. "One of the reasons it's so successful is that the students get a chance to learn by participating."

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](http://www.FarmFoodCareON.org).

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The Brant County Agricultural Awareness Committee was awarded the Farm & Food Care Champion Award for 2019. Farm & Food Care past chair Bruce Christie (left) and current board member Crispin Colvin (right) presented the award to committee members Barbara Sheardown and Jayne Miller.



2019 Bite of Brant committee members include, from left, Jayne Miller, Barbara Sheardown, Jean Emmott (chair), Tammy Allardyce, Peggy Young and Denise Cassidy. Absent: Heather Dutton and Jenn Kyle.



Volunteers for the 2019 Bite of Brant program are shown here with their Farm & Food Care Ontario champion award at their April event.