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For Immediate Release

Hundreds in Ontario agriculture celebrate with Gala-in-a-Box

Event raises \$22 900

November 14, 2021 – (Guelph) In a zoom room filled with 400 plus supporters and members, at its second annual Gala-in-a-Box, Farm & Food Care Ontario (FFCO) brought together Ontario’s agriculture community for a night of fellowship, good food and friends after another year of challenging circumstances around gathering due to COVID19.

Participants received a box filled with Ontario flavours, including goodies, ingredients and recipes to make their Gala meal. On the menu for the evening was turkey breast medallions and pan-roasted fall vegetables with main ingredient partnership from Turkey Farmers of Ontario and the help of Chef Nick Benninger of Fat Sparrow Group. Guests were invited to cook up veal escalopes alla pizzaiola as appetizer and apple clafoutis for dessert for chances to win prize packages from partners Veal Farmers of Ontario and Ontario Apple Growers, and participated in a live mixology session with Grain Farmers of Ontario and The Porchlight in Elora.

Also on the agenda, Feed Ontario presented the 2021 Paul Mistele Award. Annually, the award recognizes agricultural partners who have shown a significant and enduring commitment to ending hunger in Ontario. This year’s recipients, Ontario Pork, accepted the award during the Gala.

Overall, the fundraiser brought in \$22 900 to support Farm & Food Care Ontario’s ongoing public trust work. The organization became a registered Canadian charity in 2019 and continues to collaborate with partners and charitable donors across the province to further the mission of earning trust in food and farming in Ontario

The event was Farm & Food Care Ontario’s second online gala, necessitated by COVID limitations. Previously, FFCO hosted 12 years of Ontario Harvest Galas in person, and hope to move back to in-person events in 2022.

“This fun event was an opportunity for us to come together as an agriculture community in Ontario and celebrate what we have done together through Farm & Food Care Ontario this year,” stated FFCO Chair Bonnie den Haan. “Making agriculture accessible to Ontarians through their devices while they have had to stay home has provided both information and entertainment to those who eat the food we make.”

FFCO Executive Director Kelly Daynard said, “It was such a great evening, getting to see each other virtually, and cooking together from our own kitchens. I look forward to the day we can host the Harvest Gala in person again but this was certainly the next best thing.”

Anyone wishing to make a charitable gift to support FFCO's work in building public trust should reach out to Farm & Food Care Ontario – info@farmfoodcare.org; www.FarmFoodCareON.org;

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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.FarmFoodCareON.org

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