

For Immediate Release

Janelle Cardiff elected Chair of FFCO

Farm & Food Care Ontario 2025-2026 Board of Directors and executive chosen

(Guelph) April 17, 2025 – The 2025-2026 Board of Directors and executive for Farm & Food Care Ontario (FFCO) has been elected. Stepping into the role of Chair is Janelle Cardiff, nominated by Egg Farmers of Ontario. She succeeds Crispin Colvin, nominated by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, who now serves as Past Chair.

Also elected to the executive committee are:

- **Nadine Schwandt**, nominated by New-Life Mills, a division of Parrish & Heimbecker, Ltd. (Vice Chair)
- **Nicki Scott**, nominated by Ontario Fruit & Vegetable Growers' Association, and Ontario Potato Board (Second Vice Chair)
- **John Taylor**, nominated by Ontario Mutual Insurance Association (Treasurer)

This meeting follows the board elections at the organization's AGM and Speakers' Conference held on April 10. Other members of the Board of Directors include:

- **Crispin Colvin**, nominated by Ontario Federation of Agriculture (Past Chair)
- **Joe Hickson**, nominated by Ontario Seed Growers' Association
- **Steve Lake**, nominated by Grain Farmers of Ontario
- **Quintin McEwen**, nominated by Ontario Sheep Farmers
- **Jennifer Mitchell**, nominated by Ontario Hatcheries Association
- **Pete Overdevest**, nominated by Dairy Farmers of Ontario (Ex-Officio)
- **Joost van der Heiden**, nominated by Beef Farmers of Ontario
- **Augusta Van Muyen**, nominated by Grape Growers of Ontario (Newly elected)
- **Andrea Veldhuizen**, nominated by Chicken Farmers of Ontario

Retiring director **Kelly Gubesch**, who joined the board in 2023 representing Wallenstein Feed & Supply Ltd. and subsequently Maple Leaf Foods, was thanked for her important contributions and years of service and commitment to the organization.

Frank Hoftyzer of the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario and Alice Van Vught of Commonwell Mutual Insurance remain in the ex officio roles of Member Forum co-chairs.

Chair Janelle Cardiff said, "I'm honoured to step into the role of Chair of Farm & Food Care Ontario. Now in my ninth year on the board—including time as Vice Chair—I'm excited to take on this new leadership role." She added, "FFCO plays a vital part in Ontario's agriculture industry, and I look forward to continuing our collaborative work with farmers, agri-food professionals, businesses, and government partners."

Vice Chair Nadine Schwandt added, “I’m grateful for the opportunity to serve as Vice Chair. Since joining the board in 2023, I’ve seen firsthand the impact of our initiatives—like Breakfast on the Farm and FarmFood360—in shaping public perception of food and farming in Ontario and beyond. With FFCO on track to engage a record number of Canadians this year, I’m excited to support this important work.”

FFCO’s latest annual report can be viewed here: <https://www.farmfoodcareon.org/about-us/annual-reports/>

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Farm & Food Care Ontario is a coalition of farmers and food partners proactively working together to grow public trust and consumer confidence in our food and farming systems. For more information visit: www.FarmFoodCareON.org.

For more information contact:

Christa Ormiston, FFCO Communications Manager, 519-837-1326, ext. 221;
christa@farmfoodcare.org;

Janelle Cardiff, FFCO Chair, 519-291-8718; jcardiff@grayridge.com