

# Spring 2012

## CYFF News

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## Message from the Chair

It's been almost two months since I was elected Chair of CYFF in Halifax. Since this is my first official address of the year, I'd like to start off by saying Thank-you to the CYFF board members of 2011 for all their great work. I would also like to welcome the new board members for 2012. With so many new faces, it will be a completely different experience on the board this year.

Something that I would like to encourage everyone to be involved in, is telling their own story in agriculture. Whether that's talking to the next person in line at the grocery store, or writing your own blog on the internet, we need to close the gap information wise between us, the farmers and the consumers. So few people these days, know the process and work that it takes to get their food to their plate. With all the social media at our fingertips, we need to use these

to our advantage to help get the message of responsible agriculture out to the masses.

Further to getting our story out to the masses, we need to stay connected to all the agricultural issues ourselves. Since the AGM in February, I have really embraced the use of Twitter. I used to think, "I don't need Twitter. Why do I need to know what a celebrity has had for breakfast?" In the last two months I have come to see Twitter as a powerful tool to follow ongoing issues in agriculture. But don't take my word for it, get out there and check it out for yourself. There's a whole world of people waiting to hear from you.

I look forward to the coming months and the busyness that spring brings. I'd like to thank the CYFF members for electing me and I am excited for what 2012 will bring.

**Kerry Froese**

## Meet the 2012/13 CYFF Team!



**Kerry Froese (Chair),  
Abbotsford, BC**

Hello, my name is Kerry Froese. Born and raised in Abbotsford BC, I've

had exposure to a diverse amount of farming. My family has been involved in farming raspberries, strawberries, corn, beef cattle, broiler breeder chickens and we now farm broiler chickens.

I believe that the best way to manage a farm business is to be involved at all levels. Currently I serve as a director on the BC Chicken Growers Association, the Fraser Valley Regional District Agricultural advisory committee, BC Young Farmers and as CYFF's

representative to the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. In my rare spare time I enjoy hunting, atving and spending time with my wife and 3 young kids, the next Canadian Young Farmers.



**Jonathan Stockall  
(Vice-Chair)  
Fredericton, NB**

*(Prince Edward Island  
and New Brunswick  
Regional Representative)*

Hello, my name is Jonathan Stockall and I am your Prince Edward Island/New Brunswick representative for the CYFF as well as your Vice-Chair. I run a fruit and vegetable mixed farm in Fredericton, New Brunswick along with my grandfather. ... **continued**



The Canadian Wheat Board



**Canadian Young Farmers' Forum**  
**La Table pancanadienne de la relève agricole**

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Originally hailing from Moncton, New Brunswick, I did not grow up on a farm and spent most of my early life heavily involved in sports and academics. This led me to the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton where I competed in both wrestling and soccer as a varsity athlete. When not training or in school, I spent the rest of my time coaching and volunteer kids in my community as well as helping my grandfather around the farm.

As I spent more time helping around the farm, I yearned for more knowledge about food: how it is grown, organic vs. conventional and the food system that drives our world. I decided that instead of pursuing a medical career that I would rather focus on preventing sick people rather than treating them, which more often than not stems from an improper diet.

I believe in mixed small farms, diversity and feeding/engaging our communities because it is my passion. I am excited that our world is moving past cheap energy, and look forward to the innovation that it will drive. I believe as farmers, we will play a leading role in how our country and our world will look like in the years to come. Keep your heads high always, and strive to be the best that you can be for yourself, your family and community, and the generations of brilliant minds to come.

Be the change you want to see in the world!



**Justin Beck (Past Chair)**  
**Kingston, NS**

My name is Justin Beck I am a Hog and Grain producer located in Nova Scotia. It is here I farm with my Father and Mother raising superior quality hogs and grain. I have been involved with CYFF for the past 8 years. In the last 4 years I have held a director position for the Nova Scotia & NFLD region, Chair of the Board and presently am Past Chair. The value of the organization is to provide educational and networking experiences to young farmers. CYFF also trains young producers in areas of board governance, policy development, and government functions. It is for these reasons that I have devoted time and energy to grow the CYFF as it touches on key issues that are going to be pivotal to the agriculture industries success.



**Nathan Greeno**  
**Amherst, NS**  
*(Newfoundland & Labrador and Nova Scotia Regional Representative)*

Hello CYFF members! My name is Nathan Greeno and I am the newly elected representative for NS/NFLD. I live in Amherst Shore NS, which is right along the beautiful Northumberland Strait. Our family farm is a fifth gen-

eration beef operation. We are currently running 150 calving cows, which are made up of predominantly Black Angus and shorthorn genetics. We sell purebred breeding stock and show competitively at local fairs and exhibitions. Also we have added a Strawberry U-pick to the farm which first opened last summer and has been a great experience.

I was a founding member on Nova Scotia Young Farmers Forum and have been on the executive since its inception. I currently sit as the past chair of the organization. I am also the Vice chair of our local Cattlemen's group and am an active 4-H leader. I look forward to working with CYFF and to keeping this awesome organization rolling! Over the next two years I hope to keep bringing enthusiasm to agriculture and to CYFF.



**Jessica Burgess**  
**Brantford, ON**  
*(Quebec and Ontario Regional Representative)*

Hello! My name is Jessica Burgess. I am from Mildmay, Ontario, however, currently living in Brantford, Ontario. I work full time as a customer service representative in the agricultural industry, while also helping part time with the home dairy farm, where we milk 60 jerseys, holsteins, and brown swiss. I have been a Junior Farmers' Association of Ontario member for three years, being the chair of two March Conferences, and a committee member for many other events and activities. In 2011, I was the representative from JFAO to the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair Society, and more recently, in 2012, I was elected as the Agricultural Programs director for JFAO.

In February I attended the Canadian Young Farmers' Forum in Halifax on behalf of JFAO for my second time, and while there I was acclaimed as the Ontario and Quebec Representative. As a CYFF board member, I aspire to establish open lines of communication between the provincial groups and the Canadian Young Farmers' Forum. I also hope to learn about the many trials and tribulations that young farmers have faced. I can be found on Facebook or Twitter (@burjess). Please feel free to contact me anytime!



**Larry Spratt**  
**Melfort, SK**  
*(Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Northwest Territories Regional Representative)*

My name is Larry Spratt and I farm near Melfort, Saskatchewan with my cousin. Our operation consists of 5000 acres of grain, 3500 acres of hay and pasture, 220 purebred Maine - Anjou and Angus cows and a 300 head back-grounding feedlot. We grow barley, wheat, oats, canola and alfalfa and sell breeding livestock throughout western Canada.

Before I began my farming career I received my Bachelor of Science from the U of S with a major in Mechanized Agriculture and a minor in Ag Business. I served four years as a director for the Saskatchewan Young Ag Entrepreneurs and currently serve as a 4-H leader and soccer coach.

My family consists of my wife Coralie and children Aaliyah (7), Robyn (5), Riley (3) and Jaycee (1).



**Ravi Bathe**  
**Abbotsford, BC**

*(Alberta, British Columbia and Yukon Territories  
Regional Representative)*

I am a third generation farmer of raspberries, blueberries and chickens. I live in Abbotsford, BC and have a bachelor of commerce degree from UNBC. Over the past five years I have been involved with a number of agricultural boards and currently am president of the BC Chicken Growers Association, board member of BC Young Farmers and now, the BC, Alberta, Yukon rep for CYFF.

In my spare time I love playing sports, especially soccer and snowboarding, as well spending time with family and friends. Seeing new places and experiencing new things is always enjoyable, and in my opinion, very important in order to gain new perspectives.

I look forward to the coming year with much anticipation, both for my own businesses and for the CYFF. We will work hard to ensure that young farmers' voices are heard and that our future is bright.



**Danielle Lee**  
**Calgary, AB**

*(Member at Large)*

My name is Danielle Lee, and I am very excited to be the Member at Large on the CYFF Board for this upcoming year. I attended the University of Alberta and took Agriculture. I am currently proud to be the 4th generation to farm just west of Calgary, in Springbank. On our century family farm, Rockyview Farm, we raise beef cattle, sheep and put up small square bales of hay, as well as a variety of other livestock. Our lambs are sold directly to local customers and our hay is mainly sold locally to the equine market. I am a Calgary Stampede volunteer with their agriculture education programs, and feel it is very important that the public knows where their food comes from and how hard farmers work to produce that food. I look forward to working with the CYFF Board as well as the provincial organizations for the betterment of young farmers in Canada.

## Message from the General Manager



It was a great pleasure to meet so many representatives of the provincial organizations at the AGM in Halifax in February. The 2012 Annual General Meeting and Conference was a huge success and provided education, networking, inspiration, strategic planning progress and many good times to those who attended. Thank you to everyone who attended and to the wonderful presenters that shared their knowledge and experience with the delegates.

The wine and cheese social on registration night kicked off the event with many laughs and much socializing. Saturday morning it was right to business; delegates heard from Heather Watson (CFBMC), Richard Philips (GGC), Cathie Leimbach (Agon Leadership) and Elaine Froese (CAFA, CHICoach). The day ended with a tour of Alexander Keith's Brew House where much networking, socializing and fun took place.

Sunday morning was the continuation of presentations from Elaine Froese, Faith Manchett (FCC), Ron Bonnett (CFA) and Al Scholz. In the afternoon, delegates engaged in breakout sessions where a more interactive environment was offered. Elaine, Al, Faith, Cathie and the CYFF board gathered with groups of 20-25 producers to discuss in more detail specific topics from board governance, financials, environmental stewardship. Representatives from each provincial young farmer organization met to share information and declare their needs; the CYFF board collected input which will be considered as they plan and set budgets for the upcoming year.

After a much enjoyed day of expanding individual thoughts and perspectives, young farmers enjoyed supper and the motivational and inspiring presentation "pinball" provided. The former CFL player and coach humbled the crowd when he declared farmers are "more than a hero". Clemons left the crowd feeling motivated and inspired about life, family and farming.

Day 3, producers boarded the charter buses for a day of touring farms. The weather cooperated for our drive through the beautiful area around Halifax. Scotian Gold, a cooperative apple packing plant was the first stop for the day followed by a tour of Foxhill Cheese House where homemade cheeses were enjoyed as young farmers sampled their products. The last stop for the day was at Farmer John's Herbs. All three tours provided different perspectives on marketing products produced. Gathering on the bus for the day also, provided an environment for socializing and learning from each other. Our day

... continued on page 5

# 2012 AGM



Guenette Bartz & Richard Phillips from GGC with staff at Alexander Keiths



Foxhill Cheese Plant



Honorable John MacDonell (NS Agriculture Minister)



Alexander Keiths tourism experience – photo courtesy of Janet Walker



Formal Banquet – photo courtesy of Janet Walker



CYFF Team Night with "Pinball" - photo courtesy of Janet Walker

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ended with a formal banquet where our finely dressed young farmers enjoyed a wonderful meal served and hearing remarks from the Honorable John MacDonell (NS Agriculture Minister). Canada's outstanding young farmers, Goeff and Jennifer Bishop who run a 160-cow dairy operation located in the Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia shared their innovation and success to close the evening.

On the final day of the AGM, delegates addressed the business of CYFF and elected their 2012 CYFF representatives (board of directors). With a new year ahead the newly selected board of directors will have many tasks at hand to approach and execute, their enthusiasm to be a part of the CYFF organization was evident and I look forward to working with each and every elected representatives. Welcome newly elected directors; Nathan Greeno, Jessica Burgess, Larry Spratt, Ravi Bathe and Danielle Lee. Thank you to Kerry Froese, Jonathan Stockall and Justin Beck for their prior year of service and for continuing another year on the board, your experience and knowledge is very valuable to the CYFF as the organization moves forward.



#### 2012-13 CYFF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Left to Right – Back Row: Nathan Greeno, Larry Spratt, Jonathan Stockall, Kerry Froese, Ravi Bathe. Front Row: Danielle Lee, Jessica Burgess, Justin Beck



#### 2011/12 CYFF TEAM

Left to Right – Back Row: Ian Richardson, Kerry Froese, Jonathan Stockall, Joe Dickenson. Front Row: Cedric MacLoed, Cain Vangell, Heather Fulton, Justin Beck, Guenette Bautz

A special thank you to the 2011/12 board of directors who dedicated their time to the many important tasks for the organization during the past year; Ian Richardson, Heather Fulton, Brad Schiltroth, Cain Vangell, Joe Dickenson, Kerry Froese, Justin Beck and Jonathan Stockall.

It has been a great pleasure to work with so many enthusiastic and progressive young farmers from across Canada in 2011 and I look forward to the opportunities and progressive changes the CYFF organization will experience in 2012. The board of directors will be attending a face-to-face meeting this month to address CYFF business and set forth plans for the year. We look forward to sharing our goals and program details with you in May.

As always, feel free to contact me at any time to discuss your provincial organization, the CYFF or just to chat farming. Wishing you all a safe spring! Happy Farming!

## Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

### Bridging the Gap

50 farmers gathered at the Bridging the Gap conference, March 23 & 24th to search for solutions to farm succession challenges. The event organized by Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture and Nova Scotia Young Farmers was jam packed with information and things to think about. One participant said, "It got us thinking about some new areas we should have addressed many years ago."

The conference speakers posed some very tough and important questions to the participants. Bob Ross, Owner-Operator of Ross

Holm Farms Ltd, Ontario, Associate of George Morris Centre (GMC) and Coordinator of Canadian Total Excellence in Agricultural Management (CTEAM) program opened the conference with a look at Planning for Succession. He told the group "The first and most important question senior farm owners must answer early in the succession planning process is, Are we committed to seeing this farm business succeed beyond our lifetime?" Without a strong yes to this question, a fully effective farm succession will be severely hampered.

Farm Succession is not an overnight process; it evolves over months and years. Remembering that each farm family member and farm business is different, understanding generational attributes, keeping everyone in the loop, seeking professional consultation and making the commitment will guide a successful transition. The one



area that was mentioned in all the presentations as a key to success was the need for effective communication.

How many farm families have regular meetings? Do you know if your children even want to take over the farm? Have you looked at which one of your children has the ability and skills needed to continue the farm business? As Elaine Froese, Family Farm Coach, presented on Saturday morning, she stated that "21% of farm businesses are more profitable if you sit down and talk." Communicate about what is going on in your part of the business. It makes us uncomfortable, but we need to have those tough conversations about things like retirement, family conflict, losing control and death. Ever given thought to who gets the farm and when? What if... Dad passes away unexpectedly tomorrow? There is no will and no succession plan in place. You have been farming alongside Dad for several years and there are non-farming siblings. It is complicated and complex. The Bridging the Gap conference has brought a lot of reasons to the forefront for future dialogue and to Bridging the Gap continued work towards helping farmers through the process of farm succession. Watch for more to come through our communication channels or contact the NSFA Office if you want to get information to get started right away. As farmers we are not alone in the dilemma of business transfer, 65% of all family businesses have not even discussed succession planning with their kids. Only 10% of business owners have a formal written succession plan.

The conference was made possible through funding sponsorship of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Farm Credit Canada, Canadian Young Farmers Forum, ThinkFarm and Patterson Law. A gracious thank you to Tim Hennigar, Tipac Farm for his pledge at the Federation's November Annual General Meeting to move forward with finding solutions to farm succession challenges.

## FRAQ

### 30th FRAQ Congress

On the 8th to the 10th of March, nearly 200 persons from all over the Quebec province joined for a 3-day meeting. At first the provincial final of the DéfiFRAQ contest took place and around 100 players and their groupies enjoyed manual tests and an interactive quiz. A funny way to develop knowledge and farming abilities, as well as team spirit! Then the AGM with 88 voting delegates assessed the activities and folders lead by the FRAQ organisation in 2011. They also made decisions about the work to do in the coming year. Among others, the delegates unanimously voted an orientation about their future in terms of structure and human resources



needs to develop the organisation and play a major role in the development of trade unionism.

This was also election time and a new executive board was elected presided by a new president: Alain Audet, a young pig producer. Frederic Marcoux, the retiring president was complimented for his 3 years involvement in the federation.

The event was also a great opportunity to celebrate the 30th FRAQ anniversary during a banquet where many senior FRAQ leaders joined and shared little pieces of the FRAQ history.

Finally the third day, the participants attended conferences about the new generation of land farmers, followed by the visit of one of the panellist farm, a "foie gras" producer.

## Keystone Agricultural Producers Young Farmers Committee

*Wanda McFadyen, KAP Special Events/Young  
Farmers Coordinator*

### Manitoba Agriculture Minister Supports Young Farmers

Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) and the KAP Young Farmers Committee are pleased with the recent decision by Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Initiatives (MAFRI) to support young farmers' participation on boards of agricultural organizations. Recent correspondence to KAP from Minister Kostyshyn confirms that young farmers will be eligible to earn up to 10 Management Training Credits (MTC) per year to a loan maximum of 30 credits. One credit can be earned per meeting, including training up to the yearly maximum.

"The MTC is applied as a credit toward the Bridging Generations Initiative (BGI) loan repayment," said Doug Chorney, KAP President. "KAP has been lobbying for this since October 2011 when we adopted policy stating that young farmers should receive the credits when they actively participate as directors of KAP and/or other approved farm organizations."





The BGI encourages young farmers to acquire management skills to earn 1% credit on the principal amount of a Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) loan, up to a maximum credit of \$2,500 in each of the first 5 years of the loan and a lifetime maximum credit of \$12,500.

"This is great news for Manitoba young farmers," said Rob Brunel, co-chair of the KAP Young Farmer Committee. "On behalf of the Young Farmer Committee, I would like to thank Minister Kostyshyn for his department's leadership in this area as well as KAP for their lobby efforts in moving this forward on behalf of young farmers."

KAP and its Young Farmers Committee continue to encourage young farmers to get involved in farm organizations for the betterment of the agriculture community as a whole.

## New KAP Young Farmers Committee E-mail Address & Staff

The KAP Young Farmers Committee has a new e-mail address and staff person. Wanda McFadyen, who joined KAP part-time in December 2011 as Communications/Special Events Coordinator has moved into the part-time position of Special Events/Young Farmers Coordinator effective April 1, 2012 with the hiring of Val Ominski as the full-time KAP Communications Coordinator. Wanda will be in the KAP office on Monday mornings and Thursday afternoons and can be reached by email at [youngfarmers@kap.mb.ca](mailto:youngfarmers@kap.mb.ca) or by calling (204) 697-1140.

## Saskatchewan Young Ag-Entrepreneurs

### Yes To Agriculture 2012 SYA Conference and AGM



**Adrian Swarbrick, Director – Saskatchewan Young Ag-Entrepreneurs (SYA)**

The SYA hosted their 6th annual Conference and AGM in Regina this past February.

This event was bursting with not only great speakers and topics, but also with engaging, positive producers excited about the agriculture industry in Saskatchewan.

To touch on a small portion of the conference... Richard Phillips, Executive Director with the Grain Growers of Canada, emphasized that our government will listen to a clear and concise message,

come to the table prepared and have a well respected group of people behind you. Dr. John Fast split the delegates into groups based on their personalities, and it quickly became apparent how challenging it can be for several people of different personalities to work together even if they are from the same family. The SYA Board of Directors took their spot on stage during a producer panel Q&A. This moderator lead session touched on several areas of farm management such as succession planning, marketing, access to land opportunities as well as inquiries from the delegates. This portion of the conference was a great way for producers to share their struggles and successes, past – present – and future. We also enjoyed an evening of relaxation with an address from Roughrider Ritchie Hall, and a private games room at Casino Regina!

The annual SYA conference is a great place to make new contacts, get reacquainted with friends from across this vast province, and talk about the issues that matter most to young farmers, right now...whether that be current land prices, succession issues, farm financing, or employee relations.

The SYA Board plans to continue providing the tools our producers need to inspire and encourage the next generation of farmers in Saskatchewan.

## SYA Plans for 2012

**Gwenda Voldeng, GM, SYA**

The SYA is very pleased with the outcome of our winter conference, and are making plans for more great events this year. Here's a taste of what we are up to:

- Sprayer Drift Information Session – managing drift and how to benefit from it
- PAMI (Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute) tour in Humboldt
- SYA Booth during the Western Canada Farm Progress Show in Regina, June 20-22
- SYA Rider Game Night – Friday June 22
- Summer Field/Crop Tours
- A brand new SYA website will be launched in 2012 – we are very excited about the changes we have in store, you will want to make it your homepage!
- And yes we are already making plans for our 2013 winter conference – location Saskatoon

Best wishes to all of our agricultural peers across the nation as the snow melts and we welcome spring!

## New Young Farmer Loan to help next generation of producers

SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN, APRIL 12, 2012 – Young and beginning farmers will find it easier to start and grow their farm businesses with the help of a new \$500 million loan program. Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz and Farm Credit Canada (FCC) President and CEO Greg Stewart introduced the Young Farmer Loan today.

"Agriculture is a key driver of jobs and economic growth here in Canada, and young farmers are vital to the long-term prosperity of the agriculture industry," said Minister Ritz. "Encouraging young farmers to invest wisely and contribute to a prosperous, modern sector is not only good for agriculture but good for Canada."

This new loan offers qualified producers who are under 40 years of age loans of up to \$500,000 to purchase or improve farmland and buildings. Producers between the ages of 18 and 39 make up approximately 16 per cent of Canadian producers, according to the 2006 Census. The FCC Young Farmer Loan includes features and options that address this demographic, and support their long-term success. These include:

- variable rates at prime plus 0.5% and special fixed rates
- no loan processing fees

"We listen to our customers, and we develop products and services to meet their needs," said Mr. Stewart. "By allowing young producers to borrow with no fees at affordable rates, the Young Farmer Loan will help them build their businesses and develop a solid credit history. As a responsible lender, we're excited to see how they use this product to grow their business and the industry."

The Young Farmer Loan enhances FCC's suite of existing products and services that support young producers, such as the FCC Transition Loan, FCC Business Planning Award,



FCC Learning events and publications, FCC Go Ag! events, and FCC Management Software for both accounting and field management.

For more information on the FCC Young Farmer Loan, visit [www.fcc.ca/youngfarmerloan](http://www.fcc.ca/youngfarmerloan).



As Canada's leading agriculture lender, FCC is advancing the business of agriculture. With a healthy portfolio of more than \$22 billion and 19 consecutive years of portfolio growth, FCC is strong and stable – committed to serving the industry through all cycles. FCC provides financing, insurance, software, learning programs and other business services to producers, agribusinesses and agri-food operations. FCC employees are passionate about agriculture and committed to the success of customers and the industry. For more information, visit [www.fcc.ca](http://www.fcc.ca).



## STEP UP

Where enthusiasm meets experience.

Apply today for the STEP UP Mentorship Program

Spend a minimum of eight weeks working with an experienced farm manager. Through the on-farm learning placement, your mentor will:

- Expose you to critical aspects of farm management in a hands-on setting
- Provide you with a learning and sharing environment to transfer skills and knowledge
- Increase your awareness and adoption of beneficial management practices

"Having the opportunity to work with a knowledgeable farmer who enjoys teaching is a powerful experience, one that I could not have learned in school"

-Simone, Mentee

STEP UP is a joint partnership between:



Interested in becoming a mentor or a mentee?  
See the benefits and apply today at [fmc-gac.com/stepup](http://fmc-gac.com/stepup)

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# CYFF Affiliated Provincial Young Farmer Organizations

Newfoundland and Labrador Young Farmers Forum

Young Farmers of Prince Edward Island

Nova Scotia Young Farmers Forum

New Brunswick Young Farmers Forum

La FRAQ - Federation de la releve agricole du Quebec

Junior Farmers' Association of Ontario

Keystone Agriculture Producers

Saskatchewan Young Ag-Entrepreneurs

Future Agriculture Business Builders

BC Young Farmers

Yukon Young Farmers

**THANK YOU Dairy Farmers of Canada for your continued support of Canadian Young Farmer Organizations.** CYFF is looking forward to working with DFC in 2012. DFC has been and continues to be a strong supporter of CYFF's programs and mandates.

Dairy Farmers  
of Canada



Les Producteurs laitiers  
du Canada

**2013 AGM** The 2013 AGM will be held in Ottawa, Ontario.  
Details will be shared as they develop.



Canadian Young Farmers' Forum  
La Table pancanadienne de la relève agricole

[www.cyff.ca](http://www.cyff.ca)

