



SEED GROWERS MAKE DONATIONS WHILE PLANNING 2014 FARM SHOW

January 24, 2014

During a recent meeting, directors of the Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association distributed to worthy recipients some revenues from the annual Ottawa Valley Farm Show.

For a donation of \$1,000, directors voted to maintain their annual patron sponsorship in the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame to which, in recent years, they've sponsored several nominees. In addition, the Ottawa Rideau Regional Soil and Crop Association was awarded \$400 and the judging team at Dalhousie Agricultural Campus got \$300 in support of its activities. The team comprises some students from Eastern Ontario farms. "These are the type of organizations we support because they promote agriculture in our region and beyond," said association president John Roosendaal.

Thank you notes for contributions previously received were read from the Farm Show Council, the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, and winners of OVSGA bursaries at Kemptville Campus of the University of Guelph.

Most of the meeting was occupied in planning the 2014 farm show to be held March 11, 12 and 13 at the Ernst & Young Centre adjacent to Ottawa International Airport. Admission will remain at \$10, with children under 12 free. Show manager Tom Van Dusen reported that the 2014 edition is booked solid with some 350 exhibitors. There's a waiting list of at least 40 companies and organizations, and several existing exhibitors are looking to expand. "If the Ernst & Young added another 30,000 square-feet, we could fill it," Van Dusen said. "It's great to be so popular but somewhat frustrating that we can't accommodate more customers."

Back this year will be the farm antiques display, a quilt show, 4-H exhibits, and a large presentation by Farm Credit Canada's Agriculture More than Ever. For the first time, one end of the centre's lobby will be taken up with livestock information booths. "We wanted to do something to ease the congestion of commercial displays and relocation also places the breeds front and centre," said livestock committee chairman Burt Grundy.

A system is being developed that will result in exhibitors posting their booth numbers in a prominent position to help visitors locate them at the show. The large number cards will be laminated for durability and will be distributed to the booths by directors volunteering on the main set-up day.

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