



Ottawa Valley FARM SHOW

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2015 FARM SHOW TO RING IN NEW CONTEST

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Guessing the weight of a cow or bull to win a prize at a farm event isn't unheard of.

For its 2015 edition March 10-12, the Ottawa Valley Farm Show is introducing a weight guessing game with a difference. The 88th annual OVFS will be held once again at Ottawa's EY Centre.

"We couldn't really bring a live bull into the EY Centre," said guess-the-weight organizer Barry Dean. "So our bull is made of fiberglass. One of the big advantages is that there are no cleanup duties."



The molded bull will be adorned with a solid brass bell held around its neck with a custom-made leather strap stamped with the words: "2015 Ottawa Valley Farm Show."

Visitors to the show will be able to submit their guesses starting first thing on opening day March 10. The winner will be declared and the prize awarded at noon March 12, Day 3 of the show.

Contestants must correctly guess the combined weight of the bull and bell. The prize? It's the actual bell and strap, a combined value of about \$500. The winner gets to take those items home for keeps... but not the bull.

Bearing the slogan "Champion Bull", the bell was fashioned by Mennonites in Western Ontario, while the six-foot strap will be hand-tooled by leather artisan Lynn Macnab based in Glengarry County.

"We thought it would be fun and a little different," said Dean whose M & R Feeds and Farm Supply in Arnprior is sponsoring the event along with Macnab.

Details of the contest were hammered out at a recent meeting of the Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association which has been sponsoring the Farm Show since 1927.

Directors also decided to update their OVFS logo wardrobe with maroon and gold shirts and black and gold jackets and hats, primarily in order to be easily recognizable by exhibitors and visitors at the Farm Show. A Maple Leaf will be added to the hats and possibly other garments to clearly indicate the Farm Show's Canadian origin when directors visit U.S. events.

In other business, director Shelley McPhail brought forward plans for a survey of visitor satisfaction to be conducted during the 2015 show. And director Jeff Waldroff was appointed chairman of a new fundraising committee.

General Manager Tom Van Dusen reported on progress to date in setting up the show. As usual, the entire EY Centre including meeting rooms, entrance corridor, and outside space is sold out with a long waiting list, most of which can't be accommodated.

"It's both a happy and sad situation," Van Dusen said. "While it's great to have a full show, it's unfortunate we can't bring in more new exhibitors."

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Tom Van Dusen, GM, OVFS, 613-445-3407.

tvd@ottawafarmshow.com