



January 25, 2008

## **SEED GROWERS SUPPORT ORGANIC DAIRY, 4-H FIELD CROPS**

The Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association has granted \$500 to the Alfred Campus of University of Guelph to help it stage an organic dairy conference April 7-8. In agreeing to provide the funds, OVSGA directors meeting in Kemptville Jan. 21 felt that supporting alternative agriculture is a worthwhile cause.

Alfred Campus is in the process of developing the first research centre for organic dairying in Canada. Featuring speakers from Canada, the U.S. and Europe, the conference will deliver the latest research on the specialty, including cow nutrition.

Using the proceeds from its annual Ottawa Valley Farm Show coming up March 11-13 at Lansdowne Park, the association backs many Eastern Ontario agricultural and rural causes. At the same meeting, directors also voted to provide \$250 upon request to 4-H chapters in 11 Eastern Ontario counties as an incentive for field crop clubs. The money will be on top of \$200 already given to each chapter every year for general purposes. The decision followed comments from director Bruce Hudson that such clubs, due to limited finances and shortage of volunteer leaders, have become few and far between. Field crops, Hudson noted, are the Seed Growers' main focus and 4-H clubs are a source both of future seed specialists and of new members of the organization.

The meeting also heard thank you notes from several organizations for financial help previously provided, including one from Kathy Hardy on behalf of the Kemptville College Foundation for \$5,000 towards purchase of a fiber analyzer.

Farm Show General Manager Tom Van Dusen reported the 2008 edition is sold out with more than 320 confirmed exhibitors, while Secretary-Treasurer Mary Joynt announced that shares in the failed Cornwall ethanol plant held in an escrow account have been returned, about two-thirds of the Seed Growers total \$200,000 investment.

Finally, the board received an update from director Garnet Ralph on the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame nomination of Gordon Hill which it supported with a \$700 grant; and directors voted to provide a similar allocation to sponsor one of their own, John Posthumus in the 2009 round of Hall of Fame nominations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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