



## **OFA PRESIDENT TO OPEN 2009 OTTAWA VALLEY FARM SHOW**

March 3, 2009

Ontario Federation of Agriculture president Bette Jean Crews will officially open the 2009 Ottawa Valley Farm Show March 17 at Lansdowne Park in Ottawa.

Sponsored by the Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association, the 82<sup>nd</sup> annual Farm Show continues March 18 and 19 with about 330 exhibitors registered; they'll be showing everything from the latest in machinery, equipment and seed, to farm toys, books and financial services. Organized by farmers for farmers, it's the largest agricultural trade show east of Toronto. A show highlight is the regional seed judging and awards ceremony; the Seed Growers annually present 16 trophies and several certificates to some of Eastern Ontario's most talented producers.

Sponsored by M&R Feeds of Arnprior, the newest trophy in memory of late OVSGA director Bennie Vance will go to Best Sheaf in the 2009 show. The fine art of sheaf making has recently been revived by area 4-H clubs.

Bette Jean Crews will take to the podium at 12 noon to briefly describe the federation perspective on the state of agriculture in Ontario during the current economic downturn. It's a situation which isn't directly impacting the show which has more exhibitors than ever before. Serving her first term as OFA president, Crews was vice-president for two terms and spent six years on the federation executive committee. Her family operates a grains, oilseeds, fruit and vegetable farm near Trenton as well as a brokerage trucking business.

As usual, the official opening on the 17<sup>th</sup> will take place at the east end of the Civic Centre Concourse where all Farm Show special events are held. On March 18 at 12 noon, the Seed Growers will host the Seed Awards ceremony and at 12 noon March 19, the association will present the Prestigious Pedigreed Seed Sale with proceeds going to the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario. To date, \$65,000 has been raised.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Tom Van Dusen, General Manager, 613-445-3407.

Photo of M&R Feeds trophy available under Show News at [www.ottawafarmshow.com](http://www.ottawafarmshow.com).

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[www.OttawaFarmShow.com](http://www.OttawaFarmShow.com)