

New Feedlot Director Elected to OCA Board

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEBRUARY 25, GUELPH – Over 300 beef farmers and industry representatives from across Ontario congregated in Toronto this week for the Ontario Cattlemen's Association (OCA) Annual General Meeting, themed *"Breaking Boundaries: The Power of Collaboration"*.

Guest speakers at the annual event included Anne Dunford of Gateway Livestock and Glen Hodgson Senior Vice-President and Chief Economist with the Conference Board of Canada. A special panel discussion, *Establishing Beef Value Chains*, included panelists Richard Phelps, Director Blade Farming Southwest Ltd. of the United Kingdom, Dr. Phil Hadley, EBLEX Regional Manager, South West England and Jim Clark, Ontario Corn-Fed Beef.

Re-elected as OCA President for 2011 is Curtis Royal of Simcoe County. Royal operates a feedlot near Creemore, Ontario. Cow-Calf operator, Dan Darling, of Northumberland County resumes his position as the 2011 OCA Vice-President.

"Looking ahead, to the next year, I look forward to continuing the fight for a workable safety nets system for all producers in the province" says Royal. "The 2011 OCA Board will continue to collaborate with industry partners and organizations to receive the best return for our producers. Be assured I like a good challenge."

A new face to the OCA Board, Joe Hill of Wellington County, replaces Doug Kaufman who had completed the maximum three consecutive terms. Joe's operation in Wellington County includes a feedlot and 800 acres that he crops in corn, soybeans, wheat and hay. An OCA Advisory Councilor for three years and Director on the local Wellington Cattlemen's Association for twelve, Joe has demonstrated leadership skills that will prove to be an asset for him as an OCA Director.

"I believe the Ontario beef industry should, so long as expectations are realistic, offer opportunities for operations of all sizes," stated Hill. "I look forward to my position on the Board to develop a greater understanding of the entire industry and take positive action for the good of the entire beef sector."

Re-elected to the Board were Gerald Rollins of Renfrew County, representing cow-calf producers, and Rick Hobbs, of Ottawa County representing Eastern Ontario. Bill Herron, a Grey County farmer, was acclaimed as the backgrounder representative on the Board.

The Ontario Cattlemen's Association represents the interests of 19,000 Ontario beef producers. OCA's Board of Directors consists of 12 elected officials – three from the cow-calf sector, three from the feedlot sector, one from the backgrounder sector, three representing geographic regions of Ontario and two elected on an At-Large basis. Directors are elected for three-year terms on a rotating basis.

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