



ONTARIO SOIL AND CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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For immediate release

Northumberland County Dairy Farmer Named 2008 Ontario Forage Master

November 17, 2008 - Brighton. Justin Dorland, a dairy farmer from Northumberland County, has been named Ontario Forage Master for 2008.

Dorland participated in the 21st Annual Ontario Forage Masters Competition at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, where he had the opportunity to present innovative ideas and forage management techniques to peers and visitors. Pickseed Canada, Agri-Food Laboratories, Dey's Equipment, the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, and the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) sponsored the competition.

"For more than 20 years the Ontario Forage Masters competition has been helping to promote and share ideas on producing excellent forages. PICKSEED Canada is proud to be a partner in this initiative," said Paul Wight, Ontario and Atlantic Sales Manager for Pickseed Canada.

"It was also an excellent day to learn more about tips on growing top quality forages from each of the competitors competing from across Ontario," said Pat Lee, President of OSCIA. "More forages than any other crop are grown in Ontario and farmers are looking for ways for continual improvement of management practices. To most livestock farmers, forages are the most profitable crop they grow".

Following the announcement, Dorland who represented Northumberland County, expressed his thanks. "I'm honoured to have been chosen to represent the Ontario forage industry and I look forward to learning more about the industry in the upcoming year."

Dorland graduated from the University of Guelph with a B.Sc. in agriculture with a major in agronomy. Several years working part time on the farm and for a local farm supply company provided excellent experience for his main goal of full-time farming.

Dorland now qualifies to compete in the 2009 American Forage and Grassland Council's Forage Spokesperson Contest to be held June 21-24, 2009 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The seventh generation family farm is owned and operated by Justin and his parents. They currently milk 120 cows and grow approximately 130 acres of alfalfa, an integral part of their operation. They do not apply any commercial fertilizers. "High quality forage can add a great deal to the farm's bottom line", Dorland stated. "Our management of forages includes cutting every thirty days."

A key component of the Competition included an engaging exchange between Dorland and the judges on the merits of forage management.

The Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association is a grass-roots farm organization committed to the communication and facilitation of responsible, economic management of soil, water, air, and crops.

PICKSEED Canada Inc. is a leader in the development, production and distribution of turfgrass, forage crop and hybrid corn seeds. Since its beginning in 1947, PICKSEED has built a trusted and proven reputation for quality, agronomic advice and a commitment to research and technology. PICKSEED currently has locations across Canada and operates under the PICKSEED and Mapleseed brand names.

Agri-Food Laboratories (a wholly owned subsidiary of Agri-Trace International, a division of Beef Improvement Ontario) is a Canadian business focused upon providing high quality analytical lab services and information products to the agriculture sector in Canada and worldwide.

Dey's Equipment Centre of Tillsonburg is the authorized dealer for Massey Ferguson, White, Hesston, Sunflower, and Kongskilde.

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