



Novartis Seeds, R.R. #1, Arva, Ontario, N0M 1C0

## **Dave Larmer Named the 2000 Ontario Forage Master**

**November 30, 2000 – Blackstock, Ontario.** Dave Larmer, a dairy farmer from Blackstock, has been named Ontario Forage Master for 2000.



Larmer was one of 12 contestants who competed in the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Ontario Forage Masters Competition at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, where he and the others had the opportunity to present innovative ideas and forage management techniques to peers and visitors. NK brand seeds, Agri-Food Laboratories and the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) sponsored the competition.

"I was very impressed with the high level of expertise shown in the presentations this year," said John McNiven, field sales manager for NK brand seeds. "It was also an excellent day to learn

more about tips on growing top quality forages from each of the 12 competitors competing from across Ontario," said Fred Judd, 1<sup>st</sup> vice president of the OSCIA.

Following the announcement of first runner-up Ron Millen of Victoria County, Larmer, who represented Durham East, 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."

Larmer now qualifies to compete in the 2001 American Forage and Grassland Council's Forages Spokesperson Contest to be held April 22 to 25 in Springdale, Arkansas.

Larco farms, owned and operated by Larmer, his wife Ingrid and their two sons Robert and Steven, is a 500-acre dairy and cash crop operation. With 70 to 80 acres of land under production in forages, this commodity is an integral part of their operation. "A high level of production is reached by putting an emphasis on feeding a high quality balanced ration, based on use of quality forages," Larmer stated, "and to me, there is no better feed to base your feeding program on."

Forages are considered a versatile, nutritional, economical and environmentally friendly crop. Larmer stated that, "By optimizing the use of forages, alfalfa in particular, we can keep costs to a minimum and attain maximum economic return." Forages account for the greatest number of

crop acres grown in the province and this year, contributed over \$750 million to Ontario's agri-food economy.

The Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association promotes responsible economic management of soil, water, air and crops.

Headquartered in Arva, Ontario, Novartis Seeds, a Syngenta company, has research and plant breeding facilities in Arva and Plattsville, Ontario and a field office in St-Pie, Quebec. Novartis Seeds also has a seed production facility in Cottam, Ontario. Recognized for innovation and leadership, Novartis Seeds was the first to bring Bt corn to the market and continues to offer a broad NK brand product line-up. Combining global strength and local expertise, Novartis Seeds works to offer growers more value with over 300 NK vested distribution partners across Canada, bringing growers the best in innovative seed genetics.

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