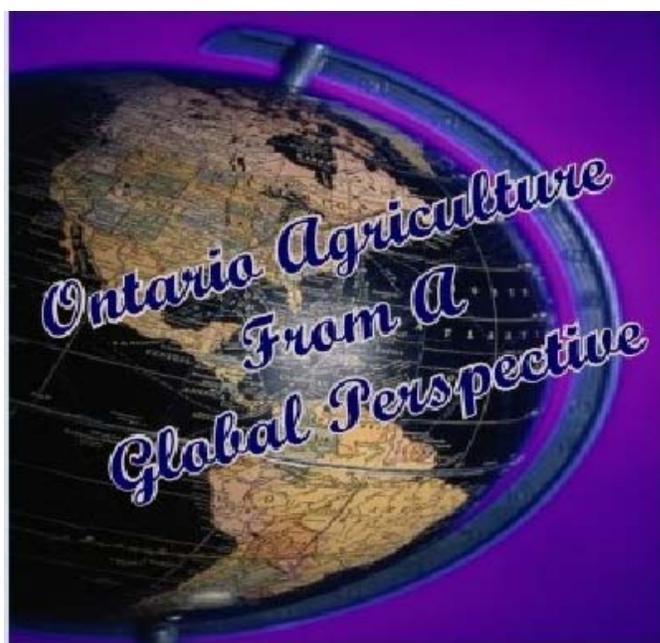


FarmSmart Agricultural Conference 2007



FarmSmart is an agricultural conference designed to address the needs of agriculture in the midwestern to central Ontario regions of the province. Over 500 participants attended and in total over 700 people were involved in the conference. In 2007 the conference theme was "Ontario Agriculture From A Global Perspective" which provided many sessions which highlighted Ontario's place in the greater global economy.



The FarmSmart Agricultural Conference is a partnership between OMAFRA, Golden Horseshoe and Heartland Regional Soil and Crop Improvement Associations, The University of Guelph and is supported by Ontario's Agricultural Industry.

The FarmSmart Conference was held January 20, 2007 in Rozanski Hall at the University of Guelph. The conference mandate is to provide an opportunity for farmers, extension, academics and industry to interact and learn from a series of approximately 49 sessions held in concurrent format throughout the day. Topics included crop and livestock production sessions along with nutrient management, alternative energy,

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business management, general interest and others. A series of computer workshops in the OAC multi media laboratory including various financial and precision agriculture software tools. Participants chose their own program from the diverse slate of topics allowing each participant to tailor the day to their interests and requirements.

This was the second year for our dedicated Youth Program and over 35 rural youth participated. We have high hopes to growth this segment of our program and encourage all farm families to consider this terrific event. The kids had an opportunity to make ice cream, potato chips, participate in demonstration of cow insemination and view the inside of a live cow's stomach. They toured the University Space program and got to design a greenhouse for Mars.

Author Ronald Wright who penned the excellent book "A Short History of Progress" gave a sobering talk on some of the issues facing the planet today. It was not a message many of us wanted to hear but is a "reality check" that maybe we would be well advised to consider.

FarmSmart 2007 was an outstanding success and all the partners are looking forward to bringing you FarmSmart 2007 on January 19th, 2008. Mark your calendars today, so as not to miss the exciting and informative chance to join fellow producers, industry, extension and academics at next year's event.

Stay current with FarmSmart Ag Conference news by monitoring our website at: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/farmsmart>

Event Contact

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