

## FarmSmart Agricultural Conference 2015

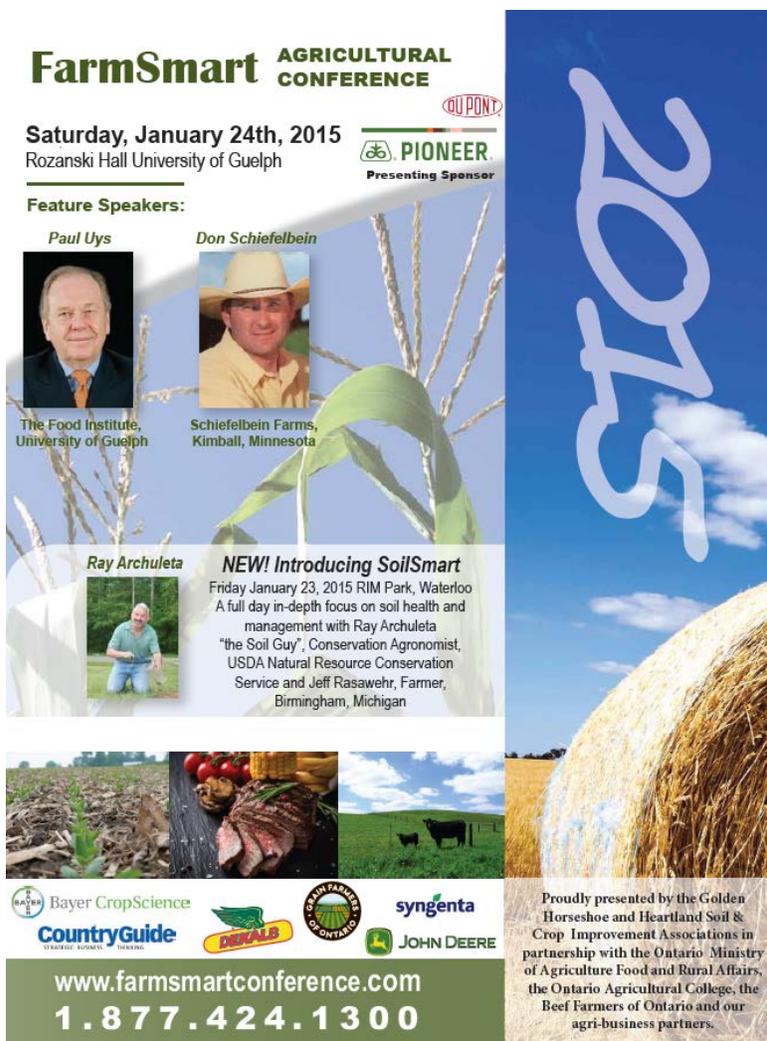
# FARMSMART

The FarmSmart Agricultural Conference celebrated its 16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Sat. Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015. The conference which began at Redeemer College Ancaster in 1999 and moved to the University of Guelph main campus in 2003 continues to build to offer participants, speakers and sponsors more opportunity to learn and network. FarmSmart wishes to thank the many participants, organizers, speakers and sponsors who have supported this conference over the past 16 years. Attendance again surpassed expectations with over 1000 people participating in the newly expanded 2 day event. In an effort to expand the value of the FarmSmart franchise, the organizers added a 3rd year of a full day single stream event, SoilSmart, which brought over 450 producers and Ag business people together at RIM Park in Waterloo to learn from Ray Archuleta, Jeff Rasawehr, Bill Deen and others. With the tremendous success of the third year of this add on event, it has become a staple of FarmSmart.

Continuing on the success of our parallel feature speaker program from the last couple of years of sharing the time with a speaker from the Ontario Beef Symposium which has become a permanent fixture of the event and our main program, our speakers were Mr. Paul Uys, formerly of Loblaws talking about "Fork to Field" and how retailers react in the value chain in response to customer demands and the continuing evolution of "Sustainability" in the sector. Don Schieflealm of Minnesota discussed the manner of operating a large scale integrated farm with 8 brothers and his parents.

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

The conference mandate is to provide an opportunity for farmers, extension, academics and industry to interact and learn from a series of approximately 50 sessions and workshops held in up to 8 concurrent formats throughout the day. Topics included crop and livestock production sessions along with nutrient management, alternative energy, business management, general interest and others. A series of computer workshops in the OAC multi media laboratory including various financial and precision agriculture will 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. The FarmSmart Committee is pleased to see that the attendance at the conference continues to spread itself across the wide range of diverse sessions. We are always intrigued by the mix of people who show up at some of less agricultural topics. This diversity of program is what makes FarmSmart unique among the wide range of conferences held each year, and based on the success of the format will continue to be the focus of the program committee in the future.



**FarmSmart** AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE

Saturday, January 24th, 2015  
Rozanski Hall University of Guelph

**PIONEER**  
Presenting Sponsor

**Feature Speakers:**

**Paul Uys**  
The Food Institute,  
University of Guelph

**Don Schiefelbein**  
Schiefelbein Farms,  
Kimball, Minnesota

**Ray Archuleta**  
**NEW! Introducing SoilSmart**  
Friday January 23, 2015 RIM Park, Waterloo  
A full day in-depth focus on soil health and  
management with Ray Archuleta  
"the Soil Guy", Conservation Agronomist,  
USDA Natural Resource Conservation  
Service and Jeff Rasaweher, Farmer,  
Birmingham, Michigan

Proudly presented by the Golden  
Horseshoe and Heartland Soil &  
Crop Improvement Associations in  
partnership with the Ontario Ministry  
of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs,  
the Ontario Agricultural College, the  
Beef Farmers of Ontario and our  
agri-business partners.

**www.farmsmartconference.com**  
**1.877.424.1300**

Logos for Bayer CropScience, CountryGuide, DEKALB, JOHN DEERE, and syngenta are also present.

The Youth Program was again a great success with close to 40 participating. We continue to emphasize this aspect of the conference. Kids, come out and have a fun and interesting day exploring the University of Guelph and all it has to offer. For the first time this year we were able to arrange a tour of the OVC Vet College which was well received by the kids and we returned to the School of Environmental Sciences Space Lab, always a perennial hit.

FarmSmart 2013 was an outstanding success and all the partners are looking forward to bringing you FarmSmart 2014 on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014. 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: [www.farmsmartconference.com](http://www.farmsmartconference.com)

### Event Contact

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