

## FarmSmart Agricultural Conference 2006



FarmSmart is an agricultural conference designed to address the needs of agriculture in the midwestern to central Ontario regions of the province. Over 400 participants attended and in total, nearly 600 people were involved in the conference. In 2006 the conference theme was "Managing Risk for Success" which focused on the issues facing primary producers under the present circumstances of low commodity prices and high input costs.

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

The FarmSmart Conference was held January 21, 2006 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 ~45 sessions held in concurrent format throughout the day. Topics included crop and livestock production sessions along with nutrient management, alternative energy, business management, general interest and others. Continuing from last years introduction was a series of computer workshops in the OAC multi media laboratory including various financial and precision agriculture software tools. Tours of the Food Science Department at the University of Guelph were attended by about 40 people. Participants chose their own program from the diverse slate of topics allowing each participant to tailor the day to their interests and requirements.

Author and play write Dan Needles was the feature speaker for this year's conference where he regaled us with "A Lighter Approach to Risk Management". Mr. Needles was both entertaining and thought provoking.

FarmSmart 2006 was an outstanding success and all the partners are looking forward to bringing you FarmSmart 2007 on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007. 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

Ian McDonald, OMAFRA, Guelph, [ian.mcdonald@omaf.gov.on.ca](mailto:ian.mcdonald@omaf.gov.on.ca) .

**Various Images from the 2006 FarmSmart Agricultural Conference**

Figure 1. Rozanski Hall Main Theatre



Figure 2. 2006 Feature Speaker Dan Needles of Wingfield fame.



Figure 3. Trade Show in Main Concourse



Figure 4: FarmSmart Youth Program



Figure 5. FarmSmart Computer Workshops



Figure 6. Taking It All In

