FarmSmart Farming Systems Expo 2008

The 2008 edition of the FarmSmart Farming Systems Expo highlighted "Weed Control" as the theme of the event. A variety of weed control related topics were presented along with an assortment of production sessions. The expo event is meant to provide a practical hands-on extension to the winter FarmSmart Agricultural Conference

The purpose of these diagnostic days is to highlight current issues in crop and livestock production. This was done through creating and exploring "field issues" which provided participants with skills and knowledge needed to identify and solve problems as they become evident, or better yet, identify and correct issues before they become problems.

The FarmSmart Expo is a two day event, with the first day inviting farmers and agribusiness to the Elora Research Station of the University of Guelph. The participants are organized into small groups who rotate through a number of sessions that challenge them in problem solving current and obscure agronomic events that have been experienced in the field. The sessions also highlight new technologies and techniques.

The second day we welcome Ontario Rural Youth to Elora. In 2008 ~80 youth descended on Elora for a fun and exciting day of tours and hands on demonstrations. This year for the youth program we organized tours of neighboring farms and ag businesses who hosted interesting sessions at their locations. This was especially successful and will be pursued again in 2009.

Thanks to all those who contributed to the success of the day , with a special mention for Peter Smith of the Plant Ag Dept. and Office of Research for his enthusiastic activities that kept on top of much of the site.

Mark your 2009 calendars for Thursday and Friday July 2nd and 3rd when the FarmSmart Expo will return to the Elora Research Station. Consult our event website to keep current with this and other associated events: http://www.uoguelph.ca/farmsmart

Event Contact

Ian McDonald, OMAFRA, ian.mcdonald@ontario.ca, 519-824-4120 ext. 56707