



Annual General Meeting Delegate Information

The 2023 Annual General Meeting will be held at the Delta Hotel Toronto Airport & Convention Centre, 655 Dixon Road, Toronto.

Registration Information

The receipt of this information confirms that you are a registered delegate to the OFA Annual General Meeting (AGM). The AGM registration will be located in the South Lobby of the hotel and is open Monday, November 20 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and re-opens Tuesday morning at 7:30 a.m.

Spouses are welcome to observe the meeting at no cost. If they would like to partake in the meals, a meal package can be purchased for \$100 (includes Monday night reception, two breakfasts and one buffet lunch). Harvest Celebration dinner tickets are extra with a reduced price of \$60.00. These items can be purchased at the registration desk upon arrival.

Alternates

If for some reason you will not be able to attend, and an alternate will be going in your place, make sure the alternate delegate is aware that he/she must bring a letter from the county confirming the switch.

Hotel Reservations

Please check with your county administrator that a hotel room was booked for you, the room blocks have ended.

Parking

Please register your vehicle upon hotel check in. Parking charges will be included in your hotel bill. You will have in and out privileges and will not be required to pay when exiting the parking lot.

Transportation from Pearson International Airport

The hotel provides a complimentary shuttle to and from the airport at 30-minute intervals. The shuttle arrives at the airport at the 15 and 45 minutes past each hour. From terminal 1 proceed to the ground level and wait at post "R" from terminal 3 proceed to the ground level and wait at post "41". The last shuttle leaves the airport at 1:45 a.m.

Dining – Monday afternoon/evening

Lot 41 the restaurant/bar in the Delta Hotel is open for dinner and will remain open until 1:00 a.m. on Monday evening.

Opening Reception & Exhibitor Showcase

The Monday Evening Opening Reception & Exhibitor Showcase will take place in the south end of the hotel in the Plaza Foyer on Level 2 between 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Appetizers and one beverage ticket per delegate will be provided.

Silent Auction

The silent auction will be set up in the Plaza Foyer on Level 2 on Monday evening from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. and Tuesday until approximately 5:00 p.m. All proceeds will be donated to five education bursaries for students pursuing agricultural education.

Workshops

Tuesday, November 21 at 1:30 p.m. and 2:45 p.m. delegates will have the opportunity to participate in two of four workshops. Each workshop listed below will run twice, back-to-back for 60 minutes each.

1. Farming a Story – Engaging with Government and the Media

Presenters: Calvin Reid, Director of Public Relations & Jonathan Sampson, Director of Government Relations, Enterprise Canada

This workshop will provide tips, tactics and advice for lobbying the government and managing media situations, with an emphasis on creating effective messages, taking important issues forward to local councils, and elevating to MPPs and MPs, how to prepare for and talk to the media and how to be most effective in communicating with either the government or the media (or both).

2. Finding Solutions for Deadstock Management

Presenter: Jennifer McTavish

The effective management of on-farm mortalities is always a concern, and recently became a high priority issue, for the Ontario livestock sector. Producers, government, and other stakeholders (renderers, pickup, composters) recognize the need for a longer-term solution. Work done by the Livestock Research Innovation Corporation identified the following recommendations: establish a coordinating body; continued investment into deadstock removal and infrastructure; work with waste management companies; and review regulations. This workshop will seek input from the participants on the recommendations being presented.

3. **AgRobotics and Innovation in an Era of Immense Change**

Presenter: Ian MacDonald

While we have experienced much innovation in agriculture starting with the movement away from the horse as the means of “farm power”, never have we seen the speed of tech advancement of today which likely pales to the speed of technology change coming toward us. How do we make the right decisions regarding technology and its integration into farming systems?

4. **Planners as Your Best Friend**

Presenters: Wayne Caldwell & Gwennyth McCarthy

This workshop will provide a basic understanding of Land Use Planning policy and promote a productive and collaborative relationship between farmers and planners. The workshop will cover the basics of Land Use Planning policy from the provincial level to the municipal level as well as any relevant concerns, projects, and updates. In addition, the workshop will provide some insight into building trust and establishing relationships between farmers and planners to benefit both parties and touch on some innovations and good news within the planning world.

Ontario Harvest Celebration

Tuesday, November 21, International Rooms ABC

Doors Open at 6:30 p.m.

Celebrate the bounty of our province featuring the finest local foods and beverages.

Event Sponsor:



Food Sponsors:

Beef Farmers of Ontario
Ontario Pork
Chicken Farmers of Ontario
Mushrooms Canada

Brewery Participants:

Great Lakes Brewery
GoodLot Farmstead Brewery

Liquor Participant:

Vodcow

Winery Participants:

Andrews Farm Market & Winery
Sue-Ann Staff Estate Winery
Windrush Estate Winery

Cidery Participant:

Heeman's Cider

Keynote Speakers:

Kelly Dobson **LeaderShift**

Kelly has been formally coaching in the ag space since 2017. Initially working with farm families – primarily dads, sons & siblings, which expanded to include cohort-based coaching through the National Farm Leadership Program (NFLP). The success of the NFLP branched Kelly’s client base to include agribusiness managers of both private and multinational firms.

Kelly’s primary interest is in equipping and supporting people to adapt to their changing environment, roles, responsibilities, and relationships. Over time, their work becomes a catalyst for personal innovation and growth that underpins their professional success. Kelly is also a fourth-generation farmer from Manitoba and has served agriculture for over a decade, chairing provincial and federal organizations, as well writing for Country Guide.

Derek Edwards **Canadian Comedian**

Derek’s award-winning humor has made him one of the most in-demand comics in Canada.

Identifying himself with the ordinary working guy, his comedic gift is making the ordinary extraordinary. Selling out concert halls across Canada, Derek Edwards can also be found many evenings entertaining at corporate events across North America.

A regular at the Just for Laughs Festival in Montreal, where he was recently hailed as a “virtuoso at the peak of his performance,” Derek’s delivers his comedy with polished style and impeccable timing. Derek Edwards is the only Canadian winner of the prestigious Vail International Comedy Competition, is a two-time Gemini nominee and has been nominated numerous times as Best Standup Comic at the Canadian Comedy Awards. Derek’s numerous TV and radio credits include The New Red Green Show, The Debaters, Just For Laughs, Laugh Out Loud and CBC’s Comics. Derek is currently touring theatres with his new show, “*In Praise of the Ostrich*.”

Webcasting

A livestream of the Annual General Meeting will be available on OFA's YouTube channel at youtube.com/ontariofarms or by accessing the link on our website at ofa.on.ca/agm. We invite everyone who can't join us in-person to catch the livestream beginning Tuesday, November 21 at 8:15 a.m.

Twitter/X

Join the conversation on Twitter/X. Use the hashtag **#OFAgm23** to send us your thoughts or comments on the 2023 AGM, post pictures, discuss issues and interact with fellow Ontario agricultural industry partners.