



Tuesday, January 14, 2020

OMAFRA Vegetable Team:

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New Farmer Session at the 2020 Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Convention



Are you new to farming? This year the 2020 Ontario Fruit & Vegetable Convention (OFVC) (<http://www.ofvc.ca/>) will feature a full day session designed specifically for the new farmers interested in fruit or vegetable production. The session, which is titled 'Farming Basics for New Fruit and Vegetable Growers', will give an overview of all aspects of farming horticultural crops from purchasing a farm through selling and marketing.

The OFVC takes place on Feb 19-20 at the Scotiabank Convention Centre, 6815 Stanley Ave, Niagara Falls, Ontario.

The Farming Basics session will take place on Feb 19. Here is the agenda for the session:

- **9:30 Introduction to Farming and Finding Markets**
Dr. Sean Westerveld, and Robb Wagner, OMAFRA
- **10:00 The Business of Farming: Setting Up**
Robb Wagner, Erich Weber, John Molenhuis, Mark Ferguson, OMAFRA
- **10:30 The Business of Farming: Day to Day**
Robb Wagner, Erich Weber, John Molenhuis and Mark Ferguson, OMAFRA
- **11:00 It All Begins with Your Soil**
Anne Verhallen, OMAFRA
- **11:30 Waterlogged or Dry as a Bone? Manage Water Before You Plant**
Rebecca Shortt, OMAFRA
- **2:00 Pest Management and Weed Control 101**
Dr. Melanie Filotas and Kristen Obeid, OMAFRA
- **2:30 Cropping Systems Introduction: Fruit Production**
Kathryn Carter, OMAFRA
- **2:50 Cropping Systems Introduction: Vegetable Production**
Dennis Van Dyk, OMAFRA
- **3:10 Cropping Systems Introduction: Specialty Crop Production**
Evan Elford, OMAFRA
- **3:30 Grower Experience: Starting a Farm in Ontario**
Hayden Dooney, Norfolk Fruit Grower's Assoc.
- **4:00 Q & A Session**

"In This Issue"

- ♦ New Farmer Session at the 2020 Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Convention
- ♦ Summer Student Positions for the Undergraduate Student Experiential Learning (USEL) Program

New Farmer Session at the 2020 Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Convention...con't

The conference also has other learning opportunities for new growers such as an Intro to Organic Production session on the morning of Feb 20 and sessions on a range of fruit, vegetable and specialty crops. There is also a large trade show that includes financial institutions, equipment dealers, suppliers and much more that can assist a new farmer. For the full agenda, more information about the convention, and to register please visit the OFVC website at www.ofvc.ca.

Summer Student Positions for the Undergraduate Student Experiential Learning (USEL) Program

Job Posting: Project Lead – USEL Summer Positions for the Undergraduate Student Experiential Learning Program

Organization: Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and The University of Guelph

Division/Branch: Agriculture Development Branch/Environmental Management Branch/ Food Safety Systems Development Branch/Ontario Agricultural College

Job Term: 8 Summer Positions (Starting April/May for approx. 16 weeks)

Locations: 1 Stone Road Guelph or other OMAFRA Resource Centers (will depend on project and applicants)

Salary: \$15.35 / hour, based on a 36.25 hour work week + benefits

Start Date: April 20th, 2020 to May 4th, 2020

Closing Date: January 13th, 2020



The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), in conjunction with the Ontario Agricultural College (OAC), is searching for enthusiastic individuals with agriculture production knowledge/education and an interest in developing their leadership, project management, research and communication skills to join their team of technology transfer/extension professionals for a summer of mentoring.

Help us create and transform new research and ideas into practical programs, products and services which will ensure Ontario's agricultural sector remains profitable and competitive. Successful applicants will be mentored by an OMAFRA specialist and University of Guelph researcher as part of the Undergraduate Student Experiential Learning (USEL) Program. Note: the geographic location options for each position – the options listed are available below, candidates should indicate which project(s) they are interested in. To view the project proposals, visit: <https://www.uoguelph.ca/alliance/USEL>.

1. Measuring and Integrating Composted Bedding Pack Management on Cow Behaviour, Health and Performance – Location: Guelph.
2. Colostrum and Environmental Management for Improved Goat Kid Survival (GKM) – Location: Elora or Guelph.
3. Learning How to Adapt LED Lighting in the Greenhouse – Location: Guelph with occasional travel to Niagara.
4. Phosphorus Use Efficiency in Winter Wheat – Location: Guelph.
5. **Expansion of the Vegetable Crop Report (VCR) to Improve Pest and Disease Forecasting in Southwestern, Central and Eastern Ontario – Location: Guelph.**
6. Investigating Impacts and Alternatives of Agricultural Plastics Use On-Farm – Location: Guelph.
7. StoryMaps as a KTT Method to Communicate Predictive Digital Soil Maps Process to the Agriculture Sector – Location: Guelph.
8. Validation of Microbial Intervention Effectiveness in Provincially Licensed Meat Plants – Location: Guelph.

Summer Student Positions for the Undergraduate Student Experiential Learning (USEL) Program...con't

What can I expect to do in this role? In this role, you will:

- * Be involved in the delivery of production information to Ontario agriculture industry while being mentored by OMAFRA specialist and University of Guelph researcher.
- * Coordinate a project designed to assess the presence and impact of new and existing practices, products, technologies and programs to Ontario's agriculture sector.
- * Work on a priority project, prepare educational and awareness building tools to facilitate change.
- * Gain valuable experience working with world class extension specialists and researchers on a priority project.
- * Gain knowledge of the role of government, knowledge translation and transfer (KTT) and potential career opportunities.

How do I qualify?

Applicants should be completing their third year or normally have completed 15 credits of undergraduate studies in a relevant **OAC degree program** (students from other U of G programs will be considered based on academic fit and experience related to the positions). Students completing their second year will also be considered based on academic merit. You have a **valid Ontario G2 (or higher) Driver's Licence or equivalent**.

How to apply:

Applicants should provide a **resume, unofficial transcripts, and a cover letter describing their interests and stating which particular position(s) they are applying for**. Electronic applications should be submitted to: **Carmela Cupelli, carmela.cupelli@ontario.ca**. Applications are due by **Monday, January 13, 2020 by 11:59 pm**. Successful applicants will be contacted for an interview shortly thereafter.

Support for these positions is provided through the Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance (previously the OMAFRA-U of G Partnership), a collaboration between the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and the University of Guelph.