



Announcing the Finalists for the 2010 Ontario's Outstanding Young Farmers' Program

(Guelph, ON – February 28, 2010) The finalists for the 2010 Ontario's Outstanding Young Farmers' (OOYF) competition have just been announced. Selected from a record number of 36 nominations, the top six farmers are:

- Steve and Lisa Cooper, horticulture, goats, agri-tourism, Zephyr
- Matthew Fischer, turkeys, Listowel
- Hugh and Arlene Hunter, dairy, Smith Falls
- Katie Normet, goat cheese and soaps, Arthur
- Anthony and Marj Sjaarda, dairy goats, Wyoming
- Amy Strom, sweet corn, agri-tourism, Guelph

More information on the finalists can be found in the attached backgrounder or on the OOYF website at www.oyfontario.ca.

These six finalists now head to the Provincial Convention being held at the Ramada Hotel in Belleville from March 29 - 31st where their interview and presentations skills will be evaluated by a panel of judges. The winner will be announced at the Awards Banquet on Tuesday March 30th and amongst other benefits, will receive a trip to the National Awards Program, to be held in Victoria, British Columbia, this November.

Banquet tickets are available for \$45 each by contacting Karen Daynard, OOYF Coordinator, at 519-836-2583 or kdaynard@sympatico.ca. Ticket sales end March 22.

Celebrating its 30th year, Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers' program is an annual competition to recognize farmers that exemplify excellence in their profession and promote the tremendous contribution of agriculture, and rural Canada. Demonstrating leadership in the agricultural industry, nominees are judged according to the following criteria:

- Progress made in their agriculture career
- Environmental and safety practices
- Crop and livestock production history
- Financial and management practices
- Contributions to the well-being of their community, province, nation

The 2010 event is sponsored by Pioneer Hi-Bred Limited, TD Canada Trust, Syngenta, and Growmark Inc.

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