

NFU Region 3 (Ontario) Convention and NFU-Ontario Annual General Meeting

Saturday, April 4 & Sunday, April 5, 2009

John Knox Christian School

800 Juliana Drive, Woodstock (at Hwy. 59 and Hwy. 401)

Registration: 8 am – Call to order: 9 am – Adjournment: 5 pm

There will be two panels on Saturday morning:

9:45 AM: GENETIC ENGINEERING: CHALLENGES, CONCERNS, REALITIES

&

11:10 AM: FARMERS REGAINING THE MARKET PLACE

*Lunch provided. Donations accepted towards cost of lunch and hall.
Evening social time to follow Convention and A&M.*

DELEGATE STRUCTURE

Region 3 Convention: All members in good standing residing in the region shall be entitled to attend and vote at the convention. Every farm family member (parents and children between age of 14 and 21 can vote as delegates).

NFU - Ontario Annual General Meeting: Locals with membership of up to 50 may have 3 delegates and 1 additional delegate per 25 additional members. Only 1 delegate vote per farm membership is allowed.

Anyone may attend either of these meetings. The above information defines NFU voting structure.

NFU POLICY WORKSHOP—SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2009

9 AM –12:00 Noon, Meeting Room, Super 8 Motel (560 Norwich Ave, at Hwys 401 & 59)

Community Engagement Strategies Workshop

We have invited the Healthy Communities Coalition to present on community engagement. This workshop will increase local capacity to work effectively within their respective communities. It will define community, and outline the values and principles of community engagement, possible roles and expectations and the steps in the community development process. With the realization that farm issues extend well beyond our farms to the community around us we must understand how to affect change within our communities. Partnering with community members will bring the NFU momentum and fresh knowledge and perspective. All NFU members are welcome to attend.

Accommodations—Woodstock:

Quality Inn: 519 537 5586 (Rooms are \$101 until March 14; quote National Farmers Union)

Super 8 Motel: 519 421 4588 (Rooms are \$85 until March 21; quote National Farmers Union)

Westmount Motel: 519 539 2073

For more information, contact Joan Brady, Member Services at:

1-888-537-3163 or jbrady@hay.net

A Publication of the National Farmers Union—Region 3, Ontario
RR 2 Godfrey, Ontario K0H 1T0, Phone: 1-888-273-5545, Email: nfuo@rideau.net



NFU in Ontario

Newsletter

SPRING 2009

Dear Friends,

Ellard Powers was my friend. If you farmed, Ellard was your friend, too. Even if you had never met him or even heard of him, Ellard was a friend.

As this newsletter was being sent to be printed, the sad news reached us that Ellard Powers had passed away. Colleen Ross, Don Mills, Nigel Smith, Dave Lewington and I were all in Saskatoon at National Board meetings when the news reached us. Ironically, that morning's agenda included an item around the logistics of nominating Ellard to the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame. An honour he richly deserves.

Ellard was instrumental in the fight for a number of things we now take for granted, like supply management, crop insurance and many others. Ellard's unceasing passion was to make life better for those around him, rarely, if ever, thinking of himself. Ellard spoke with a quiet dignity and determination. He always let you know exactly where things stood and would work hard to bring everyone around. Ellard's life was a life of service in the truest sense of the word. He served farmers and worked unceasingly all his life so that farmers could have economic dignity. Ellard was giant in so many ways, but he was a humble man who never took himself too seriously.

I know Ellard was excited to see the revitalization of the NFU in Ontario. He was particularly pleased to see all the young people coming into the NFU and taking up leadership roles. In recent years, Ellard was one of the driving forces behind our Cattle Sector report.

As we head into our 40th Annual National Convention in Ottawa in November, let's honour Ellard's legacy by making this the year of the NFU. People like Ellard are found all through the

NFU, working for a better future for family farmers, despite being pushed from all sides by those who profess to speak for family farmers, but don't actually care that much about us. Let's make this year's Ontario Annual General Meeting in Woodstock the biggest and most successful ever. And then on to Ottawa for the biggest, most successful Annual Convention. If you have never been to convention before, make this the year you come. Come out and see what your friend Ellard helped build for you.

Grant Robertson

Contact Information

Farm Business Registration and other Membership Enquiries:

c/o Marion Watkins
1-888-273-5545 nfuo@rideau.net

Member Services and

Correspondence:

c/o Joan Brady Fax: 519-237-3115
1-888-537-3163 jbrady@hay.net

Region 3/Ontario Coordinator,

Advertising and Publications:

Grant Robertson
1-519-353-4033 grant@bmts.com

If you are a young farmer, young person interested in becoming a farmer or youth in a farm family, come out on April 4th to the 2009 NFU-Ontario AGM in Woodstock. Meet with others and discuss the needs of young farmers in Ontario and what the National Farmers Union can do to support us.

There is much happening around the province in terms of new farmer training, land access, advocacy for government programs to support new farmers, and work on new entrant programs.

In addition to participating in the NFU-Ontario AGM and listening to the interesting speakers, youth are invited to get together over lunch to discuss what is happening in Ontario and what more we can do as NFU youth. Hope to see you there!

In Union, Caitlin Hall

NFU-O Youth Advisor
519-820-1891, hallcaitlin@gmail.com

Via Campesina Update

It's the season of infinite possibility, with a fresh growing season just steps ahead. Any of us who are in vegetable production are busy planning our seeding schedules, rotations, and the changes that we want to make this summer. It's planning season for the ICP, too! Our last meeting was full of discussion around a series of events that will be taking place between the coming spring and fall. The underlying theme in all instances is Food Sovereignty. The NFU has been actively involved in the defining of Food Sovereignty, through our work with other member organizations of La Via Campesina. Now it is time to bring this concept, and really this way of life, to our membership as well as to the Canadian public at large.

The east coast will be hosting a few events this year. In the spring, our comrades in New Brunswick will be holding a meeting in April around the concept of domestic fair trade. Some of our LVC allies will be coming from the Caribbean to describe how they have transformed their economy to one that abides by a domestic fair trade policy. The hope is to inspire New Brunswickers to consider moving in this direction, as domestic fair trade is one tool of food self-reliance.

The east will be using this momentum to organize a regional meeting, the focus of which will be somewhere along the lines of Food Sovereignty as being the answer to the current global food crisis. It is expected that a pair of LVC allies will take part in the event, bringing experiences from their own communities in Latin America.

Further still, the "Spring Events Coalition" which includes those organizations that belong to the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network (of which the NFU is a founding member), is currently putting together a plan for a national tour of LVC delegates from other parts of the world, to further bring the discussion of Food Sovereignty to our communities.

In order for the IPC, and the NFU at large to be able to confidently promote Food Sovereignty, we need to spend time coordinating our thoughts on the matter, so that we can speak with one unified voice. Thus, the IPC is planning to form a working group that will focus on the practical and policy implications of Food Sovereignty within Canada, bringing the IPC's international work with LVC home.

In my opinion, the work that the NFU does within the realm of La Via Campesina is quite powerful. We have an incredible resource in the farmers and peasants all over the world who are working in solidarity with us, with one unified voice. Together, we can work to educate people on what a sound food system can look like. Together we can empower those who feel powerless. It's pretty big stuff. Keep your ear to the ground for more information about all of these initiatives and keep in mind the strength that is in community!

In solidarity, Hilary Moore
 Region 3 Rep. for the International Planning Committee

East Central Farm Show at Exhibition Building, Lindsay Fair Grounds on March 4&5. Contact Bill Hasiuk, (905-263-8279), President of Durham/Peterborough/Victoria for more information or to volunteer at the show.

Ecological New Farmers Conference: *New Growers, New Ideas*: There's big news in farming these days! The Ecological New Farmers Conference is a one day event for new or aspiring farmers. On Sunday March 8th, come hear the stories of new farmers and learn from experienced growers. Workshops will be offered on a variety of topics including crop planning for market gardens, raising mixed livestock, urban agriculture, regulations affecting small-scale producers, and cooperative farming models. There will be 2 streams of workshops designed to suit committed new farmers & those who are just starting to explore the possibilities. Held at the Toronto Botanical Gardens. Earlybird registration just \$40. To **register** or for more information visit www.everdale.org/newfarmersconference. Contact conference coordinator, Angie Koch, at newfarmersconference@farmstart.ca or 519-569-8690.

Canadian Restaurant and Foodservices Association Trade Show in Toronto on March 8-9-10. Elgin County NFU in partnership with the Ontario Herb Growers Association is participating as part of a new "Buy Local" pavilion. For more information, contact Elgin NFU member Tom Benner at 519-866-3710.

Western Fair Farm Show at the Western Fair Entertainment Centre, 900 King Street, London, Ontario Hours will be Wednesday, March 11th 10:00 am - 8:30 pm, Thursday, March 12th 10:00 am - 8:30 pm, Friday, March 13th 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. Southwestern Ontario NFU members, please consider volunteering at the booth or stop by and see what's new. Contact Joan Brady at 1-888-537-3163 for more information or to volunteer.

Ottawa Valley Farm Show at Lansdowne Park, Ottawa, Ontario. Show hours will be Tuesday, March 17, 2009: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, Wednesday, March 18: 9:00 am - 8:00 pm, Thursday, March 19: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Eastern Ontario NFU members, please consider volunteering at the booth or stop by and see what's new. Contact Joan Brady at 1888-537-3163 for more information or to volunteer.

Drayton Farm Show, Rural Ontario's Agribusiness Showcase on April 1&2 at the PMD Arena, Drayton, Ontario, sponsored by the Wellington/Waterloo NFU Local. Contact Ron Weber at 519-343-4803 for more information or to volunteer.

Chesley Agri Fair at the Chesley Community Centre on April 7&8, sponsored by the Bruce County NFU Local. Contact Linda Baumberger at 519-832-2953 for more information or to volunteer.

Total Health Show at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre Friday April 17: 4pm - 9pm Saturday April 18: 10am - 9pm Sunday April 19: 10am - 7pm. This public event is a great opportunity to connect with an interested and in many cases sympathetic public. Attendees are very motivated to learn about farm issues and support farmers in any way they can. For more information or to volunteer, contact Joan Brady at 1-888-537-3163.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Ralph Ferguson, a Lambton County NFU member who is being inducted into the Agriculture Hall of Fame, in June, at Milton, Ontario. Ferguson was elected to the House of Commons in 1980. He was a proponent of export market expansion and participated in several trade missions. He encouraged farm organizations and the federal Liberals to create CANAGREX, the Canadian Agricultural Export Corporation, as a Crown corporation in 1983. Ferguson was appointed minister of agriculture by John Turner, who became prime minister in June 1984, and served until the Liberals' electoral defeat three months later. Ferguson lost his seat in the 1984 general election but was re-elected in 1988. His concern over growing corporate concentration in U.S. agriculture made him a strong opponent of free trade with the United States. He served as opposition agriculture critic and assistant co-critic for international trade. His continued involvement in policy development led to the adoption of a comprehensive agriculture policy by the Liberal party in 1970. He retired from politics in 1993 but is still an agricultural activist in southwestern Ontario, a practicing conservationist and a proponent of environmentally friendly, renewable fuels. Ralph and his family farm in the Alvinston area of Lambton County.

In early December the Women's Advisory hunkered down on the phone for a good old strategy session and I'd like to tell you about some of our ideas. The Advisory members are Colleen Ross Women's President, Joan Brady Women's Vice President, Sally McGrath from New Brunswick, Carol Masse from Manitoba, Marilyn Gillis and Pat Godhe from Saskatchewan, Mandy Melnyk from Alberta, Kathleen Charpentier from Alberta, and myself, Kim Delaney from Ontario.

We talked about farming issues in our communities and the discussion inevitably turned to healthy food, local food, family farms, sustainable farming and community activism. While trying to decide how to best focus our efforts and limited time, it occurred to us that there is a project already in the works that addresses all our issues. Food Secure Canada is up and running and has a project called The People's Food Policy Project funded by Heifer International. This is a Canada wide project and it is an opportunity for us, women farmers, to make our voices heard in a broader context. So, the Women's Advisory decided that we will focus our energy on this project. Please take a little time to visit the Food Secure Canada web site at www.foodsecurecanada.org to see what it is all about. I will keep you updated on our involvement and you can let me know if you would like to participate.

We also came up with a wonderful fund raising idea. We are going to produce a calendar featuring photos of you, farm women, at work on your farms. It will be ready for the 40th Anniversary of the NFU in Canada and we will release it at the next National Convention. So now I need you to send me high quality photos of you farming. You can mail them to Kim Delaney RR 3, 5961 5th Line, Palmerston ON N0G 2P0 or email them (ONE at a time because I am on dial up) to kim.hawthorn@sympatico.ca.

As always, feel free to contact me with issues you would like to see addressed. I can be reached by phone at 519-343-3375 or by email (see above). I look forward to working with you.

In Union, Kim Delaney

Women's Advisor Region 3

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Some of the roles and responsibilities and contact information for NFU Staff have changed. Please make note of the following changes:

Farm Business Registration and other membership enquiries

Marion Watkins - 1-888-273-5545, nfuo@rideau.net, Fax: 613-273-6290

Member Services and Correspondence

Joan Brady – 1-888-537-3163, jbrady@hay.net, Fax: 519-237-3115

Region 3 Coordinator, Advertising and Publications

Grant Robertson – 1-866-953-4041, grant@bmts.com, Fax: 519-353-4036

SCHOLARSHIP:

NFU Local 345/Durham/Peterborough/Victoria has established a scholarship to support the children of NFU members, in post secondary education. Two \$300.00 scholarships are available, contact Julie Jones, at 905-985-3481 for an application form.

A WORD OF CAUTION:

A notice of concern was received from an Ontario farmer regarding the coverage of barns for snow-loads. Many insurance companies have recently removed the option from their policies. It is recommended that you check your policies as to snow-load particulars and make necessary arrangements where snow-load is a concern.

Brant County Report (part of Brant/Wentworth/Halton Chapter)

Food sovereignty is the ability of a community to feed itself. This is a basic right for communities and a critical social justice issue throughout the world. The protection of local foodsheds for these communities is a priority given the threats posed by peak oil, climate change, and environmental health issues related to food production.

"The Greenbelt has created "leapfrog development" pressure outside of its borders. The counties most affected appear to be Brant, Waterloo, Wentworth and Simcoe counties, but Niagara, Peterborough, Northumberland, Halton, Simcoe, Dufferin, Muskoka, and Kawartha Lakes also face serious development pressures. This "leapfrog" development pressure was predicted before the Greenbelt was created. If the province does not address "leapfrog development", a great deal of prime farmland will soon be paved over. This massive loss of farmland will seriously impair the ability of Southern Ontario to feed itself.

Farmland is a hot investment item these days. Developers and landbankers are buying up huge tracts of farmland in counties just outside of the Greenbelt and pushing to have it rezoned for development. We are losing whole farming communities due to development pressure. The land buying is often very secretive, with farmers offered "options" that allow the developer to back out if efforts to rezone farmland do not succeed. The secrecy and large amounts of money offered to individual farmers divide farming communities. While some farmers want to preserve the farming community, others oppose them hoping for a windfall from a developer. Farmers who choose not to sell question whether they want to remain if they are going to be surrounded by industrial, commercial or residential development.

Globally, "(t)hroughout 2008, an army of investment houses, private equity funds, hedge funds and the like have been snapping up farmlands . . ."1 Foreign ownership restrictions on prairie farmland have blocked them so far"2. Ontario does not have the same restrictions on foreign ownership of farmland. Walton International, a landbanking company is buying huge tracts of farmland in Brant and Simcoe Counties, the Niagara region and outside of Ottawa. Many of the investors in Walton International are from Singapore. Walton's Utube video3 explains that the company buys land just beyond an area slated for development and waits for development in the area.

Brant County:

Brant County looks like a donut with Brantford in the middle. The City is surrounded by a "no-build zone" which maintains a separation between the county and the city, particularly on the northern and eastern edges of the city. This zone was created around 1980, and serves as Brantford's own form of "greenbelt".

While 75% of Brant County's land is agricultural, the county may not be able to feed itself in the future. Brant County abuts the Greenbelt on its eastern border. Here, there is severe "leapfrog development" pressure since the creation of the Greenbelt4. There is also a lot of tension in the area related to disputes over land claims by Six Nations. This tension will continue to heat up with the added development pressure.

Municipal councillors feel pressured by development interests. At a recent planning meeting, all of the farmers on Brant County council, including Mayor Ron Eddy, Councilors Brian Coleman, Ken Hodge, Robert Chambers supported a motion to allow residential development on prime farmland in Brant County's "greenbelt". This motion goes against provincial policy, Brant County's Official Plan and the recommendations of County planning staff. This motion opens the door for sprawl development east of Brantford. In addition, council agreed to rezone another large tract of prime farmland to heavy industrial use. First Urban the developer has a vision for this area that extends much further east than these two developments – all the way to Hamilton's border. In this same area, Walton International is also buying up huge tracts of farmland.

We need help from the NFU:

We appreciate the chance to inform NFU members of development pressure in our area. We need help at the municipal, provincial and national levels to: (1) support the representation of NFU members on local agricultural advisory committees, (2) help other counties to set up an active council watch to monitor development related decisions, (3) document the land buying, particularly by Walton in Brant, Simcoe and Niagara Counties, and in the Ottawa area, (4) document how developers are influencing municipal, provincial and national level politics, (5) recommend policy reforms to relieve the pressure of "leapfrog" development pressure in Southern Ontario in areas that were left out of the Greenbelt, and to (6) get our story out in the media.

- 1 Reguly, Eric, "The farms race, Jan. 30/09. Wealthy countries short of fertile land are gazing hungrily at Canada's prairies", Jan 30/09, http://business.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20090130.ROB2PG_16/TPStory/Business/
 - 2 ibid
 - 3 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=shx9-5j5E30>
 - 4 <https://forums.canadianbusiness.com/thread.jspa?threadID=2795&ستا>
- Developers east of Brantford are paying farmers prices that are approximately nine times higher than the market value of farmland.

Ella Haley, member of Sustainable Brant, a citizens' group that grew out of the concerns of a small group of farmers and members of the Ecological Farmers of Ontario and the National Farmers Union. Formed in 2007, Sustainable Brant is working actively with concerned citizens and the local council and county officials to monitor development pressures and to protect farmland. We also review creative initiatives that people are taking to protect farmland (e.g. creating conservation easements, and setting up land trusts and co-op farms).

Local Activities and Events

Local 1/(Ottawa, Prescott & Russell, Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry County Local): Annual General Meeting, Monday, March 2, 2009 at 7:30 PM at the Country Kitchen Restaurant, Winchester, Ontario. For more information, contact NFU Local 1 President, Christine Estermann at 613-538-2331.

Middlesex County NFU: Wednesday March 4th 7:00 pm at the Ilderton Community Centre. Showing the film "The World According to Monsanto". For more information, contact Karen Eatwell at 519-232-4105.

Middlesex County NFU is a sponsor for a Farmer/Food Buyer Speed Networking Event on March 31 at the Western Fair Entertainment Centre Carousel Room, London, 8:30 AM to 12 noon. For farmers interested in finding out more about selling into local food marketing opportunities, contact Valerie Clark, OMAFRA, 519-873-4086 or valerie.clark@ontario.ca .

Haldimand/Norfolk/SE Oxford: March 4 & 5, 2009 at the Cornell Community Centre, 185221 Cornell Rd, Cornell (east of Tillsonburg). Transition to organics course which is facilitated by EFAO and sponsored by NFU Local 301. Members are offered a \$25 discount on registration fees. For further info contact EFAO at 1-877-822-8606 or Martin Driesse at 519-863-5050.

Huron County on March 10, 2009 at 7:30 pm at the Clinton OMAFRA office, Don St. , Clinton. Annual General Meeting. Topic is Local Food, For more information, Contact Tony McQuail at 519-528-2493.

Elgin County NFU is sponsoring a public showing of the documentary, "The World According to Monsanto", in partnership with EcoElgin Environmental Society at the West Elgin Community Centre in West Lorne on Tuesday, March 10 at 7 PM. Informal discussion and refreshments will follow. For more information, contact Chris Dancey at 519-773-5273.

Perth/Oxford sponsors St. Marys Farmers' Market Vendor Information Night - March 9 at 7 pm at the St. Marys Friendship Centre, 317 James St. South, St Marys. Sponsored by the Perth/Oxford NFU, the evening will include information on how to set up a stall, create interest in your stall, set prices, etc. Experienced vendors will share their stories and secrets to success. For more information, contact Ann Slater at 519-349-2448.

Perth/Oxford sponsors Direct Marketing Course - March 10: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Harrington Community Hall and Library, Harrington. Facilitated by the Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario (EFAO). Cost is \$50 for EFAO members, \$70 for non-members, discounts for 2nd person from same farm. There is a 50% discount for all members of the Perth/Oxford Local. Local lunch provided by NFU.

Perth/Oxford: Save the date for a POT LUCK Barbeque on August 1 at the farm of George Stevers, #5146 Perth Line 44. Roast pork provided. Bring a potluck dish to share. 4 p.m. social time; 6 p.m. supper. Everyone welcome.

Wellington/Waterloo Local: Annual General Meeting, Wednesday, March 11th 2009, 7:30 PM, Orchard Park- Ignatius Jesuit Centre of Guelph. Please join us for our AGM followed by two interesting speakers Don Bilyea from Bilyea Group Insurance on 'Succession Planning for Farmers' & Grant Robertson, NFU-O Coordinator on 'The Farm Crisis and the Cattle Sector. Snacks will be provided.

Wellington/Waterloo Local: Sunday March 29 at 2pm. "The World According to Monsanto" will be shown. For more information, Please call, 519-638-1115 or email info@mapletonorganics.ca .

Lanark County NFU/ Local 310: The National Farmers Union Lanark will welcome Sommer Robertson of the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region to discuss the Clean Water Act. The event will take place at 1:00 PM on March 12 at the Seed Fair at the Civitan Hall in Lanark Village. All are welcome to visit the seed fair in the morning.

Local Activities and Events

Lambton County NFU: Annual General Meeting, Saturday, March 14, 2009 at the Inwood Fire Hall. Guest Speaker: Terran Giacomini, Local Food Researcher/Author. Doors open at 6:00 PM, Roast beef/pork supper at 6:30 PM. Tickets - \$8.00/adult, \$4.00/child ages 6 to 12. Please call to reserve your ticket. For more information, please call Lambton NFU Local President Mac Brown at 519-844-2024 or Secretary-Treasurer Tammy Van Troost at 519-864-0939.

Kent County/Local 13: Annual General Meeting, Wednesday, March 18th/09, 7:30 PM at Smitty's Pancake House, 307 Grand Ave, W., Chatham. The meeting will include election of officers. Guest Speaker, Mike Nuttall, will present on "Farming for Profit". For more information contact Ed Cikatricis at 519-674-3190.

Renfrew County NFU: Annual General Meeting, Wednesday, April 01/09, 7:30 at Sacred Heart Church Hall, Cobden, Ontario. Crystal McKay of the Ontario Farm Animal Council (OFAC) will be speaking. For more information, contact Lauretta Rice at 613-649-8211.

Durham/Peterborough/Victoria County NFU: Annual General Meeting, April 9/09, time and location to be announced, look for a meeting notice in the mail. For more information, contact Bill Hasiuk at 905-263-8279.

Durham/Peterborough/Victoria County NFU: Save the date for a potluck Barbeque on Sunday, August 16 – venue to be announced.

Hastings/Northumberland/Prince Edward County NFU: Look for an invitation to an Agricultural Summit to be held on a Saturday in April to be held tentatively at Loyalist College. For more information contact Sherry Richardson at 613-397-1010.

Upcoming Livestock Crisis Meetings

You are invited to attend these information meetings on the NFU's recently released report entitled the "Farm Crisis and Livestock Sector". Grant Robertson, NFU Ontario Coordinator, will be the keynote speaker. Grant is a beef producer from Bruce County and will speak about this major research effort that details the changes in the livestock sector and answers questions about corporate concentration, government policy and other issues. The report contains an extensive list of potential solutions to the crisis that could build momentum toward collective action to fundamentally change the Canadian cattle and beef sectors. For more information on any of these meetings, contact Joan Brady @ 1-888-537-3163 or jbrady@hay.net .

Wellington Waterloo: Wednesday, March 11th, 7:30 pm, Orchard Park, Ignatius Jesuit Centre of Guelph as part of the Wellington/Waterloo NFU Annual General Meeting.

Lambton Middlesex: Monday, March 23, 7:30 pm at the Brooke Alvinston Inwood Community Center, 3310 Walnut St., Alvinston.

Huron Perth: Thursday, March 26, 7:30 pm, at Hibbert Twp. Hall, Staffa.

New Website Coming Soon!

A long awaited updating of the NFU-O website is underway with the grand unveiling scheduled for the April 4th Ontario AGM. We are working with an excellent web designer to develop an easy to use, up-to-date, and attractive website to help keep in touch with NFU members and members-to-be across the province. In addition to the general information, the new website will also feature a classifieds section for posting items to sell and buy; a local food locator map, advertising members' farm products for sale; frequently updated press releases, newsletters, and reports; and web pages for each local that can be used for providing executive contact information, notifying members of upcoming events, and sharing resources. If you have any feedback or ideas you'd like to see incorporated into our new website, please get in touch.

—Caitlin Hall, Website Liaison, 519-820-1891, hallcaitlin@gmail.com