

# OAFE TODAY



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## Ontario Agri-Food Education Inc.

(OAFE) is a charitable organization created in 1991. Our mission: Working together to increase awareness of the agri-food industry by providing educational programs and resources.

OAFE TODAY is the bi-monthly newsletter of Ontario Agri-Food Education Inc.

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## Take the Challenge!

This fall, OAFE will be launching *The OAFE Challenge* at Canada's Outdoor Farm Show, September 15-17th in Woodstock, Ontario. During the Show, OAFE staff and board members will be issuing a challenge to all the exhibitors, encouraging them to place an OAFE Resource Catalogue into the hands of at least one teacher in their community, and to become an OAFE member, supporting the delivery of agri-food messages into Ontario classrooms.

To recognize teachers and their efforts in bringing agriculture to the classroom, Canada's Outdoor Farm Show will be working together with OAFE to present a Teacher Recognition Award at the Opening Ceremonies. The award will be presented to a teacher that demonstrates

they have gone 'above and beyond' to provide lessons and classroom activities that incorporate agriculture at the Secondary School level.

With a special emphasis this year on educating youth about agriculture, opening day has been declared 4-H Day and members of Ontario 4-H will officially open the show at Noon, September 15th. Any card-carrying Ontario 4-H member or volunteer will be admitted free of charge that day.

OAFE is grateful for the partnership and support of Canada's Outdoor Farm Show in raising awareness of educating youth about where their food comes from and helping them understand the business and science of farming.

## OAFE Updates Resources

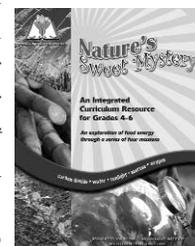
In response to recent changes in the Ontario Curriculum, three resources have been updated and will be available for the new school year. The ever popular *Your ABC's to a Healthy Lifestyle* poster for primary/junior classrooms has been updated to reflect the new Canada Food Guide as well as changes to the curriculum. Print copies can be ordered through the on-line catalogue at our website or printed from the download section of Teacher Resources.



*Climate Change and You!* is currently being revised and translated with funding provided by the Ontario Ministry of Education. Revisions will reflect changes

to the Secondary Science curriculum and will incorporate Green Industries curriculum. In an effort to lower the impact on the environment, this resource will be available electronically with only a handful of printed copies for use at workshops. It will also be available in French for the first time.

OAFE has been working closely with the Canadian Sugar Institute to revise their resource *Nature's Sweet Mystery*. This national resource for Grades 4-6 has been updated to reflect new curriculum and assessment and will be available to order from the website in both English and French in September.



## C.A.F.E. Economic, Education and Social Benefits Study

The Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions (CAFE), with funding from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, have published an interesting study on the Economic, Education and Social Benefits of Fairs in Canada. According to Adele Moore, President of CAFE, "Fairs and Exhibitions are an important part of raising awareness of Canadian agriculture, keeping Canadians informed about the importance of the agricultural industry."

OAFE works closely with the Ontario Association of Agricultural

Societies (OAAS) by delivering relevant workshops to their volunteers and providing OAFE member fairs with complimentary teacher resources to distribute to teacher visitors in a continuing effort to deliver the agri-food message into classrooms.

The CAFE study confirms the impact of Ontario fairs' agriculture/agri-food education programs on the visiting public. The results of the survey can be found on the CAFE website [www.canadian-fairs.ca](http://www.canadian-fairs.ca).

## Saskatchewan to host NAAC

Saskatchewan will host the National Agriculture Awareness Conference October 5th-7th at the Delta Bessborough in Saskatoon. The theme of this year's conference is "New Images of Agriculture" and will feature keynote speaker, Stephen Lewis, one of the world's most respected humanitarians and named by TIME Magazine as one of the 100 Most Influential People in the World. Mr Lewis' presentation will focus on "Agriculture: the sudden centerpiece of International Development". For more details on the conference program and to register, visit [www.naac-cnsa.ca](http://www.naac-cnsa.ca).



## The ED's Corner

Executive Director - Colleen Smith

Managing a budget usually demands partnering and collaboration that extends well beyond traditional approaches. However in these tough economic times, it's increasingly important for every operation to now connect with their stakeholders in new ways. Here at OAFE we are embedding this new creativity into our fall roster of outreach activities by launching *The OAFE Challenge* at Canada's Outdoor Farm Show in September. The 'challenge' has two easy steps. Become a member of OAFE and deliver one of our resource catalogues straight into the hands of one teacher. *The OAFE Challenge* invites everyone passionate about agriculture to directly network with our province's educational system, connecting our curriculum-linked, agri-food resources to teachers across the province. Go to our website and partner with us as we 'cultivate' minds and grow the next generation of agricultural thinkers!

## OTF Hosts Summer Institutes

Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF) hosted subject focused Summer Institutes throughout the province this summer and OAFE was fortunate to play an integral role in four of the programs. Workshop presentations and displays for Family Studies and Environmental Studies provided teachers with learning opportunities and teaching strategies in agri-food education using a variety of OAFE resources. Science teachers centred their 3 day program around resources related to Climate Change and incorporated OAFE's "Climate Change and You!" into their research and discussions.

OAFE in partnership with OFA hosted thirty teachers of Technological Education, specifically the new Green Industries curriculum (agriculture, forestry, horticulture and landscaping) on farm tours in the Niagara Region. The tour included a visit to a greenhouse and a dairy farm and was followed by a presentation from OAFE staff about the many resources available to assist them in the classroom.

Providing professional development and learning opportunities for teachers at conferences continues to be an important part of the OAFE program and services to increase awareness of agriculture. And with recent changes to Ontario Ministry of Education curriculum, there are more opportunities for teachers to integrate agriculture, food and nutrition into their classroom program and for OAFE's resources to meet the needs of teachers.

## Welcome New Members!

Russell Agricultural Society