



For immediate release

Outstanding Young Farmers memorial scholarship supports agriculture students across Canada

Ancaster, ON [October 16, 2014] – Since 2009, Canada’s Outstanding Young Farmers (OYF) program has awarded an annual scholarship to support a student studying agriculture in Canada. The \$1,000 OYF Memorial Scholarship was established by the late Martin Streef, recipient of both Ontario’s and Canada’s OYF awards in 1996. Applicants are asked why they are passionate about agriculture in Canada, as part of the application process.

The 2012 recipient was Taya Hoar of Ponoka, Alberta. Taya’s family has farmed the same land for more than 100 years with a love of the land, animals and the satisfaction of indirectly helping millions of Canadians. “Agriculture is constantly changing,” says Taya. “It is innovative and growing and changing to make the industry environmentally friendly, sustainable and profitable.”

The 2013 recipient of the OYF Memorial Scholarship is Erin Cote of Leask, Saskatchewan. Erin’s parents John and Barb Cote were recipients of both Saskatchewan’s and Canada’s OYF awards in 2001. “Agriculture is my passion because of my experiences,” says Erin. “But also for the history it helped create, the opportunities it is creating and the people who are involved in it.”

“There are tremendous opportunities for agriculture graduates these days,” says Derek Janzen, president of Canada’s OYF program. “One of the important ways to keep our industry vibrant and growing and innovating is to support the next generation of agricultural leaders. We are so fortunate to be able to continue to offer the OYF Memorial Scholarship to continue the feed the passion for agriculture.”

Starting with the 2014 scholarship (to be announced at the OYF national event in Quebec City in November, 2014), there will be two annual scholarships awarded. One will be awarded to an individual who has already completed at least one year of post-secondary study in agriculture. The second scholarship will be awarded to an individual who has finished high school and will begin post-secondary education in agriculture.

The deadline for 2015 scholarship applications is June 30, 2015. Full details and application forms are available at <http://oyfcanada.com/scholarship.aspx>

The OYF Memorial Scholarship was established by the late Martin Streef – president of Streef Produce Ltd., a family-run fresh fruit and vegetable business in Woodstock Ontario – to help future generations of Canadians pursue their passion for agriculture. He died in April 2008.

Celebrating 34 years, 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. Open to participants 18 to 39 years of age, making the majority of income from on-farm sources, participants are selected from seven regions across Canada, with two national winners chosen each year. The program is sponsored nationally by CIBC, John Deere, Bayer CropScience and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. The national media sponsor is Annex Media, and the program is supported nationally by AdFarm, BDO and Farm Management Canada.

For more information, contact:

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