



Learn to Do by Doing: Western Ontario 4-H Junior Show at Canada's Outdoor Park - July 14th & 15th, 2009 (Coral Defayette Photo)

4-H to Open Canada's Outdoor Farm Show

Woodstock, ON Some partnerships are really special – like the one between 4-H Ontario and Canada's Outdoor Farm Show (COFS).

The COFS management have announced that September 15th will be declared 4-H Day with members and volunteers of 4-H Ontario officially opening the 16th edition of Canada's Outdoor Farm Show at the Ginty Jocius Memorial Waterfall at the Ducks Unlimited Wetland Farm Pond. COFS will

celebrate rural Ontario's young people by providing free admission to the Show on Tuesday, September 15th to all 4-H Ontario members and volunteers who have valid and current membership cards.

"We were thrilled with the phone call saying that we were going to be officially opening the 2009 Canada's Outdoor Farm Show," says Lyndon Stewart, Executive Director with 4-H Ontario. " We invite all members and volunteers to come and see the latest technologies in agriculture; we want all young people to get excited about agriculture and realize potential careers in the agri-food industry."

With help from partners such as COFS, Ontario Agricultural College, Ontario Agri-Food Education Inc. and the University of Toronto Youth Voices, 4-H is working towards expanding their network of youth interested in agriculture, food, health and the environment. All of the programs that 4-H runs, whether at a provincial or local level, are aimed at empowering today's youth to be tomorrow's leaders. 4-H offers a variety of clubs that directly relate to many of today's hot topics - from the newer clubs such as *Farm Safety* and *Protecting Planet Earth* - to the more traditional clubs such as *A Taste of Ontario's Fruits and Vegetables* and *Explore 4-H – Marketing*. 4-H also hosts a variety of camps, clinics, competitions and forums that encourage life-long friendships, learning, leadership skills and more.

"Many of the team members at Canada's Outdoor Farm Show, including myself, were once 4-Hers" says Doug Wagner, Vice President of Park Logistics and Auctions at Canada's Outdoor Shows Limited. "We know how the organization inspires youth to develop outstanding leadership skills and we feel that encouraging an understanding of the science of agriculture in young people is imperative."

4-H Ontario relies on partnerships in order to continue offering the many opportunities that the organization hosts for today's youth. Whether it is in-kind or financial, 4-H is dependent on the help their partners bring to the table. This year at COFS, Monsanto Canada will once again make a cash donation to 4-H and the Centre for Rural Leadership for every attendee that visits their Genuity™ Technology Expo during the Show. Kubota Canada, an exhibitor and sponsor at COFS has also partnered with 4-H to sponsor over 50 events across Canada. These companies are just two examples of the many 4-H Ontario partners in the ag industry.

Each attendee visiting the Show can also partner with 4-H by purchasing tickets for the **2010 Dream Dinner Lottery**. Tickets can be purchased in the 4-H Pavilion at COFS for \$100. The winner of the draw will be awarded dinner for two anywhere in the world, including air transportation, meals and hotel accommodations for two nights.

4-H has been operating in Ontario since 1915 and is one of the oldest youth leadership organizations in Canada with over 1,600 volunteers and 6,000 members. Attendees to COFS should plan to visit the 4-H Pavilion on Masonville Way and learn what 4-H Ontario has to offer as the organization moves into an exciting future of building a new generation of young leaders.

For more information on opportunities with 4-H, contact 4-H Ontario at 1-877-410-6748 or visit www.4-hontario.ca Canada's Outdoor Farm Show will be held September 15, 16 & 17, 2009 at Canada's Outdoor Park in Woodstock, Ontario.

To see a video on 4-H Ontario at Canada's Outdoor Farm Show, visit www.OutdoorFarmShow.com/video.html

