

4-H to Officially Open 2009 Canada's Outdoor Farm Show

In recognition of the important role that 4-H plays in the lives of young people and rural communities, Canada's Outdoor Farm Show (COFS) has invited representatives of 4-H Ontario to officially open the 16th edition of the Show at noon on Tuesday, September 15th at the Ginty Jocius Memorial Waterfall.



"We were thrilled to be asked to open this year's Farm Show which is putting special emphasis on agriculture, education and youth," says Lyndon Stewart, Executive Director with 4-H Ontario. "So we invite all members and volunteers to come and see the latest technologies in agriculture; we want young people to get excited about agriculture and realize potential careers in the agri-food industry."

In celebration of youth and 4-H, the COFS management has announced that Tuesday, September 15th will be declared **4-H Day** and any member or volunteer showing a valid and current 4-H membership card will obtain free admission at the gates for that one day.

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.

"In addition to recognizing the contributions of 4-H, we will also be applauding some of the teachers within the school system who are bringing agriculture into the classrooms," says Lorie Jocius, President of Canada's Outdoor Farm Show. "This year, we are partnering with Ontario Agri-Food Education Inc. (OAFE) to recognize one of those teachers, Peter Soos of West Elgin Secondary School, for the work he has been doing in his classroom to help students get interested in the science of agriculture."

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

Canada's Outdoor Farm Show will be held September 15, 16 & 17, 2009 at Canada's Outdoor Park in Woodstock, Ontario.

