



For immediate release

Applications now accepted for memorial scholarship from Outstanding Young Farmers

Ancaster, ON [April 19, 2010] – Nominations are open for the Outstanding Young Farmers (OYF) Memorial Scholarship for a young Canadian pursuing a post secondary education in agriculture. Started in 2009, the \$1,000 annual scholarship was established by the late Martin Streef, recipient of both Ontario's and Canada's OYF awards in 1996.

“In the first year, this new scholarship attracted excellent nominations from across Canada, and we look forward to even more participation for 2010,” says Brian Newcombe, president of OYF Canada. “OYF is honoured to administer this scholarship on Martin’s behalf, to recognize young people that share the passion and the drive he had for Canadian agriculture.”

The OYF Memorial Scholarship is awarded annually in the fall. The first recipient, chosen in 2009 from 19 applications, was Robyn McCallum, a student at Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Truro, NS.

Nominations are open to any individual in Canada pursuing a diploma or degree in agriculture at a Canadian institution. Applicants are required to submit a short essay on “Why are you passionate about agriculture in Canada?” Applications must also supply a current transcript of their marks, a letter confirming their involvement in agriculture from a non-family member and a character reference letter from a non-family member. Applicants not chosen are welcome to apply for the scholarship in subsequent years.

Application deadline for the 2010 OYF Memorial Scholarship is June 30, 2010. Full details and application forms are available at www.oyfcanada.com.

The OYF Memorial Scholarship was established in memory of 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.

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Celebrating 30 years of identifying great agricultural successes, 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, and supported nationally by AdFarm and Canadian Farm Business Management Council.

Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers for 2010 will be chosen at the national event in Victoria, BC from November 23-28, 2010.

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