

2015-2017  
Class 16

ADVANCED  
AGRICULTURAL  
LEADERSHIP  
PROGRAM  
(AALP)



DIRECTORY

*The Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program (AALP) is a 19-month executive development opportunity for men and women who want to shape the future of the agriculture and food industry and make a positive difference in rural communities across Ontario.*



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AgLeadershipProgram



@AALP

# Program Overview

AALP Class 16 will participate in eight seminars, two study tours and one issues analysis group project.

- September 2015, Guelph  
*“Leadership: Theory and Application”*
- November 2015, Peterborough  
*“Personality, Self-Understanding and Development”*
- January 2016, Chatham  
*“Shaping the Future: Dynamics of Change, Decision Making and Responsibility”*
- February 2016, Ottawa  
*“Federal Government: Globalization and Trade”*
- April 2016, Elk Lake  
*“Examining and Dealing with Issues”*
- July 2016 – North American Study Tour  
*“Understanding Canadian/American Relations”*
- October 2016, Toronto  
*“Provincial/State Political Processes, Urban Society and Media”*
- January 2017, Niagara Falls  
*“Making your Case and Modelling Leadership”*
- February 2017 – International Study Tour  
*“Political, Economic and Cultural Comparisons”*
- April 2017, London  
*“A Look Ahead”*

## Fundraiser Dates

February 20, 2016 – AALP Dream Auction, Guelph

April 6, 2017 – Wm. A. Stewart Lecture, London

## Stewart Adams

Chelsea, QC

Home Phone: 819-827-8494

Cell Phone: 613-979-8494

Email: [stuart@continuumtextiles.com](mailto:stuart@continuumtextiles.com)

*Education:* Muresk Institute of Agriculture,  
Bachelor of Business (Agr.), 1992

*Business Operation:* Primary Producer (cash crop);  
Continuum Textiles



Stuart has farmed with his family since completing school in Kojonup, Western Australia. After leaving university, Stuart created a merino wool marketing program called 'i-merino'. i-merino established Stuart's career in the global sustainable textile sector which he still is heavily involved in today. Currently Stuart is a key consultant in creating the first global wool standard; Responsible Wool Standard (RWS) for sourcing wool responsibly.

Stuart also farms 1,200 acres of cash crops in Shawville, QC, where the primary focus is on utilizing the latest in agricultural technology to create a highly efficient farming operation. Stuart has been farming in Canada for 5 years and has learned a significant amount in that time; especially around dealing with machinery in very cold temperatures.

Stuart moved to Canada in 2008 after marrying Anne. They have two fantastic children; Taylor and Maelle. Surprisingly they can still find time to enjoy the great lifestyle the Gatineau region of Quebec offers including skiing, skating, biking, sailing, swimming, canoeing, camping, boating, rowing and believe it or not Stuart plays hockey once a week. An interesting sport for an Australian.

## Aaron Breimer

Chatham, ON

Home Phone: 519-354-0183

Cell Phone: 519-401-0264

Email: [aaron.breimer@myveritas.ca](mailto:aaron.breimer@myveritas.ca)

*Education:* University of Guelph, B.Sc.Agr., 2001

*Business Operation:* Veritas Farm Business  
Management

*Leadership Activities:* Co-chair of Agronomy  
Committee for "Project: One Seed"; Chair of  
Agronomy Committee for Sustainable Farming Project; Treasurer of Kent  
Havoc Rugby Football Club; past member leadership team for "YMCA  
Project Guatemala"



Aaron is the manager of Veritas Farm Business Management in Chatham. Veritas is a business solutions company for farmers offering services in agronomy, precision agriculture, grain marketing coaching, and human resources support. As part of his responsibilities at Veritas, he co-chairs an agronomy committee that sends staff with expertise to assist subsistence farmers in Zambia, Africa in improving crop yields.

Born and raised on a cash crop farm in Middlesex County that is still operated by his father, Aaron has always been passionate about the science and economics of agriculture. After graduating from the University of Guelph, his career focused on agricultural sales, agronomy, and precision agriculture.

Aaron spends his spare time playing rugby, teaching SCUBA diving and travelling.

## **Dianne Brekelmans**

Thamesford, ON

*Home Phone:* 519-285-3868

*Cell Phone:* 519-671-5105

*Email:* diannebrekelmans@bell.net

*Education:* Fanshawe College, Diploma  
Registered Nurse, 1985

*Business Operation:* Primary Producer –  
Netherend Acres Inc.

*Leadership Activities:* Past Director and Treasurer  
Zorra Skating Club; Past Treasurer St. Joseph School Council



Dianne grew up on a dairy farm in Perth County and moved to the Oxford County farm after marrying Francis. They seized the opportunity to build a new sow facility in 2001 and close down the existing grower-finisher operation. Dianne became very involved with the farrowing barn operations and has since resigned from her nursing duties.

The couple currently farm with their sons, Travis and Calvin and employ ten full-time staff.

The couple has raised their four children on the farm. Daughters, Tanya and Leah currently reside in Toronto to work and study. Dianne enjoys the outdoors, traveling, yoga and horseback-riding. They plan to continue to grow the family business.

## **Robin Brown**

Woodville, ON

*Home Phone:* 705-374-4941

*Cell Phone:* 705-928-4941

*Email:* rpbrown@amtelecom.net

*Education:* Ontario Agricultural College, B.Sc.Agr.  
Co-op – Major in Animal Science

*Business Operation:* Primary Producer – Beef,  
Feedlot, Cow-Calf, Cash Crops

*Leadership Activities:* Chair of Local Agricultural  
Awareness Committee for 21 years (Agri-Food Advocate, Speak-up  
Team, Ag. Speakers Bureau); Director and Leader (livestock and life  
skills) with local 4-H Association; local Cattlemen's Association volunteer;  
Member of Public Elementary and High School Parents Councils;  
Sunday School Teacher



Robin grew up on a small mixed farm in Peterborough and joined Paul's (6th generation farmer) family beef operation following University. In partnership with Paul and along with their three children aged 13 to 18, and one full-time hired hand, they operate an 800 head feedlot and work 750 acres near Lindsay. Robin is actively involved in the farm's daily decision making and bookkeeping while operating equipment and trucks as needed. This is in addition to full commitment and involvement with the kids and their daily extracurricular activities.

For the past eight years Robin has been employed part-time with the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association as a Workshop Leader, delivering the Environmental Farm Plan, Growing Your Farm Profits, Food Safety, and facilitating the Traceability and Biosecurity Workshops, Webinars and ultimately the Growing Forward 2 funding opportunities. This role is valued for the continuous connection with the diverse farming community and their on-farm improvement project achievements.

Robin enjoys photography, camping, music, staying active and anything outdoors. In the future Robin looks forward to the future of farming with her family while continuing to build agricultural networks.

## **Meghan Burke**

Fergus, ON

Cell Phone: 226-820-6641

Email: mburke@gfo.ca

*Education:* University of Waterloo, Bachelor of Arts – Rhetoric and Professional Writing, 2006

*Business Operation:* Grain Farmers of Ontario

Meghan joined Grain Farmers of Ontario in 2010 and is currently the Communications Manager there. She is responsible for developing and executing the communications tactics for the organization, both farmer-member and public facing. Flagship initiatives include the Ontario Grain Farmer magazine and the Good in Every Grain public relations campaign.



Meghan is a professional writer by trade with a background in marketing, brand management and technical writing.

Both of Meghan's parents were raised on farms and their respect and passion for agriculture were passed down to her.

In her spare time, Meghan can be found at a barn riding her quarter horse. She and her husband, Dan, live in Fergus with their two dogs and cat.

## **Marty (Marinus) Byl**

Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON

Home Phone: 289-868-9544

Cell Phone: 905-328-4722

Email: marty.byl@gmail.com

*Education:* Ontario Police College and Canadian Institute of Management

*Business Operation:* Agricorp

*Leadership Activities:* Team Leader with Agricorp;

Former Director of Niagara Peninsula Fruit and

Vegetable Association; Former Director of Grape Growers of Ontario;

Current Director of Normal Farm Practices Protection Board (NFPPB)



Marty has over 25 years of management experience on boards, agricultural operations in government and commercial settings. Marty is a former grape grower from the Niagara region, who now works for Agricorp. With his team, he delivers production insurance, AgriStability, and several other programs.

Relying on his experience as a former police officer and farmer, Marty chairs legal hearings across the province, deciding on cases that impact farm practices. Marty lives in Niagara-on-the-Lake with his wife and daughter. They enjoy golf and travel.

## Anna DeMarchi-Meyers

Rockwood, ON

Home Phone: 519-822-8999

Cell Phone: 519-835-7670

Email: [anameyers@xplornet.com](mailto:anameyers@xplornet.com)

*Education:* University of Guelph, Ontario Agricultural College, Honours B.Sc.Agr., 1988  
*Business Operation:* Halton Region; Emerald Ridge Farms

*Leadership Activities:* Current Vice President of Ontario Agricultural College Alumni Foundation; member of the Ontario Agricultural College Alumni Association; Director and past President of the Standardbred Breeders of Ontario Association; Co-coordinator of St. John's Ambulance Therapy Dog Division (Fergus/Elora branch); Vice President of Membership Horizon Toastmasters of Oakville



Anna has spent her entire career in the agricultural sector, working in the animal feed and veterinary pharmaceutical industries. In 2003, she and her husband decided to dedicate their efforts into establishing a full service horse reproductive centre on their 134 acre farm in Rockwood. Emerald Ridge Farm quickly became one of the top five Standardbred breeding operations in Ontario, standing some of the top stallions in the business. Emerald Ridge Farm also became the only Select Breeders affiliate in Canada offering stallion freezing services. In 2012, when the government ended the revenue sharing agreement with racetracks, the breeding sector was sent into a tailspin. As a result, Anna re-entered the work force and is currently an Agricultural Liaison Officer with Halton Region. Her work is varied and includes everything from the development of a Rural Agricultural Strategy for the Region to agricultural education and outreach. In her spare time, Anna enjoys horseback riding (dressage and trail riding), being a hockey mom, photography and hiking as well as spending time with friends and family.

## Tom Heeman

Thorndale, ON

Home Phone: 519-461-0181

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Home Email: [tom@heeman.ca](mailto:tom@heeman.ca)

Work Email: [tomheeman@engageagro.com](mailto:tomheeman@engageagro.com)

Twitter: @TomHeeman

*Education:* University of Guelph, Certificates in Env. Conservation and Env. Citizenship, University of Guelph, Honours International

Development Rural Agricultural Specialty with Minor in Agr. Science

*Business Operation:* Engage Agro Corporation; Heeman Greenhouses and Strawberry Farm

*Leadership Activities:* Director of North American Strawberry Growers Association; Director of Ontario Berry Growers Association; Director of Middlesex Federation of Agriculture; Vice President of Thorndale Agriculture Society



As a Technical Sales Representative for Engage Agro, Tom works to take the "Frontiers of Science" to the field. Tom has had the pleasure of working for the full spectrum of agriculture including grain crops, fresh market and processing horticulture, greenhouse, floriculture and vegetable markets. Tom services over 90 retail locations across 12 counties. Tom continues to work part-time on the family farm where he assists largely in operational tasks. Tom is part of the 3rd generation on the family farm along with his brother Will and sisters Katie and Bridget.

In his volunteer duties, Tom has largely split his time between food, poverty and hunger organizations and agricultural commodity, advocacy and policy-focused organizations.

## Adrienne Houle

Prince Albert, ON

Cell Phone: 905-243-6145

Email: [adrienne@wilmotblueberries.com](mailto:adrienne@wilmotblueberries.com)

*Education:* Brock University, Bachelor of Business Administration (3 years completed); George Brown College, Baking Arts & Cake Decorating Certificates

*Business Operation:* Wilmot Orchards - primary producer of apples and blueberries



Adrienne has the pleasure of working for the Stevens family in Newcastle at their farm, Wilmot Orchards Inc. She began employment at the farm in the Appleberries Café baking blueberry desserts. Adrienne was later hired to be the executive secretary and continues to oversee the baking in the café.

In her spare time, Adrienne enjoys traveling and spending time with her friends and family. She also enjoys baking and cake decorating.

## Kevin Howe

Aylmer, ON

Home Phone: 519-773-3837

Cell Phone: 519-520-7313

Email: [kevin@howefamilyfarms.ca](mailto:kevin@howefamilyfarms.ca)

*Education:* University of Guelph, B.Sc.Agr., 2013

*Business Operation:* Primary Producer – Howe Family Farms

*Leadership Activities:* Vice President of Ontario Berry Growers Association; Board of Directors Elgin Federation of Agriculture



Kevin is currently farming with his father and brother in Aylmer, where they farm 350 acres of fruits and vegetables for the wholesale market. Kevin and his brother, Ryan, are the 5th generation of Howes to farm produce in the Aylmer area. They also have a farm market on site where they sell produce grown by them or neighbouring farms.

After graduating from the University of Guelph in 2013, Kevin returned to the family farm and became involved in agricultural associations. He currently is the Vice President of the Ontario Berry Growers Association and is on the Board of Directors for the Elgin Federation of Agriculture.

In his spare time, Kevin enjoys outdoor activities like hunting, fishing, camping, canoeing and farming.



## **Nicola (Dr. Nikki) Jackson, DVM**

Guelph, ON

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*Work Cell:* 226-971-1794

*Cell Phone:* 519-829-8699

*Home Email:* dr.jacksondvm@gmail.com

*Work Email:* nicola.jackson@ontario.ca

*Education:* Atlantic Veterinary College, Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine, 2007

*Business Operation:* Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)

*Leadership Activities:* Team Leader of Thirty-one Gifts Canada



Dr. Nikki resides in Guelph with her partner, Brad and their two small dogs, Willow and Watson. On top of her full-time position with OMAFRA as a Regional Veterinarian with the Veterinary and Inspection Audit, Food Inspection Branch, Nikki also practices part-time small animal medicine at clinics in Breslau and Milton.

She enjoys golfing, kayaking and walking the dogs. Nikki also connects with women in the community through her direct sales business with Thirty-one Gifts Canada, and is playing a leadership role in the company with a team of 13 ladies.

## **Jennifer Kyle**

Ayr, ON

*Home Phone:* 519-632-7307

*Cell Phone:* 519-242-0898

*Email:* jkyle@holstein.ca

*Education:* Durham College, Advanced Diploma Public Relations, 2006

*Business Operation:* Holstein Canada

*Leadership Activities:* Rotarian; Vice-Chair for District Rotary Youth Exchange; Dairy 4-H Leader;

Bite of Brant Committee; Paris Fair Ambassador

Committee; School Council Vice-Chair; Ag Women's Network Executive



Jenn is currently the Communications Coordinator at Holstein Canada. Following graduation in 2006, Jenn worked for both Semex and the Ontario Holstein Branch before landing at Holstein in 2013.

Additionally, she and her husband farm with his family on their 400 acre dairy, beef, sheep and crop operation – Ash Lawn Farms Ltd. Raised as a Holstein girl, Jenn is responsible for the introduction of Holsteins into the Ash Lawn Jersey herd which now resembles more of a “United Nations,” serving as home to five of the seven dairy breeds!

She has recently become a Rotarian in Brantford where she is heavily involved in the youth exchange program and serves as the club's only link to the agricultural community. Jenn has two young children who already share their parents' love and passion for the all things agriculture.



## **Class 16 (2015 – 2017)**

### **ADVANCED AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

A wide variety of experience and knowledge will be brought to the program by Class 16. Diverse professional, educational and geographical representation will allow issues and concerns from across province and country to be discussed. There are 16 females and 13 males ranging from 24 to 56 years of age in the class. 10 class members represent primary production through field crops, fruits and vegetables, poultry, dairy, hogs, beef and sheep production. Another nine of the group are actively involved in primary agriculture, while also working in the agri-business and agri-food sectors, non-government and commodity associations, the provincial government and various agencies.

Formal education ranges from OSSDs to graduate degrees. 14 participants hold undergraduate degrees or diplomas in agriculture and related fields. Other fields represented are nursing, policing, land resource science, recreation and leisure studies, music, business and entrepreneurship, biology, baking and cake decorating, public relations and writing. Three participants hold graduate degrees in sustainability studies, crop and soil science and veterinary medicine.

Participants come from across the three provinces of Alberta, Ontario and Quebec.

## Jon Lamb

Belmont, ON

*Cell Phone:* 519-521-1339

*Email:* jonlamb23@hotmail.com

*Education:* University of Guelph – Ridgeway Campus, Diploma in Agriculture, 2007

*Business Operation:* Primary Producer – Homestead Holsteins, Dairy



Jon is currently farming on the family dairy farm where they milk 70 cows with robots. Jon is excited to be a participant in the AALP program and interested in becoming more involved with agriculture organizations. In his spare time, Jon enjoys spending time with family and friends.

## Colleen McKay

Woodstock, ON

*Cell Phone:* 519-535-2569

*Email:* yourfarmmarket@gmail.com

*Education:* Genesee Community College, Associates Degree in Entrepreneurship, 2010

*Business Operation:* Your Farm Market

*Leadership Activities:* Woodstock District Chamber of Commerce –Young Business Professional of the Year, 2010 winner



Colleen is currently the owner and operator of her seasonal, farm fresh market. Your Farm Market is all about gathering the best of the local, fresh, in-season produce in one place for the community to enjoy with easy access, 7-days a week! Colleen has grown the business from a road-side corn stand to a booming farm fresh market with a significant amount of help from her father, Don, and sisters, Lisa, Laura and Katie.

In her spare time, Colleen enjoys playing fastball and hockey, coaching young fastball pitchers, and spending time with family and friends.

## Andy McTaggart

London, ON

Cell Phone: 226-678-3737

Email: andymctaggart@hotmail.com

*Education:* Algonquin College, Recreation and Leisure Services Diploma, 2013; Algonquin College, Tool Making Diploma, 2011

*Business Operation:* 4-H Ontario

*Leadership Activities:* Algonquin Students' Association Board of Directors; President of Algonquin College Residence Council; Lieutenant Governor General's Award for Volunteering, 2008



As a Volunteer Support Coordinator for 4-H Ontario, Andy designs and implements training and provides support to volunteers across southwestern Ontario. Andy has extensive experience volunteering and working with youth through organizations such as 4-H, the YMCA, and summer camp programs.

Andy enjoys travelling and his fiancée, April. He also enjoys woodworking and is an avid Seattle Seahawks fan.

## Rebecca Miller

Auburn, ON

Cell Phone: 519-619-2645

Email: rebecca.richards18@gmail.com

*Education:* University of Guelph, B.Sc.agr., 2011

*Business Operation:* DEKALB-Monsanto Canada Inc.; Primary Producer

*Leadership Activities:* Active 4-H leader in Huron County, leading both Dairy and Field Crops Clubs.



Rebecca is a Territory Account Manager for DEKALB covering the western Ontario territory. She is responsible for sales and service, promoting the brand and developing strong relationships with DEKALB dealers and the growers.

Rebecca grew up on a dairy farm in Haldimand County. After graduating from the University of Guelph, Rebecca relocated to Huron County where she was the Agronomist at a local retail outlet. She then became the DEKALB Territory Account Manager in 2013.

Rebecca and her husband, Elliott, own an independent feed and farm supply business just outside of Wingham; they also have a cash crop and cow-calf operation. In her spare time, she enjoys leading 4-H clubs as well as playing sports such as ball hockey, baseball and broomball.

## Emily Morrison

Lucknow, ON

Cell Phone: 519-955-1635

Email: emily@morrisonberries.com

*Education:* Trent University, Masters of Arts – Sustainability Studies, 2014; Trent University, Honours Bachelor of Arts – Joint-Major in Biology and Business, 2011

*Business Operation:* Morrison Berries Country Market

*Leadership Activities:* Volunteer Advisor of Brock Economic Development Advisory Committee; President of the Trent Business Students Association



Strawberries and the farm have been a part of Emily's entire life as her parents, Ralph and Sandra started the farm before she was even born. All members of her family contribute to working on the farm together, each having their own specialty. Her brother Michael and his new wife contribute to the organizing and planting of the farm while Emily and her mother coordinate the business operations, agri-tourism, bakery and customer service initiatives on the farm. The fourth weekend in June is a busy time on the farm as Lucknow hosts its annual Strawberry Summerfest that originated on the farm, and has been going for over fifteen years.

She currently manages her time also working off the farm for the Brock Youth Centre, supporting young entrepreneurs in North Durham Region creating their own small businesses, summer self-employment opportunities, and by creating enterprises where youth can learn what it is like to own their own small business.

## Jenn Norrie

Calgary, AB

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Cell Phone: 403-589-6359

Work Email: jennifer.norrie@bayer.com

Home Email: jenn.norrie@gmail.com

Twitter: @jennorrie

*Education:* University of Saskatchewan, B.Sc.Agr., 2005

*Business Operation:* Bayer CropScience

*Leadership Activities:* Canadian Agri-Marketing Association (CAMA) Board member; Calgary Stampede International Agriculture & Agri-Food Committee member; Ag More Than Ever Advocate volunteer



Growing up in rural Alberta where her family had a commercial cow-calf operation, Jenn decided to head east to the Paris of the Prairies (Saskatoon, SK) to study Agricultural Economics at the University of Saskatchewan. She embarked on a career in agriculture marketing in 2005, joining AdFarm in Calgary where she managed marketing communications and advertising campaigns for agriculture clients.

After six years with AdFarm, Jenn decided to pursue another passion of hers and travelled to Australia and New Zealand, ultimately returning home to Calgary, AB. Since unpacking her backpack, she has continued her path in agri-marketing and has worked at Woodruff Sweitzer, United Farmers of Alberta (UFA) and is currently with Bayer CropScience as a Business Excellence Specialist.

Jenn enjoys travelling, near and far, for work and pleasure, for adventure and relaxation, while sampling the local food and drinks, and expanding her collection of cowgirl boots. She is a passionate Advocate for the industry and is an active social networker and has recently started a blog.

## **Pete Overdevest**

Bright, ON

*Home Phone:* 519-462-2177

*Cell Phone:* 519-532-6077

*Email:* peteoverdevest@hotmail.com

*Education:* Dokkum, The Netherlands, Diploma Agriculture College (3 year program); Oenkerk, The Netherlands, Diploma Agriculture Degree (1 year program)

*Business Operation:* Primary Producer – Terra Nova Farms Ltd.

*Leadership Activities:* Several functions in Dairy Clubs; Organizer of several charity events



Pete is the sole owner of Terra Nova Farms Ltd., a dairy farm with 220 milking cows. Together with family members and two employees, Pete operates his farm in Oxford county. The farm owns 400 acres of crop land and rents another 100 acres for the production of feed for the dairy herd.

After graduating from Agriculture College in The Netherlands in 1991, Pete and his family emigrated to Canada in 1992, to start a dairy farm. With hard work and courage, the farm grew from 45 cows to the current 220 cows.

Besides having a love for his farm Pete enjoys swimming and spending quality time with his family. Pete likes to keep expanding the farm and hopes to have his own kids involved in the farming business in the future.

## **Mike Pastir**

Waterford, ON

*Home Phone:* 519-443-5864

*Cell Phone:* 226-567-4233

*Email:* mpastir@agricocanada.com

*Education:* University of Guelph, Associate Diploma in Agriculture, 2003

*Business Operation:* Agrico Canada L.P.

*Leadership Activities:* Simcoe mini mite soccer coach; current Vice Chair of Bloomsburg Public Schools council; past Vice Chair of the Ontario Processing Vegetable Growers (district three)



As an Account Manager for Agrico Canada L.P., Mike is responsible for a select group of retailers and joint ventures, in the sale of fertilizers and providing market information. He grew up on a mixed crop vegetable farm, where he farmed until 2006. Then, Mike worked for NutriAg marketing specialty liquid fertilizers, before taking his current position at Agrico.

Mike is married to his wife, Leryn. They have two beautiful children, Varsity and Maverick. In his spare time, Mike enjoys fishing, camping, politics, taking his dog for walks, and maintaining the family farm, of which his children are the fifth generation.

## Jennifer Peart

Hagersville, ON

Work Phone: 519-426-1285

Cell Phone: 519-829-8440

Email: jennifer.peart@fcc.ca

*Education:* University of Guelph, Bachelor of Commerce in Agricultural Business, 2006

*Business Operation:* Farm Credit Canada (FCC)

*Leadership Activities:* President of Haldimand Norfolk Holstein Club; Director of the Ontario Agri Food Education (OAFE) Board; Livestock Show Announcer and Committee Member of the Norfolk County Fair



Jennifer is currently working as a Relationship Manager for Farm Credit Canada in the Simcoe area. She assists clients with financial projects to allow them to further grow and develop their farm business operations. After over seven years of hard work and dedication, Jennifer received the FCC's 2015 Sales Excellence Award.

As the Simcoe FCC office's Health and Safety Officer, Jennifer is fully certified in First Aid and CPR training.

Jennifer is also actively involved with her family's 70 cow dairy farm and 700 acre cash crop farm in Haldimand county. In her spare time, Jennifer enjoys participating and leading community events and committees.

## Martina Pfister

Baltimore, ON

Cell Phone: 226-378-2794

Email: martina.pfister@pioneer.com

*Education:* University of Guelph, B.Sc.Agr., Honours in Agriculture, 2010

*Business Operation:* DuPont Pioneer

*Leadership Activities:* University of Guelph Class Executive, College Royal and Tractor Tug for Tots; Permanent Executive for her class; 4-H



Martina is a Livestock Specialist for DuPont Pioneer, covering Central to Eastern Ontario and the maritimes. She supports Pioneer's forage and inoculant line up, doing on-farm visits, sales rep training, and service calls. Visiting with producers, Martina is able to aid in forage management, troubleshoot nutritional inquiries, and recognize issues Pioneer can address with the producers.

Martina lives on her boyfriend's family dairy farm, where she likes to help out as much as she can. They milk around 50 cows in a tie stall.

In her spare time, Martina enjoys gardening, travelling, and spending time with family and friends.

## **Marijke Van Andel**

Guelph, ON

*Cell Phone:* 226-820-0013

*Email:* marijke.van\_andel@syngenta.com

*Education:* University of Guelph, M.Sc. Land Resource Science, 2010; University of Guelph, B.Sc.Agr., 2008

*Business Operation:* Syngenta Canada

*Leadership Activities:* Various leadership positions at local church (First CRC, Guelph); past Co-Chair Graduate Student Council; past President of Ceres, University of Guelph



Marijke grew up on a dairy farm just outside of Moorefield, ON. After completing her education at the University of Guelph, she began her career with Syngenta Canada. Marijke recently transitioned into an Agronomic Sales Representative role in the London to Niagara region. Marijke spends a lot of her free time with her family and friends and enjoys many hobbies including rock climbing, mountain biking, hockey, gardening and home renovations. She is also very interested in learning about agriculture around the world and has travelled to countries like Costa Rica and Kenya to pursue this passion.

## **Megan Veldman**

St. Marys, ON

*Cell Phone:* 519-801-7825

*Email:* mveldman26@gmail.com

*Education:* University of Guelph, B.Sc.Agr., 2013

*Business Operation:* Veldman Poultry Farm Ltd.; Veldman Grain Farm Ltd.

*Leadership Activities:* Volunteer for Egg Farmers of Ontario



Megan currently works full-time on her family farm as a layer manager. She farms with her parents, Dan and Glynis Veldman, and her twin brother.

Megan enjoys volunteering with the Egg Farmers of Ontario at their booth at various local fairs and events to educate and engage consumers, and address any questions or concerns they may have. In her spare time, Megan likes visiting with family and friends, running, playing volleyball and hockey, and going to the gym.



## Ann Vermeersch

Eden, ON

Cell Phone: 519-550-4175

Email: ann@tillvalleyfarms.com

Twitter: @cheekyfarmgirl

*Education:* Michigan State University, M.Sc. Crop and Soil Science, 2006; University of Guelph, B.Sc.Agr., 2003

*Business Operation:* Tillvalley Farms Inc.; VanMeer Farms Inc.

*Leadership Activities:* Director of Norfolk Soil Crop; Director of Dupont Pioneer Corn Share



Ann is currently leading the agronomy program and grain marketing alongside her husband, Jeff, at a family-run, cash crop farm, VanMeer Farms Inc. in Tillsonburg. VanMeer Farms Inc. runs a commercial elevator and grows 7,000 acres of corn, soybeans, wheat and rye in Norfolk and Oxford counties. Additionally, Ann and her husband operate Tillvalley Farms Inc., a full-service Dupont Pioneer sales agency and farm.

Ann has a passion for research and extension at the farm level. She is a leader in field and equipment data/hardware management and custom agronomy prescriptions. Furthermore, she and her husband completed a leading edge sub-surface irrigation project. They plan on expanding irrigation technologies in the future.

Ann originally grew up on a cash crop and beef farm in the Ottawa Valley. Ann has published 3 journal articles and holds a certified crop advisor designation. Previous to joining her husband on the farm, she worked for Syngenta Canada for 7 years in sales and product support.

Ann has 2 children and enjoys snowmobiling, photography, cake decorating and gardening in her free time.

## Dylan Wiens

Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON

Cell Phone: 289-686-2606

Email: DylanReedWiens@gmail.com

*Education:* Niagara College Canada, Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration – International Commerce, 2015; University of Western Ontario, Bachelor of Arts – Popular Music Studies, 2011

*Business Operation:* Primary Producer – Kai Wiens Family Farm

*Leadership Activities:* Fundraiser for World Vision Canada; President of the International Club at Niagara College Canada; Co-Chair of ICOM Forum, 2015; past Session Chair of ICOM Forum, 2013



Dylan is currently the Operations Manager at the Kai Wiens Family Farm. He is a 3rd generation peach growers and enjoys working alongside his father. Dylan is married to his wife Sarah, and they have two children, Oliver and Sophie. Dylan enjoys gardening and drumming and percussion. He also likes to spend time reading classic, historical and biographical novels.

# AALP Advisory Committee

Teresa Van Raay\*, Chair  
*Dashwood, ON*

Karen Mansfield\*  
*Hillsburgh, ON*

Sara Avoledo\*  
*Guelph, ON*

Nathan Stevens\*  
*Palmerston, ON*

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*Guelph, ON*

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