



Vision, Voice and Leadership

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Announcing AALP Class 17

Guelph, ON, July 10, 2017 – Eighteen current and emerging leaders in agriculture, agri-food and rural sectors have been selected to participate in the 17th class of the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program (AALP). Class 17 will begin their leadership journey on October 1, 2017 at their first seminar in Guelph, Ontario.

“AALP is one of the longest-running agricultural leadership programs in the world. The 18 participants of Class 17 bring an interesting variety of backgrounds and occupational experience to the program. The mix of sectors in the group will provide a variety of perspectives and will allow the class to learn from each other, as well as from seminar speakers throughout AALP,” said Teresa van Raay, an AALP alumnus and chair of the AALP advisory committee.

Seven class members are primary producers or involved in family-run farming operations. The remaining eleven come from agri-business and agri-food and legal sectors, non-government and commodity associations, the provincial government and various agencies. The class ranges in age from 26 to 63.

Rob Black, chief executive officer of the Rural Ontario Institute, the organization that delivers AALP says, “The men and women selected for Class 17 by our interview panels represent another strong set of agricultural and rural leaders. I am excited to see this new class selected and look forward to engaging with them over the next two years.”

Participants in AALP Class 17 are:

Kelly Armstrong, Renfrew, Scotiabank

Laura Bowers, Ailsa Craig, Burnbrae Farms

Brendan Byrne, Essex, Cash Crop Producer

Krista Cressman, New Hamburg, Steckle Heritage Farm

Janice Danen, Stratford, Dairy and Poultry Producer

Rebecca Egan, Toronto, Royal Agricultural Winter Fair

Jeff French, Mitchell, Dairy Heifer Replacement Producer

Roger Harrop, Fergus, Cash Crop Producer

Paul Hoekstra, Cambridge, Syngenta

Nick Huybers, Wyoming, Pork Producer

Paul Legge, Chesley, Cash Crop Producer

Brenda Miller-Sanford, Guelph, Grain Farmers of Ontario

Erica Murray, Seaforth, Little, Masson & Reid Professional Corp.

Katie Nolan, Kemptville, OMAFRA

Erin O'Hara, Ottawa, CropLife Canada

Rhonda Ryan, Walton, Trillium Mutual Insurance Company

Valerie Stone, Paris, Cargill

Bernice Weber Passchier, Palmerston, Ag. Business and Crop Inc.

During the 19-month program, AALP participants learn about leadership and organizational development theories and practices, government and political processes, economics, trade policy, global affairs, sector and industry-related issues in Ontario and globally through North American and international study travel components.

AALP is delivered by the Rural Ontario Institute (ROI). Established in 1984, the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program (AALP) has graduated almost 470 leaders who are making a positive difference across Ontario and beyond. For more information visit www.aalp.on.ca

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