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THE BUZZ



News about the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs – University of Guelph Partnership

April-May 2016

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Welcome to the latest happenings in the [OMAFRA - U of G Partnership](#):
Research, Veterinary Clinical Education, Agriculture & Food Lab, and Animal
Health Lab programs.

Fun Partnership Facts: Test Your Knowledge



1. How long have U of G and the Province been 'partners' in the advancement of agriculture and food?

2. What are the four programs of the current OMAFRA - U of G Partnership?



3. What new state-of-the-art research



4. What is the name of the

facility has the Partnership
recently helped fund?

Partnership's research
commercialization fund?

Answers to questions at the [Bottom](#)

Gryphon's LAAIR Finale: the final 4 contestants

The exciting final round of funding in the Gryphon's LAAIR Research Commercialization Program takes place Wed. April 20, 2016. \$125,000 is up for grabs for each faculty member who successfully pitches their business case to the industry judges - convincing them that *their* technology has the best chance of market success.



But they only have 15 minutes to do it.

Following the pitch, the judges will grill the presenters with tough questions to make their final decisions.

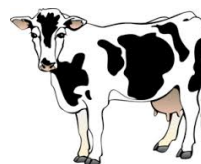
Up for the final pitch will be:

Dr. Wael Ahmed: *Field tests of novel airlift pump technology for sustainable aquaculture production*



Dr. John Dutcher: *Advanced nutraceuticals from Ontario sweet corn*

Dr. Suresh Neethirajan: *On-farm field trial for validating a point-of-care device for detecting metabolic diseases in dairy cattle*



Dr. Gopinadhan Paliyath : *Addressing the registration for use for a novel post-harvest technology for fruits and vegetables based on phospholipase-D inhibition*

Come out to an exciting morning of research opportunities! See sidebar for time and place.

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Key Partnership Date

[Gryphons LAAIR](#)

Final pitches to the judges

April 20, 9 am to noon
Pathobiology / AHL Bldg
Room 1810

Marketing Strategies for 'Local' and 'Organic'

To help Ontario producers formulate effective



marketing strategies for local and organic foods, [Prof. John Cranfield](#) of FARE investigated consumer preferences and value chains involved.

He found that while Canadian consumers prefer to purchase locally produced foods (and are willing to pay more for them), they'd like to be able to buy them at retail grocery chains. For suppliers of local and organic foods, aggregating them would make delivery more cost-efficient to large institutional customers and retail chains.

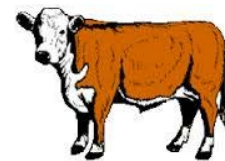
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Funding for Species Networks' Top Research Priorities

Ten new research projects have been approved - one for each of the 10 species networks of the Animal Health Lab and OMAFRA's ['Disease Surveillance Plan'](#). The projects will be undertaken collaboratively between OMAFRA and U of G.

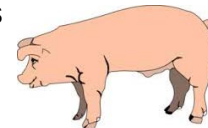
Examples of the projects include:

Beef: Surveillance for bovine calfhood diseases including *Salmonella dublin*.



Poultry: Evaluating virulence genes and antimicrobial susceptibility of avian pathogenic *E. coli* from Ontario broiler and breeder flocks.

Swine: Creation of a network of sentinel pig farms to enable coordinated preparedness, early detection, and response to animal disease.



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'Covering' Your Profits Maintains Soil Quality

With intense cultivation and low crop residues being left in the field, soils are susceptible to degradation including compaction, erosion and low organic matter. To improve productive soils in the vegetable industry, Prof. Laura Van Eerd explored the role cover crops can play in maintaining soil quality. Her [research](#) found that cover crops did, in fact, have a positive influence on soil health and had no negative effect on yield or quality of the main crop. And the best part - profit margins were as good or higher!



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Answers to Fun Partnership Facts

1. The working relationship between the University and the province dates back over 135 years and is unique in Canada.
2. The Partnership includes Research, Veterinary Clinical Education, the Agriculture & Food Lab and the Animal Health Lab programs.
3. The Livestock Research and Innovation Centre - dairy phase opened in 2015. It's a great example of the unique capacity the Partnership has built at the U of G - in both infrastructure (research stations, equipment) and specialized expertise.
4. The Partnership's research commercialization program is called 'Gryphon's LAAIR' (Leading to Accelerated Adoption of Innovative Research).

STAY CONNECTED



For more information on the OMAFRA - U of G Partnership Agreement, go to the website at: http://www.uoguelph.ca/omafra_partnership/en/index.asp

OR follow us on Twitter:

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