Are We Heading for Another Farm Financial Crisis?

A mini-conference addressing key issues around the state of the farm economy.

May 26, 2015, 1:00 to 4:30 pm
OMAFRA Building, Conference Center 2 and 3, 1 Stone Road West, Guelph, Ontario

AGENDA

1:00-2:30
1. Steve Duff, OMAFRA (20 minutes) - Current farm financial conditions in Ontario
2. Alfons Weersink, FARE (20 minutes) - What does the farm financial crisis of the 1980s tell us today
3. Kenneth Poon, Institute and Greg Pate, OMAFRA (20 minutes) - Impact of interest rate changes on Ontario farms
4. Panel Discussion - 30 minutes

Break - 30 minutes (light refreshments)

3:00-4:30
5. Brady Deaton, FARE (30 minutes) - Some connections between farmland ownership, farm rent and farmland values: Implications for ag. policy in Ontario
6. Jean-Philippe Gervais, FCC (30 minutes) - 2015 outlook for farm cash income and asset values
7. Panel Discussion - 30 minutes

There is no cost for this event. To register please contact Debbie Harkies - dharkies@uoguelph.ca

Sponsored by Institute for the Advanced Study of Food and Agricultural Policy
Speaker Bios

Brady Deaton Jr. is a Professor in the Department of Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics and a Fellow of Land Economics at the Institute for the Advanced Study of Food and Agricultural Policy at the University of Guelph. Brady currently coordinates the FARE Talk podcast series supported by the Institute. Brady’s research focuses on land use issues in Canada, the United States, and throughout the world.

Steve Duff is OMAFRA’s Senior Economist. After graduating with a Masters in Agricultural Economics from the University of Guelph in 1996, Steve has spent much of the last 17 years leading Business Risk Management policy in Ontario. Steve is also a lecturer in the Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics department at the University of Guelph and operates a beef and cash crop operation near Colborne, Ontario.

J. P. Gervais is the Chief Agricultural Economist at Farm Credit Canada (FCC). In his role he oversees economic analysis to guide strategy and monitor risk. He is a featured speaker at national and international conferences, discussing global trends and their linkages to agri-food markets. In addition to acting as a FCC spokesperson on economic matters, he provides commentaries on the agriculture industry through the FCC Ag Economist blog and videos. Prior to joining FCC in 2010, he was a Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics at North Carolina State. He also taught in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Laval University where he held the Canada Research Chair in Agri-industries and International Trade. J.P. is Past-President of the Canadian Agricultural Economics Society.

Greg Pate is currently an Economic Policy Analyst at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs where he provides economic advice across the Ministry. Before starting at OMAFRA, Greg attended the University of Guelph and worked for Dupont Canada. Greg is also a Certified Public Accountant (CPA, CMA) and continues to be involved in a farm operation near Brantford, Ontario.

Kenneth Poon is the Associate Director at the Institute for the Advanced Study of Food and Agricultural Policy, and a Research Associate in the Department of Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Guelph. Kenneth has worked on a number of research projects on the topics of farm financial assessment, Business Risk Management program evaluation, and agricultural policy analysis. Kenneth received his M.Sc. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Guelph in 2009.

Alfons Weersink is a Professor in the Department of Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics and a Fellow of Agri-Environmental Policy at the Institute for the Advanced Study of Food and Agricultural Policy at the University of Guelph. Alfons has been President of the Canadian Agricultural Economics Society and was awarded Fellow in 2014. Alfons has published over 120 articles in refereed academic journals, winning research awards from the American, Australian, and Canadian agricultural economics associations.