

Manitoba Open Farm Day

On behalf of the Manitoba Association of Agricultural Societies (MAAS) Board and Staff, we are pleased to inform you we have **56 Manitoba Open Farm Day (OFD) Host Sites taking part in Open Farm Day on Sunday September 15, 2019.** This is the greatest number of Host Sites in the ten years of this event! We have been overwhelmed by the number of new Open Farm Day Host Sites – 23 in total! We have many returning Host Sites. Those who have not returned for this year – have asked for a year off and will be back again. We totally understand. **#DYK** - Open Farm Day Host Sites can expend anywhere from \$500 to more than \$1000 getting their sites ready for OFD?

Open Farm Day began in 2010 through Manitoba Agriculture. In 2015, Manitoba Association of Agricultural Societies assumed responsibility for the delivery of the program. It has been my most sincere privilege to be able to coordinate the program on behalf of MAAS. Those who take part in Open Farm Day are a passionate group who want to share their agriculture story with the many who come to visit, listen and learn.

What type of OFD Host Sites can you tour in 2019?

We have grain and oilseed farms, agri-tourism sites, six dairy farms, working regenerative agriculture farms, organic farms, eight museums sharing an account of Manitoba's ag history, mixed farms, the Food Development Centre, Manitoba Beef Forages Initiative, Bruce D. Campbell Farm and Food Discovery Centre where a number of the commodity groups will be present and Great Tastes of Manitoba-celebrating 30 years, four bed and breakfasts, four equine ranches/stables, grass-fed beef farms, the ACC greenhouse, four agricultural societies offering information and events, two bison farms, a broiler chicken farm, a value-added brewery, a number of conservation districts and environmental organizations sharing how their partnerships and collaborations with farmers have aided and protected the soil, water and habitat. The Manitoba OFD Host Sites will offer a variety of learning opportunities, a chance to converse with farmers and others, buy produce, activities and tours.

Where are the Host Sites?

The OFD 2019 Host Sites are as far north as The Pas and as far south as Lyleton, in the southwest areas and around Minnedosa, in the City of Brandon, all across Central Manitoba and the City of Portage, up into the Interlake, down east to Steinbach, Niverville, Sarto and as far east as Woodridge. Incredible and unique learning opportunities to aid MAAS in reaching our goal of building public trust in agriculture with today's consumers.

How can we find them?

Our brochures and signs will be out in mid-July – just in time for our attendance at Crops-A-Palooza on July 24th in Carberry. The brochures can be found at Provincial and Winnipeg libraries and in many other offices/sites. In addition, all info will be up on the Open Farm Day web page www.openfarmday.ca after August 5th.

Other MAAS Manitoba Open Farm Day happenings:

In partnership with the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba, MAAS Open Farm Day will be hosting a Real Dirt on Farming learning workshop on Thursday September 5th, 2019 at the Provincial Ex Dome building. This workshop will aid those interested in telling the agriculture story and answering those tough questions. Please check both organization's web page and Facebook pages later in August for more information.

As this will be the Tenth Open Farm Day event – MAAS is planning a celebratory banquet on November 1, 2019 in Portage La Prairie in conjunction with their Annual General Meeting. Mr. Kim McConnell will be the guest speaker for the evening. We will be recognizing our OFD Host Sites who have been with us for a number of years.

Have you Saved the Date? – Sunday September 15, 2019. We hope you, your family, friends and work colleagues can join us!