

## **AgriCentre opens doors on farming's "Main Street"**

**Guelph, ON [November 9, 2005]** – Ontario agriculture now has one major address. This month, the Ontario AgriCentre officially opened its doors on Guelph's Stone Road, home of the leading government, university and business enterprises in Ontario agriculture. Seventeen tenants have relocated from across the city and the province to be part of the new facility, designed to bring increased focus and visibility to the farm sector.

"Farm and commodity organizations can be more effective when they work together," says Ontario AgriCentre President Peter Hannam. "The Ontario AgriCentre gives them an opportunity to work more closely together, and create a clearly visible, accessible presence among the biggest stakeholders in the sector."

The following 17 tenants will be open for business by the end of November in the Ontario AgriCentre at 100 Stone Road West in Guelph: ACC Farmers' Financial, Agricultural Adaptation Council, AGCare, Centre for Rural Leadership, Foundation for Rural Living, Miller Thomson LLP, Ontario Corn Producers' Association, Ontario Farm Animal Council, Ontario Institute of Agrologists, Ontario Soybean Growers, Ontario Wheat Producers' Marketing Board, Institute of Agri-food Policy Innovation, The Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians, The Ontario Canola Growers Association, The Ontario Rural Council, The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair Association of Canada and Wellmark International.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture will relocate to the Ontario AgriCentre in the spring of 2006.

The sector started realizing new efficiencies as soon as the doors opened. Corn, soybean, wheat and canola producers have co-located in one office space and share resources (business equipment, personnel, information technology, etc.), as have farm animal and environmental organizations. Soon, a media centre will open to give tenants and others access to broadcast-quality facilities, offering new opportunities to hold news conferences, teleconferences, other media events and training.

"These facilities will be a huge benefit Ontario agriculture, by helping communicate important messages about one of the province's most innovative, creative and important sectors," says Hannam.

An open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held in the spring when the remaining AgriCentre tenants have moved in.

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