

2010 Ontario Pasture Award Winner

The sponsors of the Ontario Pasture Award the Ontario Cattlemen's Association (OCA), MAPLESEED and the Ontario Forage Council (OFC) - are pleased to announce that Ryan Nesbitt of *Cedardale Farms* near Nestleton, in Durham Region, is the winner of the 2010 Pasture Award. Ryan, Trevor & Scott Nesbitt operate Cedardale Farms which consists of 1500 acres. Ryan takes the lead role in the pasture part of the operation and grazes 150 cow/calf pairs and about 20 bred heifers on 280 acres. The cows are in groups and are rotationally grazed on three different farm locations. Ryan is a strong believer in intensive rotational system with most pasture paddocks consisting of about 10 acres. Water is piped to each paddock through an above ground water line that runs throughout the entire pasture. When the herd is moved to a new paddock, the water trough is moved with them.



Winner of the 2010 Ontario Pasture Competition, Ryan Nesbitt Nestleton (centre) pictured with Peter Craig Vice President of East Ag Sales, MAPLESEED (left) and Ray Robertson, OFC. (right)

Nesbitt comments that, "Through intensive management, of our pastures, we are able to reduce our stored feed and labour requirements. We have also found that we are able to improve our herd health by removing them from traditional confinement housing. All of the factors lend to the philosophy of a lower cost of production in maintaining our cow herd which in turn helps the bottom line of our family farm".

The deadline for applications for the

2011 Ontario Pasture Award is November 10. For details, call the Ontario Forage Council at 1-877-892-8663 or visit either the Ontario Forage Council's Web site at www.ontarioforagecouncil.com or the Ontario Cattlemen's Association Web site at www.cattle.guelph.on.ca. For further information contact: Ryan Nesbitt, 1-905-986-4608, Ray Robertson, Ontario Forage Council, 1-877-892-8663 Gerrit Van Kuelen, MAPLESEED, 1-800-461-7645 ✕