

MEDIA RELEASE

November 7th, 2025

**New 3-Year Funding Commitment from The Government of Ontario to Support
Agriculture and Food Education, Youth Activities and Agribusiness
at The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair**

Toronto, ON – The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair is pleased to announce a new 3-year funding partnership with Ontario’s Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA) to support Fair activities and programming that spotlight Ontario’s agriculture and agrifood sector. A commitment of up to \$896,025 over 3 years will support a variety of activities designed to increase engagement and public awareness of Ontario’s agriculture and food systems.

“The Ontario government is proud to support the historic Royal Agricultural Winter Fair as it brings the country to the city each year, showcasing the very best in agriculture and agribusiness,” said Trevor Jones, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness. “This funding will increase agriculture and food literacy, ensuring that students, families, and people across Ontario gain knowledge of our local food system and hands-on experience with the many good things that grow in Ontario.”

Educational activities at The Royal, such as the Farm to Table Discovery Zone and The Chef’s Table presented by Milk will connect general audiences and students with relevant and reliable information on Ontario’s agriculture and food systems to improve their understanding of how food is grown and produced in Ontario.

Activities supporting youth engagement and leadership in the agriculture and food industry will include youth agriculture competitions and leadership programs hosted at the Fair each November. Each year, The Royal welcomes over 1,000 youth competitors to compete its livestock and food competitions. Gathered under one roof, The Royal provides a space for competitors to make connections, share experiences and expand their knowledge. Support from the Government of Ontario will ensure that The Royal continues to provide a world-class venue for showcasing the hard work and dedication of these young people, many of whom will represent the next generation of agrifood producers in Ontario.

Other Fair activities supported by OMAFRA seek to promote entrepreneurial endeavours and agribusiness in Ontario. Spotlight on Local at The Royal is a dedicated space for small Ontario-based agrifood businesses to showcase their products to the public. Discovering new products and the regions they come from is a valued part of experiencing The Royal.

“This support from the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, demonstrates their dedication to fostering trust and awareness of the agriculture and agri-food sector in Ontario.” says Cyrus Cooper, Chief Executive Officer, The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. “Our collaborative work is a crucial step in highlighting Ontario’s incredible agriculture and food sector and connecting urban and rural communities.”

About The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair

The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair is the world's largest indoor combined agricultural and equestrian show. Now in its 103rd year, The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair takes place every November at Exhibition Place, in the City of Toronto and celebrates the best in agriculture, local food, and equestrian competitions from across the country. For more information, please visit <http://www.royalfair.org/>

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