



The Old Farmers Almanac defines 2023 as "A Tale of Two Winters" that divides the country. Based on recent experience, it seems to also divide a week with drastic changes that can make raising livestock even more challenging. Elora area has seen weather we have never experienced before. Last month we had a blizzard storm and in the middle of the storm was thunder and bolts of lightning. This weather is rare, and is called "[Thundersnow](#)".

This Edition of AgSights Newsletter Contains:

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AgSights Celebrates 30 Years!

Thank you to those who attended our Annual General Meeting. We had special guest speakers reflecting on the past 30 years to help celebrate this milestone. James McKinlay of Silver Springs Farms has been with BIO, now AgSights, since the first formal Board was created to provide the organization strategic direction. Dr. Jim Wilton sent a note on his memories, and Dr. Stephen Miller shared a reflection from Down Under and thoughts on the next 30 years. Mike McMorris offered a different perspective as the longest tenure General Manager, and later in the agenda, facilitated a producer panel focused on record keeping and the use of genetic evaluations. Our celebration was noted in FarmTario. We appreciate the media coverage, and would like to clarify a few misunderstandings. Dr. Jim Wilton, was the professor sharing memories of BIO's early days, not Dr. Watson. Today our work includes small ruminants, as we focus on sharing the value of genetic evaluations through record keeping with beef, sheep, and goat farmers and ranchers. Beef farmers still represent majority of our members.

To all members, a heartfelt thank you for your support over the past 30 years. Cheers to all!



2022-2023 AgSights Bull & Heifer Evaluation

The 2022/2023 Bull & Heifer Evaluations is coming to an end. Ultrasound has been busy. If you are looking for a performance tested bull, check out the [End of Test reports](#) located on the AgSights website.

Reports have been posted for your review.

✕ 2022-2023 Bull/Heifer Evaluation Reports

Group	Centre Name	Period	Last Updated	# of Animals
202302	First Line Angus	EOT	Mar. 15, 2023	10
202301	Patchell Livestock	EOT	Mar. 14, 2023	7
202304	Silverspring Simmentals Photos	EOT	Mar. 29, 2023	28
202305	Crystal Farm	EOT	Mar. 26, 2023	5

Processor Links - Matching Farmers & Abattoirs

Abattoir	Species & Booking Lead Times	Method of Booking	Last Updated
Lowbank Farms Ltd.	Chicken = weekly, check website	www.lowbankfarms.com	Apr 20, 2022

Processor Links – Custom Processing Dashboard & Waitlist

Processor Links is an initiative between AgSights and Meat and Poultry Ontario to maximize capacity scheduling for Ontario abattoirs and processors. Phase 1 of the project

through one website, helping narrow the decision tree of who to call for available appointments. Thus reducing the number of administrative phone calls for both farmers and abattoirs, and better matching customers to processors.

New - Thanks to Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO), last minute availability will be shared through the daily market report.

If you are a farmer having difficulty finding a processing appointment email processorlinks@agsights.com to receive free assistance in finding an appointment. If you are an Ontario abattoir or further processor contact us to join the listing for free and benefit from the support BFO is offering.

[Click to view the dashboard](#)

Meeting Highlights



It was great to be back in person at the Cattle Industry Convention and NCBA Trade Show in New Orleans. We were impressed with the farmers and ranchers seeking us out to learn more about our products and services. The event began with Taylor Sheridan as the key note speaker. For those who don't know, Taylor Sheridan is the writer and an actor in the hit series Yellowstone. As an owner of two ranches, Taylor knows first hand the challenges facing the industry and builds it into episodes of Yellowstone. A few that resonated with current challenges include educating consumers of the strong practices followed daily on farms and ranchers to ensure animals are raised with the highest concern for their welfare. Relating why calves are vaccinated and tagged or branded at birth to the practices of human babies at birth is eye opening. One of particular interest to AgSights members is how each business is changing how they operate to remain competitive and support their families. There is an episode where Beth Dutton works through the financial challenges of a potential health concern and how the ranch can increase their profit margin raising cattle. Like all tv shows, there is a level of made up fiction, but you can't deny consumers are getting educated on the strong practices held on farm, and how each day brings new challenges that need to be addressed.



AgSights has been a proud vendor and supporter of this event. The organizers prepare an agenda that brings industry and researchers together to build awareness on the tools and services that help all livestock farmers.



Reflect, Reset, and Reconnect was the theme of this years BFO AGM. It was great to be back in person. The leadership team remains focused on the challenges and opportunities for beef farmers. Congratulations to the new Board for 2023. AgSights would like to extend a thank you to the members of this Board 30 years ago for the forward thinking approach that created an organization with a mission that still holds true today. To provide genetic management products and services to breeders and feeders of cattle to enhance the competitive position of the beef industry in Ontario. Our work continues with this core mission at the heart of what we do. Today's support from BFO continues to be strong, as we collaborate to address the needs of today's beef farmers.



AgSights attended Ontario Sheep Farmers Dairy Symposium in Floradale, Ontario as a sponsor and vendor. Our on-farm management solution provides an alternative option to get value in milk records and support selection and culling decisions. We offer many ways to get that value including paper reports on lifetime production that is of interest to dairy goat and sheep farmers. We also had interest in bioLinks for



Maritimes Beef Testing Society has reached 50 years in testing bulls and providing an annual bull sale that showcases the top genetics from their members. AgSights has supported Maritimes farmers for many years. We look forward to re-evaluating how the value of data collected by sellers can be demonstrated to bull buyers to support their decisions. In a closed herd, the new genetics entering the herd will come completely from the bulls selected. Following three generations of retained heifers, 87.5% of the genetic make-up of herd when retaining replacements, is a direct results of the last three bulls purchased. Based on test results of the 2023 bulls, the bulls being sold have the following genetic variation: 59.8 lbs weaning gain, 101 lbs post weaning gain, 1.32 square inches of rib eye, 0.68% intramuscular fat and 1.76 lbs per day feed efficiency. The balance is finding the right bull that builds on your herds genetic strengths and improves productivity for traits that need more focus. Chasing one trait at a time can lead into future challenges.

Social Media Engagement

AgSights
774 Tweets

AgSights
@AgSights

AgSights offers you the support, technology and methods of enhancing your livestock management, tracking, identification and information storage needs.

📍 Canada 🌐 agsights.com 📅 Joined April 2015

881 Following 521 Followers

If you follow our social media platforms you've probably noticed our increased presence online this year. We are working with an amazing social media consultant, Autumn Wilson, owner of AJWilson Services to grow our platform engagement and keep you informed on industry news. We welcome any feedback you have on our social media postings by emailing our General Manager, Betty-Jo at balmond@agsights.com. Please continue to follow, comment, like, retweet, and share our posts with your community to strengthen our connections and impact. Learn more about Autumn and her social media services here: <https://www.ajwservices.com/>

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or LinkedIn to stay informed!

Available Funding

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP)

Agriculture and AgriFood Canada has launched the new 5-year funding programs that replace the previous CAP programs. Click [here](#) for more details.

The Digital Transformation Grant (Ontario)

The **Ontario BIA Association (OBIAA)** is offering grants up to \$2500 for business technology improvements such as new:

- Digital marketing
- Website
- Software (such as bioLinks or bioTrack for new customers!)
- Digital training
- Hardware (capped at \$1000)

Applications are open now until **October 31st**, restrictions apply, learn more here: <https://digitalmainstreet.ca/digital-transformation-grant-4-0/> and here <https://obiaa.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/DMS-4.0-Digital-Transformation-Grant-FAQs-low-res.pdf>

Upcoming Events

- Easter, April 9th, OFFICE CLOSED
- Canadian Beef Industry conference, August 14-17



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Our mailing address is:

294 Mill St E Unit 209
Elora, On N0B 1S0
T: 519.767.2665 x305 | F: 519.767.2502
Toll Free: 855.246.2333
www.agsights.com

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