



**Premier's Award for
Agri-Food Innovation Excellence**



Celebrating

Ontario's crop of new ideas!
2008

Tweed

Message from the Premier

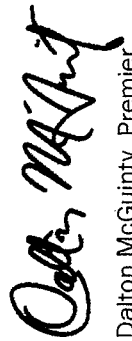
A Personal Message from the Premier

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am delighted to extend warm greetings to the leaders of and stakeholders in the agriculture and food industry as we recognize the invaluable contributions of farmer-innovators to our province's agri-food sector.

To remain competitive in today's global market and to ensure our continued prosperity, all sectors of the economy – including the agri-food sector – must look to innovation to gain advantage. These awards are testament to the vigorous culture of innovation that characterizes our province's agri-food industry and a fitting tribute to the talented women and men who drive it. Our government remains firmly committed to recognizing and encouraging innovation in Ontario agriculture and to ensuring the ongoing vitality of our agri-food industry.

As Premier, I am proud to recognize the farmers whose innovation has helped them thrive in this competitive sector, and I applaud your dedication, creativity and hard work. My hearty congratulations go out to this year's award recipients on your tremendous success in generating new products, creating jobs and building opportunity.

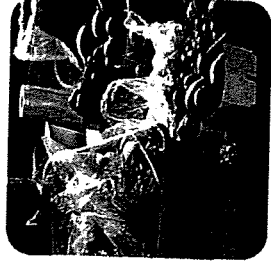
As we continue to work together to harness innovation to build an even stronger Ontario, please accept my best wishes.



Dalton McGuinty, Premier



Regional Award Winners



Quinte Organic Farmers Cooperative Inc. – Hastings County

This group of certified organic farmers recognizes there's strength in numbers. They pool their resources and work together to achieve efficiencies in marketing and production. The nine-member cooperative share knowledge, experience and expertise with each other and coordinate their production and marketing efforts. The cooperative brings local farmers together and provides local, organic food to the community. These innovators actively promote the co-op approach at farm shows, conferences and local farm meetings. They also plan to introduce an apprentice-mentorship program to help give young and new farmers a low-cost entrance into farming and marketing. Farmers helping farmers – it's an innovative twist to a trusted tradition.