

Former ARIO chair sees positive path for livestock research

Stewart Cressman sees infrastructure renewal as one of the successes during his tenure



BY LILIAN SCHAER
The writer is a freelance journalist based in Arkell

Guelph – A lot of change happened during Stewart Cressman’s 13 years on the board of the Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario (ARIO). But as he reflects back on the organization he chaired for eight years, he’s confident ARIO – and livestock research in Ontario – are on the right path forward.

ARIO provides advice to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs on strategic directions for agricultural research in Ontario, and is the owner of 15 research stations across the province.

According to Cressman, a key change has been the evolution of the director selection process to include board discussions about the perspectives and skills that could complement the organization, although the provincial government still has final say on who ultimately is appointed.

“That added ability to strategically look at skill sets for the board is a transition we moved towards in order to make sure ARIO continues to be able to provide the best possible advice into the future,” says Cressman.

There’s also been change in how agricultural research priorities are set, with ARIO

working together with OMAFRA’s Research and Innovation branch to come up with a more streamlined approach that encouraged more involvement from the industry.

Vineland Research and Innovation Centre (Vineland) has been leading the priority setting process for the horticulture sector, for example, and Livestock Research Innovation Corporation (LRIC) does the same for livestock and poultry sectors.

According to Cressman, this approach gives the industry greater input into bringing research ideas forward and prioritizing areas of greatest need instead of relying on government to make those decisions.

But by far the biggest theme that dominated his tenure was infrastructure renewal with respect to the research stations under ARIO management. Many facilities were aging with equipment not reflective of modern technology, for example, which limited the research that could be conducted – and it meant that tough decisions had to be made. This included the closure of stations at Kemptville and Alfred, for example.

“In a lot of cases, increasingly budget was going to maintenance of buildings, and high heating and operational costs, so the debate was how do we renew the infrastructure and reduce the maintenance and operating cost so there could be a maximum investment into research,” Cressman recalls.

A new dairy research facility opened in Elora in 2015, and construction on a new beef research complex there is well underway. Additional land has



Past Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario chair Stewart Cressman speaking at the 2016 opening of the new dairy research facility in Elora – the first of several new agricultural research facilities in the works for Ontario.

been purchased near that existing research farm to allow for more pasture-based research, as well as provide space for future new swine and poultry buildings. A new turf grass facility is also in the works.

Along with the infrastructure renewal came a requirement for industry to help share in the cost of any new facility construction, which Cressman says helped the commodity organizations become more involved and identify what farmers felt was impor-

tant in terms of research for their sector.

Infrastructure renewal has also helped shape the University of Guelph’s renewed commitment to agricultural research, which also resulted in the hiring of new faculty and staff – a very positive development for the farm community, he notes.

Cressman’s commitment to research started during his undergraduate and graduate studies at the University of

Guelph in the 1970s, and was reignited when he joined Ontario Pork’s research committee in 2002, serving as chair from 2007 to 2013.

A short initial commitment with an expert panel advising ARIO led to an appointment as an ARIO board member in 2005 and he became board chair in 2010 after serving in the vice chair role.

And although he’s now no longer involved with Ontario Pork or ARIO, Cressman continues to serve as chair of the national pork research cluster, Swine Innovation Porc.

“I have enjoyed working with some very qualified and informed people, and I’ve appreciated what I’ve learned and the opportunity I have had to serve the industry that has provided a living for my family,” he says.

“ARIO has strong members that will give sound advice into the future, but we have to remember that things will always change – and you have to continue to evolve to the needs of the day.”

(This article is provided by Livestock Research Innovation Corporation as part of its ongoing efforts to report on Canadian livestock issues, research developments and outcomes.)

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TRACTORS				TILLAGE		
yr	pto hp		hrs			
07	Agco LT75A	75 Dyna 4, 18.4R34, 16.9R24, 2 rem	4300	\$42,900	12	Kongskilde 9100 25' vt, adj gangs, rear hitch + hoses \$33,900
16	Fendt 512	107 profi, 4x80 profi ldr, 4 rem, 580/70R38, 540/65R28	1400	\$136,900		CIH 4800 28' cultivator, 3-bar coil tine harrows \$9,900
11	Fendt 712	110 4x85 ldr, 4rem, 650/65R38, 540/65R28	4400	\$94,900		Landoll 6230-29 29' disc \$32,900
13	Fendt 714	110 Profi, 4x85 ldr, 5rem, 540/65R28, 650/65R38	2400	\$145,900	14	Sunflower 6631-40 40' vertical till, 22' saber blades \$84,900
13	Fendt 714	110 Profiplus, xenon lights, 4x85 ldr, 4rem, 650/65R38	3100	\$154,900	12	Sunflower 6630-32 32' vertical tillage \$42,900
14	Fendt 714	110 Profi, front hitch, 4rem, 540/65R28, 650/65R38	1500	\$139,900	03	Sunflower 5035-34 34' cultivator, 3-bar coil tine harrows, rear hitch \$27,900
00	Fendt 716	140 3rem, rear wheel weights, 650/65R38, 540/65R28	8100	\$61,900	07	Sunflower 5055-48 48' cultivator, C-shank, 4 bar hi-res harrows \$48,500
10	Fendt 716	140 TMS, Stoll FZ40 ldr, 3rem, 540/65R28, 520/85R38	3300	\$119,900	18	Sunflower 5056-49 49' cultivator, C-shank, 4 bar hi-res harrows \$71,900
15	Fendt 718	145 profiplus, 4x90 ldr, 4rem, axle duals, 480/80R46, 380/85R34	1300	\$197,900	09	Sunflower 4511-09 9' shank disc chisel \$32,900
04	Fendt 815	130 Vario, front hitch, 650/65R42, 540/65R30, rear wheel weights	7100	\$74,900	08	Sunflower 1435-26 26' disc, 3 bar coil tine harrows \$38,900
08	Fendt 818	160 TMS, 4 rem, hyd + air trail brakes, ldr frames, 540/65R30, 650/65R42	4100	\$109,900	12	Sunflower 1435-26 26' disc \$38,900
13	Fendt 822	185 profiplus, reverse station, 4rem, axle, duals 540/65R30, 650/65R42	3700	\$169,900	15	Sunflower 1436-27 27' disc \$38,900
13	Fendt 826	225 profi+, vario guide stdnd, 52gpm, 5rem, frt 3ph, air + hyd tail brakes	4400	\$179,900	09	Sunflower 1435-29 29' disc \$34,900
11	Fendt 922	180 frt and rear duals, air + hyd trailer brakes, 4 rem, 16.9R34 480/80R46	4600	\$136,900	09	Sunflower 1435-33 33' disc \$36,900
13	Fendt 924	205 Profiplus, Vario guide, 650/65R34, 710/75R42, duals	4000	\$169,900	08	Sunflower 1435-36 36' disc, 4 bar hi-res harrow, tandems \$38,900
05	Fendt 926	240 TMS, front weights, 4rem, 710/70R42, 600/65R34	4800	\$132,900	15	Sunflower 1436-38 38' disc, tandems \$69,900
15	Fendt 930	250 profi+, frt hitch + 5 rem, 650/65R38, 650/65R34, 710/70R42 duals	2800	\$244,900	LIGHT CONSTRUCTION	
08	Fendt 933	275 frt hitch+PTO, ITC reciever+greenstar 1800 display, 4rem, rear duals	4600	\$164,900	15	Bobcat S650 cab + heat, 2 speed, hyd q-tach 1700 \$34,900
08	Fendt 936	300 profi, 4WD, 600/65R34, 710/70R42	6500	\$149,900	17	Gehl R190 cab + heat, joystick, 2 speed, new 12-16.5 tires 1200 \$39,900
07	Fendt 936	300 520/85R46, 520/70R34, air + hyd trailer brakes	5100	\$159,900	14	Merlo 55.9 cab + heat + air, hyd cab susp, air seat, 12000lbs x29' 2600 \$67,900
98	CIH MX170	145 3rem, 650/65R42, 540/65R30	4900	\$52,900	HAY TOOLS	
14	CIH Puma170135	CVT, L765 ldr, 4rem, leather, outback stx, wheel weights, 520/85R42	1600	\$138,900	17	MF TD 1008H 33'-6" tedder, 8 rotors, hydraulic fold call
14	CIH Puma170135	CVT, L775 ldr, frt suspension, 50km/hr, Autosteer ready	2100	\$131,900	15	JD 960N round baler, approx. 7500 bales, new belts \$52,900
08	JD 6430	90 premium, 3rem, self leveling ldr, 40km/h, IVT, 480/70R38, 420/70R24	4800	\$59,900	14	MF 1375 15' center pivot, steel conditioner rolls, drawbar swivel \$28,900
13	JD 6140R	111 front hitch, Q65 ldr, 20spd power quad, 3rem, 600/65R28, 520/70R42	1100	\$137,900	16	MF 1383 13' center pivot, steel conditioner rolls, drawbar swivel \$33,900
13	JD 6140R	111 greenstar ready, axle duals, 40km direct drive, 18.4R42, 14.9R30	700	\$140,900	08	Hesston 3315 15' center pivot, steel conditioner rolls, drawbar swivel \$22,900
12	JD 6170R	140 power quad, 4rem, autotracc ready, 480/70R30, 520/85R42	1800	\$137,900		Dion 1016 16', tandems, 4 beaters, right hand unload \$4,900
12	JD 6210R	175 50km IVT, autotracc ready, 4rem, quick-hitch, 480/70R34, 650/85R38	900	\$184,900	SPRAYERS	
98	JD 9200	260 20.8R42 duals, bareback, 4 rem	5100	\$79,900		Hardi Saritor 120', 1300gal, guidance, boom height, sectn ctrl, call for rebates \$298,500
14	MF GC1705L	22.5 eng hp, 4WD, ROPS, ldr, hydrostatic, R4 tires	300	\$14,900		Hardi 1200 80' HZ, air assist, mustang 3500 ctrl, chem fill, markers, flush rinse \$29,900
11	MF 5455	85 ROPS, 16x16 auto 4, ldr ready, 3rem, 460/85R34, 380/85R24	2500	\$48,900		Precision 500 45' self level, 500gal, hyd drive centrifugal pump, electric ctrls \$3,250
15	MF 5613	100 HiVis, MF 956 ldr, load sensing 29GPM hyd, 3rem, Michelin 18.4R38	1700	\$92,900		4200gal Tank 4200gal vert bulk storage tank, 96" diam, 148" high, 2" outlet \$4,495
15	MF 7720	155 Deluxe Cab, 50km/hr, Dyna-VT, 520/85R42 duals, AutoGuide	300	\$169,900	See New & Used Inventory	
13	MF 8650	205 Dyna-VT 50km, auto, frt hitch + PTO, 4 rem, 710/75R42 650/60R34 3000		\$149,900	maplelanefarmservice.ca	
12	MF 8680	275 Dyna-VT, 5 rem, 710/70R42, 600/70R28, front and rear duals	2200	\$189,900		

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