

PDCoV hits Huron farm

There has been an outbreak of porcine deltacoronavirus at a farrow-to-wean hog operation in Huron County, reports Swine Health Ontario.

Farm sector seen to have stronger base than most

Primary agriculture outperforms just about every other sector in terms of productivity

BY JOHN MINER
Ontario Farmer

Stratford - The agriculture industry is better positioned than many sectors to

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Justin Shepherd: Surveys have found there is a downward trend in the mood of Canadian farmers



Steve Duff: Net cash farm income is forecast to drop this year but will still be the fifth highest on record

Sunflower 4311 Disc Ripper, 3 Shank, Double Coil Spring Reset, Hyd Raised Off Main Double Gang W/ Dual Wheels, Shanks Adjustable Currently Set @ 24", Double Rocker Disc Gangs (Spring C Shanks) Good Quality 21 1/2" Blades for Low Acre Machine Long (Trash Capable) Frame, Discs Spaced @ 12" Apart, Very Good Quality for Monster Machine, 18' Wide, Adjustable Gang Cut..... \$12,900	John Deere 1010 24' Cultivator, Spring Cushion C Times w/Good Sweeps, 12' Walking Tandem Base, Hydraulic Flat Fold, Very Good Appearance, Good Condition Overall (Not Welded) Single Hyd Wheel On Wing, 3 Bar Coil Time Harrow @ 50-60% Disassembled & Stacked for Transport..... \$4,900	Bluejet 220 Disc Ripper, 5 Double Spring Cushion, Adjustable Spacing Set @ 30" Spacing, Large 425x22.5 Flotation Tires, Very Homogenous Frame w/25 1/2" Blades in Front & Separate Hyd Control Gang of Blades on Rear, Super Rugged Tillage Pro Line, Pintle Style Hitch, Disassembled for Transport, Approx. 13 1/2' Wide, Good Points..... \$14,900
Horst Stone Forks Large Selection, Skidsteer, John Deere & Alo, Quick Hitches From 55" to 92" From \$1,790 To \$2,950 Compact & Regular Duty In Stock	Jawn 7' V Ditcher w/Adjustable Shoe, Very Good Mechanical, Low Usage, Excellent Cutting Edge \$950 Other to Choose From	Allied Buhler Model 594 Front End Loader 4WD, Kubota M7500 Mount Kit, Reservoir For Approximately 80 Hp Tractor w/Quick Attach Plate Less Bucket w/Adapter Plate For Bale Spear, Excellent Condition W/Valve Included W/7' Bucket, Very Nice, Included..... \$4,200
New Agrimaster 600 Bushel Gravity Box with LED lights & roll tarp w/20-ton 365 Horst chassis w/rocking bolster w/425x22.5 used truck tires w/safety chains..... \$17,000	New Agriasee Stump Grinders in stock, 13 hp Honda engine drive. @ \$2,450 Also, 3 PTH Cutter is a 24" Carbide teeth @ \$2,600 similar w/Hyd offset as shown @ \$3,900	New Bruns 400 Bushel Gravity Box, Poly Paint w/ Roll Tarp & Lights on A New Horst 275, 14 Ton Double Reach Wagon w/Used Radial 425x22.5 Tires W/Safety Chain..... \$12,000
Sunflower 20' offset disc, 8 1/2" Spacing, 21" To 22" Blades w/Dolley Wheel On Wing, Like New Condition & Appearance, Narrow 11 1/2' Transport Width, Main Section 7' Base w/6' Wings, Nice \$11,500	John Deere 9' Offset Disk, 21" & 22" Blades, Very Good Condition, 9" Spacing W/Cylinder, Heavy Duty Bearings, Good Field Ready Condition..... \$8,850	Large Selection of Dump Trailers By JBM From 5 To 15 Ton Eg. 800 Model, 8 Ton Tandem W/New Trailer Tires @ \$8,050 T1500 15 Ton Dirt Boss w/Hyd Tailgate & Used Radial 445x22.5 Tires @ \$24,500
White 256, 20' Hyd Fold Field Disc w/Cylinder, w/Rear Buster Bar Harrow, Faded Appearance, Customer Bought Bigger Tractor, Flexible Frame, 7 1/2" Spacing W 18" Blades on Front & 19" on Rear \$4,650	Liftness 20' Flail Shredder w/1000 PTO, As New Knives, Large Shaft, 4 Good Implement Tires, Disassembled for Transport, Very Good Hood, Very Nice Condition. The Heavy Weight Of Shredders..... \$9,750	Ford Or White 5 Furrow Semi Mount Plow, 18" Bottoms, Very Good Boards, Spring Auto Reset w/Land Wheel, Good Overall, Faded Appearance, Lots to Choose From..... \$1,500
Haybuster Bale Processor, Vermeer 250 w/Hyd Loading Arm, Cat II, 3 PTH, 7.60x15 Tires, Good Flails, 1000 PTO, Low Use, Semi Mount w/Trailing Axle, 6' Long Bed, Good Condition, Disassembled For Transport..... \$7,000	Large Selection of Hyd Wheel Controlled Pull Type Box Scrapers From 7 To 12' Cut, 7' w/Hyd Tilt @ \$4,500 12' Heavy Duty w/Hyd Tilt w/Cylinders..... \$6,850	Large Westco 1805 Grain Cleaner, Large Rotary 8' Long Drum, 40" Diameter w/Fines Pan & Unload Auger, Good Condition & Fair Appearance... \$4,900 Large Selection In Stock From..... \$1,800
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withstand the turbulent economic times ahead, businesses involved in the farm construction industry were told at their annual conference.

The reassurance at the Canadian Farm Builders Association conference in Stratford came from Steve Duff, chief economist with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, and Justin Shepherd, senior economist with Farm Credit Canada.

"I think that despite the uncertainty, despite the challenges, there is still a lot of positives in this sector. The sector is dealing with a stronger base than most," Duff said.

And it is a sector that has people with a lot of experience in dealing with uncertainty, he said.

"It doesn't diminish the noise, doesn't diminish the situation they are facing, but again I think there is a really strong, positive outlook."

A key factor in the sector's economic strength has been the improvements in productivity, Duff said.

While Ontario's production base hasn't changed substantially since 2000, overall production has risen by an estimated 49 per cent.

Primary agriculture outperforms just about every other sector in terms of productivity. Food manufacturing is highly productive as well.

"It puts us in a much better position," Duff said.

The farm building industry has played a major part in the increase in productivity, he suggested.

"For example, dairy barns today are considerably larger, more innovative, better to work in, better for animals

than the one I grew up in," Duff said.

Historically, it has been said that farmers are land-rich and cash-poor. Duff said that is still the case, but they are cash-poor because they have reinvested their cash back into assets that provide a strong income.

While net cash farm income is forecast to drop in Ontario by nine per cent in 2025, driven by lower crop receipts and slightly higher operating expenses, it will still be the fifth highest on record at \$3.98 billion, Duff said. The previous year was the fourth highest.

Growth in asset values has outpaced liabilities with net worth of Ontario farms increasing by 390 per cent since 2000

Growth in asset values has outpaced liabilities with net worth of Ontario farms increasing by 390 per cent since 2000.

Shepherd told the conference surveys have found there is a downward trend in the mood of Canadian farmers when asked if now is a good time to make a large investment in buildings, land, or a major machinery purchase.

In contrast, surveys have found American farmers are feeling more optimistic.

Despite the drop in optimism for Canadian farmers, Shepherd said the producer mood is still positive.

"Right now it is still in a historically pretty good spot should they go ahead and make investments," he said.