



Debra Pretty-Straathof

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Debra Pretty-Straathof has deep roots in the agricultural communities of Lanark and Renfrew Counties. In addition to having worked with her husband on the family dairy farm, Debra has also chaired the Renfrew County Agri-Food Education Committee, served as the county Dairy Educator, and as President of the Farm Line Support Service. In 1999, Debra was elected to the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) where she held a variety of positions including on the OFA Executive Committee as Vice President, as the OFA representative on the Ontario Agriculture Commodity Council and as the Vice-Chair of Ontario Agri-Food Technologies. At the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) level Debra has served on the Biotechnology Committee and as Chair of the Taxation Committee, as well as in her present role as CFA's representative to the World Farmers Organization's Standing Committee for Farm Women.

Debra's dedication to the farming community has been recognized with an Award of Merit from the Eastern Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association for outstanding contributions to the agriculture community and an Award of Merit from the Canadian General Standards Board Committee for her contributions and dedication to the process of creating national volunteer labeling standards for "foods that are, and are not, genetically engineered." Debra has taken numerous courses including leadership training and is a graduate of the Algonquin College Public Relations program.

"I expect the SAWA research will contribute to a better understanding of Canadian farm women's challenges. I look forward to using the finding to assist in my role as the CFA representative on the World Farmers Organization's Standing Committee for Farm Women."