

Grade **EH** Beef Recipe of the Season: **Winter**



Fettucine with Roasted Red Pepper and Garlic Cream Sauce *Exquisite flavour for those special occasions.*

INGREDIENTS

1/2 box 450 g fettucine
1 lb 500 g Beef Top Sirloin Grilling Steak, cut into stir-fry strips
1 tsp 5 mL minced garlic

Freshly ground black pepper, to taste

1 bottle 350 mL Renee's Gourmet Naturally Light Roasted Red Pepper and Garlic Dressing

1 cup 250 mL light sour cream

1 tsp 5 mL sugar

1 lb 500 g fresh or frozen asparagus spears, cut in 2

7 oz 199 mL (1 can) sweet red pimentos

1/4 cup 50 mL pine nuts

DIRECTIONS

Prepare fettucine according to package directions. Meanwhile, stir-fry beef strips with garlic and pepper in lightly oiled non-stick frying pan for 2 or 3 minutes, until no longer pink. Remove beef to plate using slotted spoon. Combine Roasted Red Pepper and Garlic Dressing with sour cream and sugar in pan with meat juices. Add asparagus to pan, with sauce, cover and simmer for 2 or 3 minutes. Drain fettucine and add with cooked beef strips and pimentos to sauce. Mix well and heat through. Serve sprinkled with pine nuts.

COOKING TIME: 20 - 25 minutes

Number of Servings: 4 - 6

Nutrition Information Per Serving

Calories...527

Fat....13g

Protein....32g

Carbohydrates...70g

An excellent source of Iron (34 % RDI) and Zinc (52 % RDI)

Open Letter to The Honourable Dwight Duncan, Ontario Minister of Finance January 13, 2006 *continued from page 2*

In regards to provincial government streamlining and efficiencies, OCA has serious concern over the ad hoc approach being taken on the development of agricultural regulations in this province. There is ample evidence that regulations such as the Nutrient Management Act place the Ontario beef industry at a competitive disadvantage on an inter-provincial and global stage. Fostering economic growth in primary agriculture requires a thoughtful approach to regulation that first evaluates regulations in other jurisdictions that are realistic and science-based.

Finally, on the matter of fiscal transparency and accountability we would willingly provide comments on the appropriate budget requirements for the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) if privy to the current budget in detail. With full budget disclosure we would be in a better position to evaluate need.

On a more positive note, we strongly endorse government continuing to utilize the model developed by OCA and OMAFRA for program delivery

directly from our association. To date, OCA has successfully delivered the \$3M component of the Mature Animal Abattoir Fund and the \$4M Livestock Mortality Recycling Assistance Program. In addition, we are prepared and look forward to also administering the \$1.75M Industry Development Fund beginning in early 2007. The OCA can deliver programs in a low cost and efficient manner. We are accountable to both our members and the Ontario government.

In closing, no agricultural risk can be fully mitigated. However, forward -planning in programs and strategies by the provincial government, that prepares for eventualities such as foreign animal disease crisis or trade challenges, is what the agricultural industry needs. We think that the Province of Ontario, in partnership with agricultural groups, can develop a coherent strategy that will lend support to primary agriculture and thus strengthen rural Ontario. OCA is ready to work with you and your colleagues on such a plan.



Since 1963, the Ontario Cattlemen's Association has been the unified voice of the province's 21,000 beef cattle producers. OCA advocates on behalf of its members in the areas of government lobbying, policy planning, industry development programs, promoting beef and developing domestic and export markets.



For more information on the Ontario beef industry, contact:
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the ONTARIO STEAKHOLDER

Winter 2006 Volume 2 Issue 1



CONNECTING ONTARIO'S BEEF FARMERS TO THE ELECTED MEMBERS WHO REPRESENT THEM.

The Ontario Cattlemen's Association (OCA) is a grassroots organization that provides leadership to all sectors of the industry. Now more than ever, it is important to maintain constant contact with our elected Members, both provincially and federally, to ensure that the concerns of our industry are heard, and that effective solutions can be explored and adopted. OCA hopes that you will come to recognize the *Ontario Steakholder* as your source of reliable information from the Ontario beef industry.

Message from the President



On behalf of the Ontario Cattlemen's Association, I would like to congratulate Prime Minister elect, The Honourable Steven Harper, and his Conservative government on their January 23rd success.

At time of print, Mr. Harper has not yet named his Cabinet, but through our national body, the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA), we look forward to working with the Conservative Member who will represent the agriculture portfolio. We have every faith that our new government will recognize the issues that are important to beef producers from coast to coast.

At this time, OCA would also like to take the time to welcome back returning Ontario MPs and congratulate our new MPs on winning seats in their respective ridings. OCA launched this 4-page government newsletter the *Ontario Steakholder* (OS) in the fall of 2005 to help increase awareness of our industry issues among government, and we hope you enjoy reading it. This is the new tool that allows OCA to provide government with the inside information needed to gradually build a better understanding of our industry – in peacetime and in war.

Published quarterly (Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall), each OS will include a seasonal recipe to encourage promotion and consumption of Canadian beef. But, most importantly, each issue will offer you easy-to-read, concise information on the state of our industry, what beef farmers need and want from our elected officials, and how that help can be provided.

I trust that the addition of this regular pipeline to government will increase the visibility of the Ontario beef industry and that the newsletter will become a popular read for all Members of Parliament.



Above: CCA's Director of International Relations, John Masswohl, with Prime Minister elect, The Honourable Steven Harper at the Parliament Hill fund raising event to support

Canadian Red Cross hurricane relief efforts in the United States. The event, called "Hands Across the Border" took place on September 28, 2005.

The OCA Board of Directors would also like to thank former Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, The Honourable Andy Mitchell, for the outstanding support he showed for the industry. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

In closing, we know that Canada's new Prime Minister and his Cabinet will avail themselves to Canada's agriculture leaders, and work hard to see campaign commitments carried out. The OCA Board of Directors eagerly anticipates meeting with new and returning MPs to create a stronger and sustainable beef industry.

Ian McKillop
OCA President

INDUSTRY INSIDER



First David and Carolyn Biesenthal Scholarship Presented



Al Mattes (left) is congratulated by David Biesenthal after receiving the first David and Carolyn Biesenthal Scholarship.

In August of 2001, almost \$30,000 had been donated to the trust fund established to help David and Carolyn Biesenthal with legal fees in the Walkerton enquiry. The Biesenthal farm is adjacent to the now-famous well #5.

At that time, the fund represented 191 different donations - including individual farmers, local credit unions, county cattlemen's associations and federations of agriculture, veterinarian offices, breed associations, feed and pharmaceutical companies, artificial insemination companies, financial planners, commodity boards and Women's Institutes. Several thousand more was committed by organizations who indicated they would send the money when it was needed.

The fund was established by the Bruce County Cattlemen's Association in December of 2000 when the Biesenthals learned that they were named as part of a \$350 million law suit - of which only \$1 million would be covered under their farm policy.

The fund was designed to help pay the family's legal costs, should the case proceed. But, in the Spring of 2001, the Biesenthals learned that a government-initiated compensation program would negate the law suit.

Despite the fact that the Biesenthals estimated that the situation cost them \$20,000 in loss of business from Dave's veterinary clinic, due to the time he spent on the issue, they refused to take anything from the trust fund because it wasn't needed in legal fees.

The Biesenthals supported the concept of a scholarship program, at that time, on the understanding that the award would go to graduate students at the Ontario Agricultural College who are conducting research in water quality.

Al Mattes, a PhD student at the University of Guelph, was the first recipient of the \$5000 scholarship. His research goal is to further the understanding of how arsenic can be removed from groundwater and sequestered safely over long time frames.

Arsenic is a very common contaminant in many parts of the world. In areas of Bangladesh and West Bengal, especially, it is very prevalent in ground water that is tapped by tube wells for human use. An epidemic of cancer and other arsenic-related diseases has broken out as a result.

As well, in many parts of the US and parts of Canada it is common to find high concentrations of arsenic in ground water due to its use in commercial fungicides and formerly as part of the formula for creating pressure treated wood.

"Issues of ground water contamination, whether by *E.coli*, fertilizer, or arsenic are increasingly important as pressures on ground water resources increase," says Mattes. "By investigating and understanding the chemistry and biological interactions in the microbial community that relate to arsenic removal, I hope to increase the overall understanding of processes taking place in ground water everywhere".

Recipients for the David and Carolyn Biesenthal Scholarship are to be chosen on the basis of academic achievement, based on cumulative average over the previous two years of study, and or the quality of graduate research with an emphasis on the interaction of livestock waste and the environment.

Open Letter to The Honourable Dwight Duncan, Ontario Minister of Finance January 13, 2006

As the organization that speaks for over 21,000 beef producers in the province, the Ontario Cattlemen's Association (OCA) would like to begin by thanking you for the opportunity to provide input to the process of developing the 2006 Ontario Budget. We appreciate that the provincial government has significant interest in having a strong economy in rural Ontario. By strengthening primary agriculture through support programs and infrastructure, rural Ontario will be vibrant.

The effort of the OCA to strengthen our industry, through the profitable expansion of the beef sector, compliments your efforts in creating a new generation of economic growth in rural Ontario. After a devastating period for the Canadian beef industry following the discovery of the first case of BSE in May 2003, the Ontario beef industry is in a position to benefit from a number of opportunities.

These opportunities include new and recently expanded packing plant and processing capacity such as Cargill. The recent entrance of Cargill through the acquisition of Better Beef is of value to our members. And even with past and ongoing support by the provincial government for bio-fuel production such as ethanol, these new plants require an expanded feedlot industry in Ontario to provide a local market for their by-products and thus increase their likelihood of profitable operations. With appropriate industry-government developed support programs that nurture these opportunities, the feedlot industry can, and will grow.

In terms of long-term and reliable support, the OCA views responsive and timely safety net programs as the most critical. But a program can only be as responsive as the administration budget and delivery agent will allow. Business risk management initiatives such as the Canadian Agriculture Income Stabilization (CAIS) program are valuable to primary agriculture but frustration on turn-around times and inability to make amendments to the program design lead to negative perception.

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Ontario Cattlemen's Association Annual Meeting

"Strength in Numbers"

The Ontario Cattlemen's Association cordially invites all MPPs and new and returning Ontario MPs to our 44th Annual General Meeting.

The beef industry has faced many challenges over the past two and a half years. Our Annual Meeting will report on the 2005 calendar year, while reflecting on the changes and growth that will be necessary to move the industry forward.

OCA always works towards addressing industry issues and is proud to be able to provide this interactive forum for Ontario beef producers farmers, related industry, government and the media.

**Wednesday, February 22
and Thursday, February 23***
**At the DoubleTree
International Plaza Hotel**
**655 Dixon Road,
Toronto, ON**

**Evening of Tuesday, February 21 –
Cattlemen's College, sponsored by
Pfizer Animal Health (Plaza C)*

Registration will commence at 7:30 a.m.

The meeting will begin at 9:45 a.m.

On Wednesday evening, banquet doors will open at 7 pm and dinner will conclude by 9:30 p.m.

After dinner entertainment:

Dan Needles,
writer of Wingfield Farms series.

Please register in advance by contacting:

Sue McCaw

Ontario Cattlemen's Association

Ph: (519) 824-0334 or

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2006 OCA Annual Meeting Agenda

February 22 and 23, 2006 - Doubletree International Plaza Hotel, 655 Dixon Road, Toronto

7:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. - Registration (South Lobby)

Wednesday, February 22, 2006 - Plaza AB	
** 9:45 a.m. **	Welcome and Convene Adopt Agenda & Elect Scrutineers Minutes of 2005 Annual Meeting 2005 Audited Financial Statement Proposed Changes to OCA Constitution Nominations / Election of Cow Calf rep to 2006 OCA Board of Directors President's Address Nominations / Election of Feedlot reps to 2006 Board of Directors Report from CBEF Nominations / Election of "Northern" rep to 2006 Board of Directors Announcement re: CCA Nominations and Feedlot and Cow\Calf Committee Nominations Nominations / Election of "At Large" rep to 2006 OCA Board of Directors Executive Director's Report - Dave Stewart
12:30 p.m.	Lunch - Plaza C
12:30 p.m.	Board of Directors Meeting - Ottawa Room(election of President / Vice President)
1:30 p.m.	Reconvene - Plaza AB Nominations / Election of balance of Cow Calf Committee Introduce CCA Nominees, Ballot on CCA Nominees Report from CCA - Stan Eby / Dennis Laycraft
2:35 pm	Coffee Break - sponsored by Sobeyes Announce Directors to CCA Nominations / Election of balance of Feedlot Committee
3:00 pm	Nutrient Management Update - Chris Attema Update from Ontario Farm Animal Council Report from BIC - Glenn Brand / John Newman Adjourn 4:30 pm
6:00 p.m.	Cocktails - Plaza Foyer
7:00 p.m.	ANNUAL BANQUET - Plaza AB - Prime Rib sponsored by Better Beef - Cargill Meat Solutions
<i>After-Dinner Performance by: Dan Needles, creator of Wingfield Farm series</i>	
Thursday, February 23, 2006 - Plaza AB	
7:00 a.m.	OCA Board of Directors ANNUAL MEETING - "Ottawa Room"
7:30 a.m.	OCA Advisory Council & Board Meeting / Breakfast - "Toronto AB" room
7:30 a.m.	Voting Delegate Breakfast - "A Message from your Sponsor" - Plaza C
9:00 a.m.	Reconvene Annual Meeting - Plaza AB Panel Discussion: "Managing for Profitability" (Dr. Vern Pierce, University of Missouri-Columbia; Dale Pallister, OCA Director [feedlot operator]; Jim Martin, OCA Director [cow\calf operator]). Moderator: Kevin Stewart, host of AGVISION TV
10:30 a.m.	Coffee Break - sponsored by Sobeyes Ontario Corn Fed Beef program - Jim Clark Regional Marketing Initiative - Mallot Creek Group Debate on Resolutions
12:00 p.m.	Lunch - Plaza C
1:00 p.m.	Guest Speaker: Hon. Leona Dombrowsky - Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
1:30 p.m.	Debate on Resolutions (Cont'd) Adjourn (late afternoon)