

OAAS GAZETTE

| Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies |

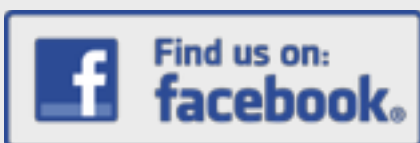


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Blast from the past...



Greetings from OAAS President...

Elaine Rennie, Markham

It has been a sunny summer so far and I hope that this has brought out an increase in attendees to those fairs that have come and passed. May the same weather shine upon those fairs that are upcoming.

I wish to thank the fairs that have kindly sent me the many invitations to attend and take part in their opening ceremonies. Unfortunately, it is just not possible for me to attend at every one of these, but you will be in my thoughts, wishing you all an abounding success.

I would like to thank our executive and the board of directors for their enthusiasm in visiting the fairs and recognizing, on behalf of all of us at the OAAS, that the hard work and dedication of our membership is recognized.

We have had our executive summer meeting, where we worked on the districts changes to their individual Policies and Procedures to incorporate the addition of a Provincial Director. Thank you to all the district directors for seeing that we received your district level changes by June 30, in order to allow the governance committee the time needed to go over all of them and bring them to the executive for discussion.

Thank you Cathy and Brian Redden for opening their cottage to us to use for our meetings, it made a much more relaxed and quiet atmosphere to accomplish the heavy workload that we had before us. Many thanks also to our office manager,

Vince and his wife for the food provided for our sustenance.

We are pleased to report that Vince Brennan, our Office Manager, and Kathryn Lambert, convention co-ordinator have fully embraced their duties and the workload that is ongoing due to our resizing of the Board of Directors and other issues will allow us the opportunity of making a smooth transition at our 2017 convention.

By your Fairs, we are educating others not fortunate enough to be in the 'Agriculture families' and helping the Country to Preserve our Agricultural Heritage.

To all of you- fair boards, executive, managers, office staff, the many volunteers, exhibitors and attendees - Kudos to everyone and remember to take the time to enjoy the fruits of your labour.

Sincerely,

- Elaine

Convention Competition

Our apologies this portion of results had unfortunately been omitted in the previous Gazette.

2 Dimensional Poster (Handmade)

- 1st - Binbrook
- 2nd - Wallacetown
- 3rd - Arron Tara

2 Dimensional Poster (Professional)

- 1st - Shelburne
- 2nd - Woodbridge
- 3rd - Milton



GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Following Submitted by Cathy Redden -

Following the changes made to the OAAS Constitution at the 2016 Annual Meeting, each District Executive undertook a complete review of their district policies to ensure that their policies contained the new wording of the Constitution and By Laws, that they reflected the day to day workings of each District and that they provided guidelines for any decision making at that level. These revised policies have now been reviewed and responses will be sent back to the Districts regarding any editing, additions or changes to be made. The District Executives will be presenting their newly revised document at their 2016 District AGMs.

The Governance Committee, with the assistance of the Rural Ontario Institute provided the Executive with a reorganized OAAS Policy Manual for its review at the summer meeting. Wording has been updated to reflect the current activities and policies placed in appropriate categories. This updated document will also include a separate handbook providing a comprehensive guideline for the staging of the Annual Convention. Additional policies around topics such as Executive Limitations, Board Operations and a Youth Policy are being prepared. A draft of this new document will be provided to the OAAS Directors for review and comment prior to the Fall Board Meeting.

Finally, work is being done to support the Districts as they prepare for their elections this Fall. It is important that our membership clearly understand the differences between the roles and responsibilities of the current District Directors and the new position of Provincial Director. It is recommended that each District form a nomination committee which will seek out candidates who meet the criteria for those positions. It is also important that the Provincial Director Job Description and other materials regarding this position be made available to potential candidates. These materials are also available on the website.

Save the date

2017 Convention: February 16th-18th, Fairmont Royal York



Kathryn Lambert - Convention Administrator

285 Main St, Glencoe, Ontario, N0L 1M0

ph: 519-287-3553

fx: 519-287-2000

oaas@bellnet.ca

www.ontariofairs.com www.ontarioagsocieties.com

CONVENTION 2017 - Feb. 16-18

~ Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Toronto ~

Book your hotel room NOW !! The convention delegate blocks are now up and available; to avoid increased rates, sold out blocks or disappointments, book today. You can always modify your reservations closer to the date. (*blocks released Jan 15/17*) Call the hotel (1-866-540-4489) or book online: <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/ontarioagricultural>



FRIDAY MORNING KEYNOTE SPEAKER: ANDREW CAMPBELL

Andrew Campbell is a farmer, with a passion for agriculture advocacy, social media and new technology. With the farm, known as Bellson Farms, he and his family milk holsteins and grow corn, soybeans, wheat and hay in Southern Ontario's Middlesex County. With all kinds of information available about modern farms, and not all of it being true, Andrew is keen to make sure people get the full story. That is what farmers do on a daily basis, why they do it and what they care about. He's been featured on CBC, CTV, and other media outlets across Canada for his work in opening up his farm with pictures on social media as the Fresh Air Farmer. When he isn't farming or travelling, you'll likely find him spending time at home with his young family, curling at the local club or just enjoying the view from his front porch. Check out more details: www.thefreshair.ca

**Protect Your Attendees from E.coli & Other Pathogens.
Protect Your Event from Liability.**

Don't miss this **FREE WORKSHOP!**

Best Practices in E.coli Prevention



8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Thursday February 16th, 2017

Fairmont Royal York, Toronto, ON

Each participant will receive a free Educational DVD & information binder

To register, go to www.canadian-fairs.ca or call 204-761-1550

Growing Forward 2
A federal-provincial-territorial initiative

cafe
Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions Association canadienne des foires et expositions

Canada

SEMINAR TOPICS ... already

- Parliamentary Procedures 101
- Exploring the Barn Quilt Trail
- Importance of Ag Awareness
- More from Mary Maxim
- Buskering, An Entertainment Idea
- Managing Money With the Times
- Traceability, Premises ID & Emergency Mgmt
- Insurance: Alcohol & Your Fair
- Smart Serve certification

WANTED: Looking for new & unique entertainers for Convention Showcases ~ please send us your suggestions.

Registration opens mid-November & early bird is due Friday January 20th. *Same rates as 2016*

LEN PATTERSON MEMORIAL AWARD

Presented by Nothers Awards, London

The 8th Annual Leonard Patterson Memorial award will be presented at the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies annual convention in February 2017.

Leonard Patterson worked for Nothers for several years and made many contacts and friends at the fairs. He volunteered and worked diligently on the board of Mount Forest fair, as well as for District #10, where he served as their director on the OAAS board and was elected president in 1986. Nothers is presenting this award in Leonard's memory.

Agricultural Societies wishing to nominate their Secretary and/or Treasurer, who has served their organization for at least 15 years, may do so by sending their nomination to the OAAS Past Presidents' Association by December 1, 2016. There is no special nomination form. Please submit in writing, explaining in details why you feel your Secretary and/or Treasurer is deserving of this honour.

If previously nominated, please re-apply with an updated profile.

Please send your nomination to:

OAAS Past Presidents' Association,
 c/o Joanne Gregson, 16 Red Pine Cres.,
 Wasaga Beach, Ontario L9Z 3B3 or email: jwgregson@sympatico.ca

CHECK IT OUT...

Looking for a grant or funding?

<https://150alliance.ca>

Round Table Summaries

<http://ontarioagsocieties.com>

Planning Accessible Events

ontario.ca/accessibility

Lottery Licensing

<http://www.agco.on.ca>



Ready, Set, Review

The operations of Agricultural Societies' in Canada have changed drastically over the years, and the possibility of litigation is an ever present reality. The role of the Agricultural Society Board and Directors have also changed, and the responsibilities placed on these board members have increased. In many cases we are finding most board members have never read the Constitution and Bylaws, rules and regulations governing Ag Society events, risk management policies and waivers, and of greater concern did not know where to find them. The directors and executive are obligated to ensure due diligence is occurring at all times and in all facets of the organization. The "cutting corners", "everything will be fine", "we have done it this way for 100 years", and "no one sues the agricultural community" attitude are long gone. Below are some general points every Agricultural Society board should consider and start the conversation to pro-actively protect against possible liabilities and manage risks:

- Read the Constitution and Bylaws: Are they being followed? When was the last time they were reviewed? Who wrote them and approved them? If they were written 10, 20, 50 years ago it might be time for a review and to ensure they still are relevant to today's operations.
- Do you have a new board member orientation policy and program?
- Rules and Regulations for competitions: Are they consistent along all events? Are they easily assessable by the competitors before and during events? Are they online? Who wrote them, and do they still make sense for today's events?
- Waivers: Do you have them? Do you use them? Are all committee heads and organizers ensuring they are properly filled out and returned to the main office after each event? Do you have youth waivers? Are you educating committee volunteers on how to fill out the waivers and the importance surrounding them?
- Emergency Plans and Incident reports: Do you have them? Do you use them? Is everyone, including volunteers aware of them? If something goes wrong, do your committee heads know what to do, to say or not to say...who do they report too?
- Grounds Safety: Do you have a formal maintenance plan? Are rings, staging areas and events being setup properly and in accordance to insurance requirements and local fire and building codes? Are you asking yourself: "Is the public safe?" "What could go wrong?" Do your setup committees know what is to be expected, and are you ensuring they are following direction?
- Insurance Certificates: Are you collecting insurance certificates and information from all vendors, exhibitors, 3rd party companies, Midway companies, and animal competitors etc....everyone? Are these certificates naming your society as an additional insured? Do you have a minimum liability insurance coverage policy in place?
- Do you have: an Accessibility policy, Code of conduct policy, Conflict of interest policy, Privacy policy, Media policy, Abuse and harassment policy, Volunteer orientation policy?
- Are all policies and procedures, and rules and regulations reviewed annually?

These are only a few of the points every board needs to consider to ensure they are doing their due diligence on behalf of the organization. It is a best practice to start these conversations and research today, because after an accident or issue occurs it is too late.

Further information on protecting your Agricultural Society's insurable risks can be directed to Shawn LaPalm at The Co-operators: 1-888-712-2667. Shawn_lapalm@cooperators.ca

The information provided in this document is intended to help the OAAS and its members manage risks. The information provided does not constitute professional, insurance or legal advice.

**FEEDING FAMILIES
FEEDING HOPE**

The Ontario Association of Food Banks would like to say thank you to Ontario's agricultural community!

Because of your support, our food banks are able to provide fresh produce, dairy, eggs, and meat to 360,000 adults, children and seniors in need every month!



HELP US PROVIDE LOCAL, HEALTHY FOOD TO ALL ONTARIANS TODAY!

To make a donation, please contact us at 416-656-4100 or erin@oafb.ca! You can learn more about the OAFB by visiting www.oafb.ca. We ship by the pallet, and can move truckloads of time-sensitive produce at a moment's notice.

With Ontario's Bill 36, farmers are now eligible for a 25% non-refundable tax credit for all agricultural product that is donated to the province's food banks! Take advantage of this benefit, while supporting communities in need.



District 15's Fair season started with the Kenora Agricultural Society's on August 4-6. Greeting Fairgoers was a 10 foot tall Scarecrow, a hen made from Rice Krispies (Age 6-8 category), numerous Fairy Gardens complete with patio furniture and bird bath, also from the 6-8 age category. Adults and children contributed enough art, photographs, homecrafts, baking, flowers, and preserves to fill the arena. There was entertainment, horseshoe tournament, and a midway completing the festivities. The District has a fair or two every weekend in August, ending with the Hymers Fair on Labour Day.

What Makes a Successful (Great) Board Member?

No matter what other skills a board member has, he or she must have these:

- *A passion for the cause*
- *Respect for others*
- *Works well with a team (a team player)*
- *Thoughtful ability to consider issues, and to articulate those thoughts*
- *A sense of responsibility for making things happen*
- *The vision to think beyond today*



Passion for the cause is first and foremost. Why fill a seat on the board with someone who doesn't care enough to really work for OAAS and ultimately the success of the Districts and Agricultural Societies?

Respect – someone who is willing to listen to and respect other people's thoughts and points of view. I'm sure you have heard of boards where discussions devolve into a shouting match between two members who don't even try to listen to each other. Time is too short and your cause is too worthy, to waste a seat on a disrespectful board member.

Teamwork – works and communicates well with others. A team player will put personal opinions aside to work for the benefit of the organization.

Thoughtfulness – the ability to really consider the issue at hand and weigh its ramifications for the organization (this is a rare gem). The best board members ask questions that cause you to think through your own responses as well. If a board member can't stop to think about why he or she is supportive of or against an initiative, then you're allowing his or her personal past experiences to automatically have a vote, regardless of where those experiences have led.

Passion, respect, teamwork and thoughtfulness are great, but responsibility is where the rubber meets the road. When it comes time to act, you need board members who take responsibility for ensuring that promises are fulfilled. Whether it's attending meetings, connecting the Board with Districts, reviewing the audit, or making calls to supporters, promises don't cut it, actions do.

Finally, board members must be able to envision the future and think beyond today. So many decisions affect both today and tomorrow; considering only today's issue jeopardizes your future. Envisioning the future ramifications of today's decisions is imperative for your future.

Passion, Respect, Teamwork, Thoughtfulness, Responsibility & Forward thinking

This is the checklist when weighing the value of a new board member. Without these six qualities, you can have the best real estate lawyer, the best farmer, the best whatever, each at odds with each other, unable to make a decision and unlikely to achieve the desired goals.

So think about what the OAAS needs to achieve and seek people who are able to make it happen. Consider this checklist when making a decision on who to select as a Director.

And remember our Mission statement

Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies acts as a resource and a united voice for its members by providing leadership through education and communication to encourage them to promote agriculture and a rural way of life in Ontario.





Roles and Responsibilities of a Provincial Director

The OAAS is a non-profit organization incorporated under the Agricultural and Horticultural Organizations Act 1988. The role of the Board of directors is to provide overall leadership for the association and to ensure that its mission and vision are fulfilled.

The Board of Directors meet a minimum of 4 times / year. Directors are expected to prepare for, attend and participate in these very important meetings. Agendas and information packages will be sent via email prior to each meeting. Each Director will also be expected to participate and take an active role in a number of operational and convention committees.

It is important to understand that the individual who will be elected to the newly created position of Provincial Director in February 2017, will have a much different role/ responsibility than the current Agricultural and Homecraft Director representatives on the OAAS Board. The new Provincial Director will be mainly dealing with the OAAS Board and all that is involved in the operations of the OAAS. Their involvement in the District and Society activities will be to liaise with the District Directors and pass directions and information back and forth between the local Districts and the OAAS Board.

OAAS will provide mandatory Board member training annually to assist Directors in fulfilling their duties.

NOTE: to maintain continuity the board is transitioning towards 3 year terms for Directors.

Individuals considering the position of Provincial Director should be able to commit to the following:

1. Have the responsibility of providing direction and vision on behalf of all the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies.
2. Be aware of the roles and responsibilities of a Provincial Director and are prepared to commit the time and energy to the position.
3. Attend the OAAS Convention, AGM and other OAAS meetings (3 or more) and conference calls and be an active participant at those. (Schedule of Board meetings will be provided 3 years in advance)
4. Be an active and participating member of at least 2 OAAS Committees.
5. Attend all District Director Board Meetings regularly and act as liaison between the District Board and OAAS.
6. Ensure the Societies in your District understand the function of the OAAS. Make it clear to them, they are members of OAAS and that you are their representative on the OAAS Board.

7. Inform the Board immediately if there is a potential conflict of interest.
8. Keep informed on all activities of the OAAS, its board and its committees.
9. Become familiar with the OAAS Constitution and by-laws.
10. Act in accordance with the associations constitution and bylaws, policies and procedures and ensure that they are reviewed and updated as required.
11. Working with the other Board members to ensure that there are clear job descriptions and all staff are trained properly, as required.
12. Working with the other Board members to ensure that there are correct procedures in place for disbursement or receipt of funds, and that insurance is acquired to cover risk, and update as required.
13. Working with the other Board members to ensure that the organization's programs are regularly evaluated.
14. Consider resigning from the Board if you cannot fulfill the duties and commitments of the position and let the District select another Director.

If you wish more information or have any questions regarding the new Provincial Director, please contact Vince Brennan OAAS Office Manager



Café Annual Convention



November 16 - 18, 2016

Join your colleagues in the fair industry in Fredericton NB for three days of inspired speakers, discussions and workshops.



Roles and Responsibilities of District Directors

NOTE: The current role of the District Agricultural and Homecraft Directors will be amended to remove their participation on the OAAS Board. Those functions will be moved to the **new Provincial Director position**.

Here are some suggested guidelines as to the Roles and Responsibilities of the District Directors, recognizing that their Roles and Responsibilities will vary from district to district.

A District Agricultural/Homecraft Director will:

1. Attend all District Board and Annual Meetings.
2. Familiarize yourself with the District you represent – number of fairs, dates, locations etc.
3. Keep a current list of key people in each Agricultural Society (President, Secretary, Office Manager, etc.).
4. Make sure the Societies in your District understand the function and benefits of the OAAS.
5. Work with the District Board to ensure that your District Policy Documents are up to date and that Societies in your District have their own constitution and bylaws and that both are understood and used.
6. Assist the Societies in your District to properly word any resolutions or proposals submitted on their behalf. Submitters should refer to the Resolution Factsheet. Submissions should be forwarded to OAAS Office Manager 60 days prior to convention.
7. Encourage the secretaries of the Societies to forward the annual affiliation fees and fair summary information etc. promptly to the Office Manager of the OAAS.
8. Good public relations are important and necessary. You are speaking, as a representative of all the Societies in your District, so be careful of what you say. Be helpful and offer encouragement, not discouragement. Visit as many fairs as may be convenient. Attend your District Society annual meetings.
9. Assist Societies with selection of qualified judges, as requested.
10. Ensure judges' training workshops are organized as needed in your District.
11. Communicate with District Societies throughout the year, to collect information, assist with planning workshops and training sessions.

Making a good " First Impression": OAAS First Impression Program

The First Impression program is off to a great start in 2016 with 12 applications which we have matched up 8 Fairs. This unique program offers the opportunity to look at your fair through others' eyes. It is a tremendous chance to identify opportunities to make improvements that make a difference in your guests' experience of your fair. This program was piloted by OMFRA in 2012 with 6 fairs now in 2016 44 fairs will have participated in the program.

Participating this year are:

Kincardine Fair with Plympton-Wyoming Fair

Dryden Fair with Murillo Fair

Barrie Fair with Carp Fair

Participating fairs have made a significant commitment of time, travel, money to cover expenses, and energy to provide their partner fair with meaningful constructive feed-back.

We are extremely pleased several fairs have committed to do the exchange even though some major travel is involved.

Here is what some of our participating fairs have said:

- *"It is an excellent way to get new ideas but also makes you look at your own fair differently."*
- *"It is a great experience on both sides. I can see this information used for many years to come, which should result in a positive fair environment, therefore making a positive experience for all of the committees / volunteers as well as a great experience for the public."*

If you have any questions about the First Impressions program, or about how your fair can take advantage of this unique opportunity, please contact: Judy McFaul, program leader for 2016.

Watch for more information about the First Impression program at the OAAS 2017 Convention in February.

Service Diploma Award

Each member Society of the OAAS. can present one Service Diploma per year to a person who has given longtime and meritorious service to the Society. The award can be given to a husband and wife jointly. Service Diplomas **should not** be awarded routinely to members of the Executive - i.e. at the end of a President's term but instead to well deserving individuals without whom our societies would be lost. The Service Diploma recipient will receive a Service Diploma and an OAAS lapel pin with a stone.

Application: Each Service Diploma is \$10.00 (\$11.30, HST included).

Agricultural Accomplishment Award

The OAAS recognizes volunteers who contribute consecutive years of time and energy to an Agricultural Society and whose work meets any or all of the following requirements.

Who is Eligible?

1. An individual who has made a significant contribution as a leader, volunteer or as a committee member.
2. Has been active in the Society through longtime involvement.
3. Promotes the community betterment by the Agricultural Society.
4. Promotes and develops activities to encourage our youth to participate in the Agricultural Society.

Youth - up to 20 years of age may be recognized for five or more years of volunteer service.

Adults - may be honoured for 10/15/20/25/30/40/ or more dedicated years of continued service.

Recipients will receive a personalized OAAS certificate and an OAAS lapel pin recognizing the years of service volunteered by this individual.

Certificates can be forwarded to your Society for presentation at an annual event.

For the 50/60 years and beyond of consecutive volunteering presentation may be made at the OAAS Annual Convention in February **UPON REQUEST**.

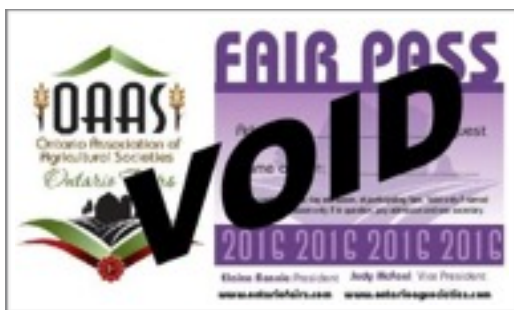
Notification must be given to the OAAS in writing at least eight (8) weeks prior to presentation.

Each member Society of OAAS is entitled to ten (10) Agricultural Accomplishment Awards per year.

OAAS Merchandise

AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE ON

<http://ontarioagsocieties.com/member-services/oaas-merchandise>



2016 Fair Passport

A very affordable way to travel the province and visit over 200 fairs throughout the year. This pass entitles *you and a guest* to attend fairs in Ontario.

\$50.00 (plus HST) **NON-REFUNDABLE/NON-REPLACEABLE**

Agricultural Judging Standards

Guidelines for judging Field Crops, Roots & Vegetables, Fruits, Honey & Maple Syrup - \$5 plus HST.

Homecraft Judging Standards

Guideline for judging: Preserves, Quilts, Bread, Cookies, Scrapbooking, Photography, etc - \$5 plus HST

Napanee Fair -

First Minutes of the LAS from 1835:

People in Photo from Left to Right:

Brad Snider - Chair of the Board of Director for L&A Mutual Insurance Company

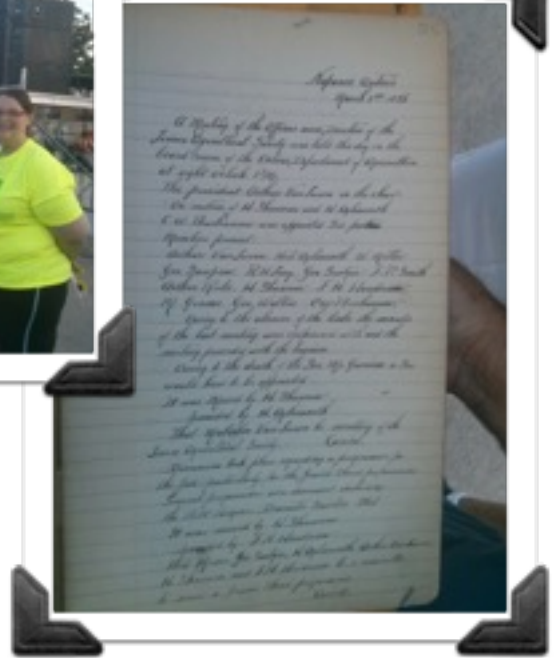
Jeff Baker - 2nd Vice President, Lennox Agricultural Society

Carol McKinley - President, Lennox Agricultural Society,

Steven Paul - Director of Community and Development Services for Lennox & Addington County

Dave McNichols - 1st Vice President, Lennox Agricultural Society

Krissy Martin - Secretary-Treasurer, Lennox Agricultural Society



In celebration of their 140th anniversary, the L&A Mutual Insurance Company was going through the different items in the company vault. Upon doing this, they stumbled across a minute ledger from the Lennox Agricultural Society from 1835. Given the age and history of the document, the Lennox & Addington County Museum and Archives requested the ownership of the ledger in order to ensure its safety and preservation. The L&A Mutual Insurance Company agreed with and understood the need for preservation however, they wanted the ledger to also be given to the Lennox Agricultural Society as it is an excellent and mesmerizing piece of our organization's history. As suggested by Brad Snider, Chair of the Board of Directors for L&A Mutual Insurance Company, all parties came to an agreement that at the Opening Ceremonies for the 185th Napanee Fair, Brad Snider would present the historical ledger to Carol McKinley, President of the Lennox Agricultural Society, and Carol McKinley would then present the ledger to Steven Paul from the Lennox & Addington County Museum & Archives, who will safely store and preserve the ledger for the Lennox Agricultural Society.

Upon a quick glance of the ledger, we were able to see what different livestock shows and home craft exhibits took place during that era as well as the different prize money allocations. It was truly fascinating to see what things looked like in the 1800s.

OAAS Office Manager - CONTACT INFORMATION



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