



## CCA Award of Excellence Presented to Dale Cowan January 13, 2016

Dale Cowan was nominated for the Award of Excellence by Jim Campbell.

Dale has a Diploma in Agriculture and a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Crop Science from the University of Guelph. He has been involved in agriculture for over 35 years and is currently employed by AGRIS and Wanstead Co-operatives as a Senior Agronomist and Sales Manager. Previously, Dale was the owner/President of Agri-Food Laboratories for 18 years and continued with the company for an additional two years as the manager of the transition team to the new owners.

In his current role, Dale works with some of AGRIS's larger more innovative growers while mentoring 14 CCAs within the company which allows him to also work with smaller growers. Combined, Dale reviews recommendations across 1000's of acres. Dale's willingness to innovate and use new technology to help farmers grow better crops is what sets him apart from others in the industry. Dale also focuses on 4R stewardship, helping farmers be environmentally and socially responsible, and the efficient use of nutrients with his clients.

The growers with whom Dale works trust and respect the advice he gives. The growers contacted as references valued Dale's strong technological knowledge and his ability to communicate. One of his clients commented: "Dale stays abreast of new technology and, more importantly, he **understands** all of the new technology. This is very important with all of the new young farmers coming into the business." Another noted: "Dale is down to earth and doesn't talk over you or below you, he talks **to** you."

Dale has been very involved with the CCA program. He was a Board director from 2002 to 2010 which included serving as Board Chair in 2005 and 2006. Dale received his CCA designation in 1997, among the first group in Ontario to be certified. Currently, Dale is the CCA representative on the OMAFRA Soil Health Working Group and is a member of the Exam Committee. Dale has been re-elected to the Ontario CCA Board of Directors for the term 2016 to 2018.

Dale is also a member of the Southwest Ag Conference Planning Committee, a Board member with OABA, and on the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Advisory Committee on Funding. Dale enjoys mentoring young people and has been involved with his local soccer association and figure skating club when his children were young.

Dale Cowan received the 2015 Award of Excellence at the CCA Conference and Annual Meeting on January 13, 2016 in London, Ontario.