

CCA Emerging Leader Award – Lauren Benoit

The CCA Emerging Leader Award was created in 2023 to recognize the immense amount of talent and dedication of our members who have only recently attained their CCA-ON designation. To acknowledge the contribution of these individuals' efforts to the agriculture industry, the Ontario CCA Marketing Committee and Board of Directors puts out a call for nominations each fall.

The criteria for the CCA-ON Emerging Leader is a CCA who has:

- held their CCA-ON designation for 10 years or less
- shows excitement and passion for agronomy
- exhibits a passion and willingness to learn and adopt new technologies and production strategies, and
- demonstrates they are a leader in their area and a potential future leader in the agriculture industry-

This year's Emerging Leader Award goes to Lauren Benoit. She was nominated for the award by her colleague Phil Nadalin.

Lauren comes from a grain farm in Kirkton, Ontario and has a master's degree in plant agriculture from the University of Guelph.

She is a Technical Solutions Agronomist with Bayer Crop Science in Southwestern Ontario. She leads the research and knowledge transfer strategy for DEKALB seed and Bayer crop protection products in the region.

In her short time in this role and subsequent roles with Bayer, she has led multiple launch campaigns for new technologies in both seed and crop protection and has worked tirelessly to support customers and colleagues alike in coming up with solutions for challenges facing Eastern Canada and even across Canada. Notably, she undertakes all of this with the spirit of collaboration as she reaches out across the industry – both private and public - to get multiple perspectives and consistently shows up with positivity, enthusiasm, and her passion to share and learn.

Her colleagues describe her passion for working cross functionally in the industry, and sharing her experience and knowledge, as nothing short of inspirational. She is always engaging and eager, as she looks for new ways of providing solutions and bringing forward new ideas for the agriculture industry.

Outside of work, she is an active member of the Grain Farmers of Ontario Research and Innovation committee, as well as a past director on the CCA board.

Lauren is currently completing a scholarship with Nuffield Canada, covering a topic that speaks to her passion as she is working to help understand research collaborations between public, private, and industry groups.

As you can see by the glowing nomination we received for Lauren, she is a very worthy recipient of the Emerging Leader Award.