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## Ridgetown Campus Expecting Strong Fall Enrolment

Ridgetown, ON - As teaching staff prepare for classes to begin in early September, Ridgetown Campus administration is expecting another strong cohort of students. "We're pleased to see continued interest in our diversified academic program offerings, and we are excited that we have the opportunity to help youth on this important next step in their learning process," states, Ken McEwan, Interim Campus Director, University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus. "We have a slate of seasoned and new professors and instructors that are very committed to our students learning experience."



*Experienced farm business management and commodity marketing instructor, Bill Litwin, will be one of the many staff teaching at the campus this fall.*

Enrolment in several academic programs remains strong, with record enrollment numbers expected in the **Performance Horse Handler Certificate** Program; a one-year program delivered by Ridgetown Campus at REACH Huron in Clinton. As well, the **Veterinary Office Administration Certificate**; also a one year program, is expecting the largest class since the program began over a decade ago. The **Agriculture Diploma** program will be the largest of the four diploma programs offered at the campus. "It's a great time for youth to consider a career in our global agri-food industry," says, McEwan.

The campus is also launching three new post-diploma certificate initiatives. These programs will be targeting students with previous college or university education who are looking for advanced training

through the new **Greenhouse Production Management, Advanced Livestock Health or Environment, Health & Safety** certificate programs. These new training initiatives have a classroom and industry work placement component targeted at getting students the most valuable learning opportunities they can.

This fall the Ridgetown campus will be welcoming a new research scientist to the research team. Dr. Brandon Gilroyed, Assistant Professor, Environmental Management and Agricultural Resources, School of Environmental Sciences will be doing research and teaching on campus. We wish Brandon much success in his new endeavours in Ridgetown!

With strong student numbers and extensive career opportunities for youth, the campus is pleased to see steady construction and strong industry partnerships for the W.R. Reek: New Student Service and Alumni Centre. This \$3.5 million capital improvement is scheduled to open in September 2013.

Ridgetown Campus is part of the Ontario Agriculture College (OAC), University of Guelph, and the OAC is reporting anticipated enrollment increases in several academic program areas.

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