

Farm Credit Canada (FCC) and Ridgetown Agri-Food Foundation Recognize Alumnus Don Pestell with Lifetime Achievement Award



L-R: Gary Paling (District Manager, Farm Credit Canada), **Don Pestell**, (Alumnus of Honour for Lifetime Achievement), **Ken McEwan**, (Interim Ridgetown Campus Director), **Dave Baute** (Chair, Ridgetown Agri-Food Foundation)

Don Pestell, Class of 1962, has been recognized with the Farm Credit Canada (FCC) Alumnus of Lifetime Achievement Award. “Beginning as Pestell Agri-Products in New Hamburg, ON, Don’s four decades of global agribusiness success combined with his philanthropic leadership to The University of Guelph’s Ridgetown Campus makes him a perfect choice for this honour. Don and the business he has built have served the agriculture sector loyally for decades” stated Gary Paling, District Manager, FCC. FCC is Canada’s leading agriculture lender, providing financing, insurance and other business services to producers, agribusinesses and agri-food operations.

The distinguished award was presented June 1, 2012 at the 60th graduation ceremonies at the University of Guelph’s Ridgetown Campus, and was accompanied by a FCC donation of \$5,000 to the campus’ top capital priority, a new student service and alumni centre.

“I’d like to thank Farm Credit Canada and congratulate Don on behalf of our campus community,” said Dave Baute, Chair of the Ridgetown campus Agri-Food Foundation. “We celebrated Don’s generosity six years ago in the new Don Pestell Auditorium at the grand opening of the Rudy H. Brown Rural Development Centre, and we will celebrate Don’s generosity to Ridgetown once again at the future opening of a new student service and alumni centre. “Don exemplifies the dedication of our alumni to the agriculture industry and we are very grateful for his generosity and leadership” said Ontario Agricultural College Dean Rob Gordon.

“I couldn’t be more pleased about this alumnus recognition” said Ken McEwan, Interim Campus Director. “Don’s global agribusiness success allows him to make a big difference at this campus. Congratulations Don, on your 40th year of business innovation, and your 50th anniversary as an alumnus of our Associate Diploma in Agriculture program. We have much to celebrate.”

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