



## Dundalk Area Beef Farmer Wins 2017 Mapleseed Pasture Award

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**February 22, 2017 (Toronto, ON)** - The Beef Farmers of Ontario, Mapleseed and the Ontario Forage Council, sponsors of the Mapleseed Pasture Award, are pleased to announce that Paul DeJong of Ventry Hill Farm from the Dundalk area in Grey County is the winner of the 2017 Mapleseed Pasture Award. The award was presented this afternoon at the Beef Farmers of Ontario Annual General Meeting in Toronto.

For his environmental improvements and exceptional pasture management, Paul received a cash award of \$500 and a bag of forage seed courtesy of Mapleseed.

Ventry Hill Farm consists of 450 acres, 100 of which are in pasture, along with an additional 30 acres of rented pasture land. Paul runs 50 cow-calf pairs and currently raises about 70 stockers that are pastured during the summer months. In order to maximize pasture production and weight gain, he uses a strip grazing system to maintain a consistent forage height and improve forage quality. This method allows Paul to meet his herd's nutritional requirements, contribute to calf growth, and ensure his cows are in optimal body condition.

"Pasture is the main source of feed for my herd and there is a high water table in our area," explains DeJong. "We try to pasture at least six months of the year, and by grazing a fall rye cover crop, pasture can be extended by two weeks."

To prevent excessive trampling of his forages, Paul installed a waterline to provide fresh water to each paddock, which is equipped with quick-attach couplers for a convenient water supply at all times.

"The weight gain and cost per pound of gain achieved by Ventry Hill Farm proves that effective rotational pasture management can have many environmental and economical benefits," shares Lawrence Levesque, District Sales Manager, Mapleseed.

Ray Robertson, Manager of the Ontario Forage Council, commented that as producers try to maximize their net profit from every acre, the management decisions made on Ventry Hill Farm are a great example of how some producers can improve the overall profitability of their operation.

The deadline for applications for the 2018 Mapleseed Pasture Award is November 30, 2017.

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### For more information:

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### Award sponsored by:



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