



January 24, 2022

Dear Ontario Fair Friends,

The Government of Ontario shared their plan to reopen the province safely and gradually with the “Steps to Cautiously and Gradually Ease Public Health Measures”, earlier last week, and the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies (OAAS) was relieved to see the capacity restrictions in the event centres were set at 50%, which makes the hosting an in-person event a little more realistic.

Since that announcement, the OAAS Executive and Board of Directors have met, and through consultation with the Sheraton Parkway Hotel, Toronto North, the OAAS is thrilled to announce the 2022 OAAS Convention will be taking place, in person, on February 17-19, however we must limit our registration to 600 attendees to be able to accommodate the capacity limits.

With the hotel and provincial restrictions in place, ***everyone in the public meeting spaces*** (anywhere other than guest rooms) **must show proof of full vaccination via QR code and photo ID, your documentation will be checked and verified.** You will be issued a unique wristband that will be required to enter all OAAS events. We understand that this requirement may limit some people from attending the Convention, which is unfortunate but unavoidable. Others may not feel comfortable travelling and attending the Convention due to the current pandemic, which is understandable. The OAAS respects your decision.

For the Fair friends who are planning to attend the Convention, please keep in mind that everyone's safety while at the Convention is our priority. The hotel has a strict covid protocol for guests, and we ask that you please follow these rules. Please be respectful to make everyone's experience as safe as possible. This will include:

- Masks must be worn at all times in public areas and all meeting rooms
- Meeting room seating capacity at 50%,
- Restaurant dining is at 50% (take out will be available if you feel more comfortable eating in your room)
- Social distancing (2 meters) and limitations within small spaces is also something to consider.

Please plan ahead where limitations are in effect to make your experience as pleasant as possible.

If you or your agricultural society has booked a hotel room(s) and you will not require all of those rooms, please contact the hotel to cancel them as agricultural societies are still looking for rooms for their delegates. As per Sheraton Parkway Hotel stipulations, please remember that any guest rooms that are no longer needed **must be cancelled at least two weeks before your check-in date.** **NOTE:** Any reservations that are not cancelled at least fourteen days before your check-in date, you will be responsible for the charges for the first evening for each room that has been reserved. Please contact the hotel as soon as possible if you will need to modify or cancel a current reservation.

The early bird convention registration deadline **has been extended until THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2022.** To receive the reduced rate, please register online on or before February 3. The regular registration rate will apply to registrations received from February 4 – February 16, and the late registration rate will apply to any registrations received on or after February 17.

Also, please keep in mind the cancellation policy (it has been modified and posted on the online registration form), “*until February 3, 2022 – minus a 25% administration fee, the registration fee can be refunded; after this date, registrations cannot be cancelled or refunded – they can only be transferred to delegates, within the same Society.*”

The OAAS will be working very hard over the next three weeks to prepare for the 2022 Convention. We are preparing to deliver the best event possible we can; however, please keep in mind that the Convention may look a little different this year due to various items out of our control.

Thank you for your patience, understanding and support and please remember whatever your decision is, the OAAS respects your decision, and we expect you will respect ours in return.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to connect with us. Please watch the OAAS website and social media platforms for more news and updates, as we eagerly await seeing you in 26 days at the 2022 OAAS Convention.

Sincerely,

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