

Canadian Farm Building Association Awards

Recognizing achievements for specialized Ontario agricultural construction projects



Dairy Award - POST Farm Structures



Farm Storage Award - Dutch Masters Design & Construction Services



Other Livestock Award - HFH Inc.



Horse II Award & Project of the Year Award - Dutch Masters Design & Construction Services



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Hobby / Recreational Award - POST Farm Structures

STAFF WRITER

– The Ontario Construction Report Special Feature

The annual Canadian Farm Builders Association (CFBA) Awards recognize achievements in agricultural construction – and a trend towards increasingly sophisticated and innovative structures.

Among the 2016 awards, Dutch Masters Construction Services won the Project of the Year award for a private Ontario equestrian facility, reflecting the company's successful focus on horse farms. The company also won the farm storage award.

Gary van Bolderen, a former president and CFBA director, says the Project of the Year and other awards are chosen by popular vote among about 80 to 100 people at the CFBA's annual convention.

"I've been involved since the association started about 1980," he said. "We've had different ways of selecting the project of the year, but what we've come down to now, is contestants provide detailed drawings and specifications and pictures and people on the convention vote on them."

"It's not so much a technical thing as people knowledge about the buildings looking at the physical appearance, the sophistication of design and whether or not it functions well and has good esthetics."

This is a specialized area of construction, and even within the farm building community, you'll find sub-specialties, van Bolderen said. "I only do horse buildings" while others specialize in hogs and still others poultry or beef farms. "Some contractors work within a local area and will do general construction in their rural community, as well."

While van Bolderen acknowledges rural construction projects won't compete in volume and scope for the mammoth urban infrastructure initiatives, and the average CFBA member is relatively small compared to mega-contractors, there still is much sophistication in the industry, and that higher-level achievement is rapidly increasing.

"In dairy farms, they invest millions of dollars in these new barns," he said. "Cattle are electronically monitored to determine when to feed them, and assess the weight and health," he said.

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While the association has a Canada-wide name, its membership is Ontario based. In earlier years, there were chapters outside of Ontario, but these faded away, and the association decided to retain the CFBA name rather than go to the expense of restructuring as a provincial only association.

In any case, while it deals with Ontario specific issues, such as the prompt payment legislation controversy, the Construction Lien Act Review and the Ontario College of Trades, the CFBA also has specialized national concerns, including the upcoming revision of the Canadian Farm Building Code.

Van Bolderen says contractors and owners are concerned that code drafters may impose human occupancy conditions on buildings designed for livestock or food storage. "A dairy barn may have 200 cows, and 32,000 sq. ft. of building, but there's only four people working there. That's different than if you have a school or shopping centre or food store, or even a Tim Hortons with 10,000 sq. ft. where about 5,000 people might be there every day."

On the other side of the perspective, modern farm buildings are often much

larger and more sophisticated than their earlier versions. "Pig barns could be 600 metres long. That's half a mile – full of pigs, that's 2,000 pigs – the investment in livestock and the family's income means there should be at least a reasonable fire protection system in place."

The question is whether increased requirements in the farm building code may increase construction costs to the extent that owners will decide that they can't achieve return on investment from the building process, he said.

Van Bolderen says the CFBA works closely with other associations. He has had leadership roles within the Council of Ontario Construction Associations and the Canadian Construction Association, for example.

Here is a list of the 2015 CFBA Award winners:

Horse II Award & Project of the Year

Award - Dutch Masters Design & Construction Services

Hobby / Recreational Award - POST Farm Structures

Horse I Award - HFH Inc.

Farm Storage Award - Dutch Masters Design & Construction Services

Other Livestock Award - HFH Inc.

Dairy Award - POST Farm Structures

Commercial/Institutional Award - Frey Building Contractors

Tacoma Engineers sweep CFBA Awards with representation in every winning project

STAFF WRITER

– The Ontario Construction Report Special Feature

Consulting firm Tacoma Engineers has been involved in the agriculture sector for more than 25 years. The firm's success in the industry, and this sector in particular, was evident at this year's Canadian Farm Builders Association annual awards, in which Tacoma was represented on all eight of the winning projects.

Will Teron, Tacoma principal and director-heritage and investigation, says this was a very good year. "We have frequently been represented in many award categories but never had a clean sweep of all awards." This represents our long standing relationships with outstanding contractors that have attracted a strong client base."

The firm's website says over its 25-year history, Tacoma has "proudly participated in the evolution of farm structures."

"Our active involvement in the Canadian Farm Builders Association ensures that we stay abreast of and contribute to scientific and technological advancements – advancements that require increased complexity, larger facilities, climate control and hygienic standards. Our clients also



count on us for assistance with codes and laws such as NFBC and nutrient management."

From its beginnings as a sole proprietorship in Guelph, Tacoma has grown to a staff of more than 30, including professional engineers, project managers, technologists and support staff. This growth, according to the website, has been growth "not for growth's sake, but to meet the demand of our long time and referral clients in a low profile manner, yet with the professionalism and determination to provide engineering and design solutions with the highest degree of quality."

The firm now also operates a second location in Barrie.

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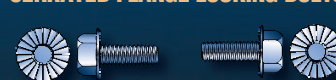
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