

### **Gibbons grain farmer named 2013 Outstanding Young Farmer for Alberta/NWT region**

**Olds, AB [March 27, 2013]** – Grain farmer Michael Kalisvaart of Gibbons, Alberta is the 2013 Outstanding Young Farmer (OYF) for the Alberta/NWT region. Michael was chosen at a recent event in Olds, Alberta – attended by Olds Mayor Judy Dahl and MP Earl Dreeshen – and he will now represent the Alberta/NWT region at the national OYF event later this year.

As a child, Michael Kalisvaart shadowed his father on the first generation hog and grain farm his parents started after immigrating to Canada from The Netherlands in the last 1970s. As the operation grew, so did Michael's involvement. Today, Michael owns and operates Kalco Farms – an 8,000 acre commercial grain production enterprise. His operation includes 5,000 tonnes of storage and is designed for maximum efficiency when loading and unloading, as well as sampling and blending grain. All cereals, pulses and canola are straight cut.

“With his parents as role models, Michael has made tremendous innovations in his family's grain operation in a very short time,” says Brian Newcombe, OYF Past-President. “Michael understands the value of seeking the insights and advice of experts, and it has served him well in building a very successful farming enterprise.”

Continuous learning plays an important role in Michael's operation. He recently graduated from the CTEAM (Canadian Total Excellence in Agricultural Management) program, and has completed the Canadian International Grain Institute farm leadership course to look at how the grain industry works beyond the farm level. Courses in human resources, crisis management and business planning had added to his farm business success, and he has developed standard operating procedures for all aspects of his business.

In 2002, Michael founded Share the Harvest, a local project to raise funds for the Canadian Food Grains Bank – a well-recognized aid organization that provides Canadian-grown grains to developing countries.

Celebrating 33 years of identifying great agricultural successes, Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers' program is an annual competition to recognize farmers that exemplify excellence in their profession and promote the tremendous contribution of agriculture. Open to participants 18 to 39 years of age, making the majority of income from on-farm sources, participants are selected from seven regions across Canada, with two national winners chosen each year. The program is sponsored nationally by CIBC, John Deere, Bayer CropScience, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and supported nationally by AdFarm and Farm Management Canada.

Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers for 2013 will be chosen at the National Event in Regina, Saskatchewan from November 12-17, 2013.

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**For more information or a photo of Michael, contact:**

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