

EGG FARMERS OF CANADA CELEBRATES INDUCTION OF LAURENT SOULIGNY TO CANADIAN AGRICULTURE HALL OF FAME

TORONTO, Ontario (November 7, 2011) – Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC) is celebrating the induction of former Chair Laurent Souligny to the Canadian Agriculture Hall of Fame. Mr. Souligny, 67, was inducted yesterday alongside Dr. David Chalack and Mr. Frank Stenger during a special awards banquet ceremony at the Royal Agriculture Winter Fair in Toronto before family, friends and Canadian agriculture leaders.

“It’s fair to say Laurent Souligny is one of the greatest leaders in the 40-year history of Canadian egg supply management,” said Peter Clarke, who was elected EFC Chair following Mr. Souligny’s retirement this past March. “Laurent brought so much to the job—passion, energy, leadership, vision. But he also brought a human touch, and I think that’s what people will remember most about his remarkable career at the head of our industry.”

From his home base in Eastern Ontario, Laurent Souligny has been directly involved in agriculture for most of his life. He began as a dairy farmer in 1964 and became a member of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture in 1973. After entering the egg industry in the 1980s, his continuous advocacy on behalf of the industry led to his election as Chair of Egg Farmers of Canada in 1999. In total, Mr. Souligny served as a member of the EFC Board of Directors for 17 years.

“I had the distinct honour of working alongside Laurent for eight years,” said CEO Tim Lambert. “I can say with certainty that an individual with truly rare qualities was inducted into the Hall of Fame. The Canadian egg industry is that much richer today because of Laurent.”

Mr. Souligny represented egg farmers both in Canada as well as on the international stage, travelling frequently abroad to defend the interests of the sector. As well, his work on disease mitigation helped launch Start Clean-Stay Clean™, the egg industry’s HACCP-based on-farm food safety program. Further, he was instrumental in ensuring egg farmers adequate compensation under the federal *Health of Animals Act* in the event government depopulates a layer flock due to disease.

Notably, Mr. Souligny also oversaw the creation of EFC’s Research Chairs program, which has produced a Research Chair in economics at Laval University and a poultry welfare Chair at the University of Guelph’s Ontario Agriculture College. In addition, he was instrumental in establishing an agriculture campus in Ottawa by bringing together EFC, Dairy Farmers of Canada, Canadian Hatching Egg Producers and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture under one roof.

Laurent lives with his wife Hélène in St. Isidore, Ontario, where he and his family run an egg farm and produce various cash crops, including corn, wheat, and soy beans.

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