



ONTARIO SOIL AND CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

1 Stone Road West, 1st Floor, Guelph, Ontario N1G 4Y2
Toll free: 1-800-265-9751 Tel: 1-519-826-4214 Web: www.ontariosoilcrop.org

2008 OSCIA RESOLUTIONS

August 27, 2008

Resolution # 1 - Middlesex – On-Farm Applied Formulations of Pesticides

WHEREAS insect damage in seedling cereals is a grave concern on certain Ontario soil types and it is difficult to get seed companies to seed apply insecticides because of warehousing and limited inventory concerns, and

WHEREAS the range of insect pests may increase significantly as a result of climate change.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA encourage Syngenta Crop Protection and Bayer Crop Science to develop on-farm applied formulations of Cruiser and Gaucho respectively for cereals.

**SENT TO MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS, BAYER CROPSCIENCE FOR COMMENT
SENT TO SYNGENTA CROP PROTECTION FOR COMMENT
COPY SENT TO ONTARIO SEED GROWERS' ASSOCIATION**

Resolution # 2 - Bruce – Exemptions from Urban Pesticide Bylaws

WHEREAS the interpretation and implementation of Urban Pesticide Bylaws could adversely affect the operations of agricultural properties located in the vicinity of urban areas, and

WHEREAS land in proximity to agricultural operations can be a source of weed infestation and subsequent higher weed control costs and potential financial loss to the farmer, and

WHEREAS there is a proliferation of hard to control broadleaf weeds on municipal road allowances.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA work with appropriate provincial agencies to ensure that all land used for agricultural purposes and land immediately adjacent to agriculturally zoned land be clearly exempt from Urban Pesticide Bylaws.

**SENT TO MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT FOR COMMENT
COPY SENT TO MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS
COPY SENT TO PREMIER OF ONTARIO**

Resolution # 3 - Middlesex – Dynasty on Edible Beans

WHEREAS the use of DCT in edible beans is problematic due to application issues, reduced efficacy, and user safety, and

WHEREAS the product dynasty from Syngenta Crop Protection offers solutions of increased efficacy, easier application and greater human and environmental safety

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA request PMRA to speed full registration of Dynasty on edible beans in time for application to the 2008 seed supply.

Withdrawn

Resolution # 4 - Glengarry – Ban on Cosmetic Use of Pesticides

WHEREAS the latest proposed implementation of the McGuinty province-wide ban on the cosmetic use of pesticides/herbicides and the ban of these products in local stores may prove detrimental to the agricultural industry, and

WHEREAS we feel that this proposed ban would greatly hinder the agricultural industry by limiting us to those products, and

WHEREAS we feel that this ban would also govern us regarding when & where we could use pesticides/herbicide (e.g. within city limits/outside city limits), and

WHEREAS this ban is just another regulation that farmers will eventually have to work with.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association be proactive and forward a letter to the McGuinty government requesting a seat on any committees involved in this legislation to ensure that farmers' interests are not affected.

AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that if these products are removed from local stores, only licenses applicators would be permitted to apply such products.

**SENT TO MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT FOR COMMENT
COPY SENT TO MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS**

**REPLY BY THE HONOURABLE JOHN GERRETSEN, MINISTER
ONTARIO MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

Thank you for your letter of April 3, 2008 advising of the Association's resolutions regarding our government's proposal to introduce a provincial ban on cosmetic pesticide use.

As you may know, on April 22, 2008 Premier McGuinty announced that the government will introduce draft legislation to prohibit the use and sale of pesticides for cosmetic purposes on all lawns and gardens in Ontario. This legislation is another significant step towards reducing Ontarians' exposure, regardless of where they live, to toxic chemicals in our air, water, land and consumer products.

The use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes is an unnecessary risk to human health, particularly children's health. Our purpose in drafting legislation was to protect children and families regardless of where they live in Ontario, and to establish a consistent program that goes beyond a ban on use to also include a ban on the sale of cosmetic pesticides. The proposed regulatory approach would also provide a level of consistency and regulatory certainty for residents and for businesses operating in different areas of the province.

The proposed Cosmetic Pesticides Ban Act, 2008 (Bill 64), would give the province the authority to make a regulation that will list the specific pesticides and active ingredients in lawn and garden products that would be banned. If the Bill is passed, our intention is to have the ban take effect by the 2009 growing season.

Agriculture would be excepted under the proposed ban. Ontario growers already have stringent rules on the storage and application of pesticides and would continue to be able to use pesticides to protect their crops from pests under the proposed ban.

The proposed legislation has been posted to the Environmental Registry for public comment until May 22, 2008. Additional comments can be submitted on-line through the Registry posting at www.ebr.gov.on.ca under Registry #010-3348.

Thank you, again, for bringing the Association's resolutions to the attention of our government.

Resolution # 5 - Halton – Wildlife Damage on Crops

WHEREAS the amount of crop damage by wildlife is escalating due to Government action or inaction, such as Canada geese and wild turkeys, and other all activities related to agricultural practices, and

WHEREAS the cost of such damage is getting hidden in Crop Insurance payments or the lack of same, thus altering that actuarial equation, and

WHEREAS lower yields impact adversely on potential CAIS reference margins.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that all wildlife studies already undertaken be used and recalculated to reflect today's higher input costs and that this evidence be presented to the appropriate Government ministry for compensation for the millions of dollars damage done by wildlife to Ontario crops.

**SENT TO MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR COMMENT
COPY SENT TO MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS
COPY SENT TO PRESIDENT, ONTARIO FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE
COPY SENT TO AGRICORP**

REPLY BY THE HONOURABLE DONNA CANSFIELD, MINISTER ONTARIO MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Thank you for your letters regarding Resolutions No. 5 and 7 from the Regional Municipality of Halton and York Region, respectively, and Resolution No. 6 from the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville regarding wildlife damage to crops. I am pleased to respond.

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has worked collaboratively with the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA), Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and other provincial agencies and associations to draft strategies that explore options for preventing human-wildlife conflicts and minimizing wildlife damage. The Ontario government has recently released the strategies to the public.

The draft strategies incorporate a broad range of perspectives and reflect input from a number of stakeholders that supported a number of solutions (e.g., collaboration between government agencies and stakeholders, promoting community-based solutions and increasing public awareness) and also agreed to form a committee to set priorities for action. We will be sure to include agriculturally based organizations for input on next steps and the development of implementation priorities.

My ministry will continue to implement and review management options that allow for extended hunting seasons and opportunities, additional quotas and game tags and higher limits for wildlife species, where sustainable.

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act allows landowners to capture, harass or kill certain species of wildlife in protection of their property. The act also allows landowners to use agents on their behalf, should they not desire or be able to kill some species of wildlife to protect their property. Species such as white-tailed deer can be killed in protection of property only with authorization from the MNR. Deer Removal Authorizations are available in agricultural settings on a year-round basis, provided the applicant qualifies. Some species of wildlife in Ontario are regulated by the federal government. For example, a landowner must obtain authorization from the Canadian Wildlife Service to harass or protect property from Canada Geese, which are federally regulated under the Migratory Birds Convention Act.

Monetary compensation programs alone will not prevent or resolve crop damage and livestock predation caused by wildlife. Collectively, we must take action to protect public interests related to human-wildlife conflicts. The proposed strategies provide guidance for implementing prevention, education and awareness programs that can help minimize adverse economic impacts, improve human health and safety and maintain biodiversity.

It will be important for provincial ministries to continue to work together with other levels of government and a broad range of stakeholders to balance interests and demonstrate commitment to finding solutions to serious human-wildlife conflicts, including those that impact the agricultural community.

I look forward to continuing to build relationships with rural residents and working together to achieve common goals to prevent and manage human-wildlife conflicts in Ontario.

Thank you again for writing.

Resolution # 6 - Grenville – Reduction and Control of Wildlife Damaging Crops

WHEREAS Ontario farmers continue to experience serious losses of crops in the field due to high populations of white-tail deer, and

WHEREAS wild turkeys destroy stored feed by foraging on plastic-wrapped haylage.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources facilitate the control of wildlife destroying crops by issuing wildlife control permits to any registered farmers experiencing crop and feed losses due to high populations of wildlife.

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Resolution # 7 - York – Wildlife Damage

WHEREAS the amount of damage by wildlife is escalating due to Government action or inaction including Canada goose, wild turkeys and deer, and

WHEREAS the cost of damage is hidden in crop insurance payments or lack of same thus altering that actuarial equation, and

WHEREAS lower yields adversely affect on CAIS reference margins,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA use their study and others to update the cost of wildlife damage reflecting today's high input reality and develop an action plan with other partners (Agricorp, Crop insurance and/or Ministry of Natural Resources) to compensate the millions of dollars damage by wildlife to Ontario farm crops.

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Resolution # 8 - Grenville – Water Management and Farm Drainage Maintenance

WHEREAS Conservation Authorities are exercising excessive control over farm drainage of privately-owned land, regarding water management, drain maintenance and beaver control, and

WHEREAS bureaucratic inspections and fees levied for processing applications for approval of private drain maintenance are burdensome, and

WHEREAS Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans regulations being enforced by Conservation Authorities are too onerous and invasive with no regard for relevance to fish habitat protection, implying any surface water is endangered fish habitat.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the OSCIA initiate dialogue with Conservation Authorities of Ontario, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans requesting that they exercise restraint in the interpretation and application of regulations impacting water management and drainage maintenance of productive farmland.

**SENT TO PRESIDENT, ONTARIO FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE FOR COMMENT
SENT TO MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS FOR COMMENT
SENT TO CHRISTIAN FARMERS FEDERATION OF ONTARIO FOR COMMENT**

***REPLY BY THE HONOURABLE LEONA DOMBROWSKY, MINISTER
ONTARIO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS***

Thank you for your letter of April 3, 2008, providing me with a copy of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association's Resolution #8 - Grenville - Water Management and Farm Drainage Maintenance. I appreciate that you have taken the time to bring your association's views on this issue to my attention.

I am aware of producers' concerns with regard to the application of various regulations to drainage from privately owned land. Staff of my ministry have had discussions with representatives from the drainage industry, as well as the three regulating bodies - Conservation Ontario, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

I note your association's intention to initiate a dialogue about your concerns directly with the regulating bodies and look forward to hearing the outcome of that contact. I have forwarded a copy of your letter to my Cabinet colleague the Honourable Donna Cansfield, Minister of Natural Resources, so that she too is aware of your concerns.

Thank you, once again, for advising me of this resolution.

Resolution # 9 - Temiskaming - Crop Insurance for Barley and Oats

WHEREAS oats and barley are considered together as one in the Crop Insurance Program and in the Risk Management Program, and

WHEREAS crop insurance deals in pounds per acre and the Risk Management Program deals in bushels per acre, creating a disparity to the producers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA request Agricorp to develop programs separately for barley and oats.

**SENT TO AGRICORP FOR COMMENT
COPY SENT TO OAT AND BARLEY COUNCIL**

Resolution # 10 - Lambton – Regional Boundaries

WHEREAS there is a proposal afoot to re-align regional areas for Ontario Soil and Crop, and

WHEREAS Lambton & Middlesex have a long history of common interest, and

WHEREAS we like to only make changes that improve our situation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we maintain Lambton and Middlesex in the same regional Soil & Crop Association area.

Defeated