

April/May 2009

NORTHWEST LINK

Thunder Bay ★ Rainy River ★ Kenora Districts

Northwestern Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Associations

Northern Ontario's "Pine River Ranch" Wins 2009 Environmental Stewardship Award

The Ontario Cattlemen's Association (OCA) is pleased to announce that Amos and Heidi Brielmann are the winners of this year's Environmental Stewardship Award (TESAward), sponsored by RBC Royal Bank and OCA. The Brielmanns operate a 1500 head cow/calf ranch near Pinewood, Ontario, and were nominated for the award by Kim Jo Bliss, a fellow producer in the Rainy River District. The Award was presented today at the 2009 OCA Annual General Meeting by Sheila Smart of RBC Royal Bank.

Pine River Ranch (PRR) has a goal of making a profit with healthy cows, healthy land and healthy family. The Brielmanns continue to make improvements which not only benefit the environment but also the livestock they raise - which should, in turn, increase productivity as well as profitability.

"Here in Rainy River we are truly lucky to have such an environmental role model and steward," says Bliss. "Amos Brielmann, his wife Heidi and children, Susanne and Timo have worked hard on their farm and are very deserving of this award. They have undertaken numerous environmental improvements. Not only have many been completed, but more are in progress, as the family works to continuously improve their operation."

PRR operates approximately 2000 hectares of hay and pasture land, breeding 600 Angus/Angus Cross beef cows - wintering all calves and grazing them the following year. Examples of environmental projects undertaken include fenced off waterways and installation of solar pumps (a

real challenge was to provide fresh water for up to 600 calves, even when it is -40 degrees C).

"The family and staff at Pine River Ranch have been the active force behind achieving the goals we have set out for ourselves," says Brielmann. "We have also been fortunate enough to have support from the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association, The Rainy River Soil and Crop Improvement Association, The Rainy River First Nation's Watershed Program, The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and The Green Cover Canada Plan."

The Brielmanns have created riparian areas over 12 kilometers and expanded their wintering lots from seven hectares to 43 hectares, which in turn has reduced the animal density to less than five animal units per hectare. Over 15,000 trees have been planted on the Ranch. The Low Water Cattle Crossings that have been installed are very impressive. One of PRR's major improvements - installing the solar watering system - has proven to be very beneficial to the Rainy River District. Since the Brielmanns started the remote watering systems, there was a strong acceptance from the larger farmer community. These systems have provided many others with the tools to be able to fence off creeks, rivers and dugouts.

PRR has also been helping other farmers to design solar-powered winter watering systems. These systems have given others the option to feed cows during the winter months away from the conventional barnyard. This practice is reducing the manure loads in the farm yards during the winter and in the spring with runoffs.

The Brielmans will go on to represent Ontario at the National Environmental Stewardship Award competition to be held the week of August 9, in Regina, Saskatchewan.

TESAward recognizes the outstanding environmental stewardship of an Ontario cattleman. Special consideration is given to producers who have taken innovative approaches to environmentally sustainable cattle production. The deadline for applications for the 2010 Environmental Stewardship Award is November 27, 2009. For details visit the OCA Web site at www.cattle.guelph.on.ca after February 15th.

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CAREER FAIR VOLUNTEERS

Thunder Bay Federation of Agriculture will be staffing an information booth at the Career Fair, May 21 and 22.

I'm looking for volunteers to take on two-hour shifts with me, ready to answer questions from students of all ages. The evening session tends to attract more adults and jobseekers.

Please call (577-4787) or email (linda.turk@ofa.on.ca) to choose a time that works best for you. Hours are: Thursday, May 21, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., and Friday, May 22, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This year's Career Fair is at Confederation College's Aviation Centre of Excellence on Derek Burney Drive.

Moving?

Please let us know your new address before you move so you will not miss a single issue of Northwest Link.

Send your articles to: Jeffrey Burke, 50 Pokki Rd, RR 1 Kakabeka Falls, ON, P0T 1W0
Phone/fax 807-933-0570
Email: jjburke@lakeheadu.ca

Upcoming Dates –

April 10 – Semen Order
Call – Kim Jo 482-2863

April 15
RRCA Director's Meeting
7:30 p.m. – Stratton

April 20
4-H Leader's Meeting
7:30 p.m. – Barwick

April 25
Cattle Sale
Stratton Sales Barn
Call Clayton 807-487-1465

Quality Starts Here – Verified Beef Production Workshop It will be April 23, 2009

Emo Curling Rink (by the School)

At 7:00 p.m.

Cost is \$50 per farm – cheque payable to Quality Starts Here.

Please let me know if you are attending – so I can be sure I have enough material!

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Economic Impact Study of Agriculture for Northern Ontario

After a couple of years of discussion and planning the economic impact study for agriculture in Northern Ontario is underway. The study will identify and illustrate in a measured way the economic impact that the agricultural industry has on the economies of the District of Cochrane, District of Thunder Bay, District of Rainy River and District of Kenora, including the impact of related industries.

The study is being hosted by the Northwestern Ontario Development Network, an economic development organization based in Thunder Bay. Harry Cummings & Associates from Guelph, Ontario will be conducting the study, the firm has extensive experience in agricultural studies in Ontario. Frank Scarcello, a consultant with the Northwestern Ontario Development Network is the coordinator of the project.

The study is funded by Fednor and the Rural Economic Development Program, with contributions from Lakehead University Food Security Network and the federations of agriculture in each study area

Key events in the study process will be the assembly of agricultural focus groups in each district with meetings scheduled for late April. And, the compilation of a list of businesses in each area that sell products or services to farmers or buy products and services from farmers. This comprehensive list will be used in a telephone business survey which will be conducted during the summer months. The results of the report will be presented to each district in October.

If you have any questions or comments please call Frank Scarcello at 768-6731.



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Note To Cattle Producers

Beef Producers once again have the opportunity to take the Quality Starts Here Workshop from the comfort of their own home by TeleConference. QSH is one of the criteria for collecting the \$5/age verified calf under the Ontario Cattlemen's Age Verification Program. Please let producers in your area know about this event:

Monday April 27, 2009, 7 - 9 p.m.
Cost \$ 50.00*

* (some local Cattlemen's Assoc. are cost-sharing under the OCA producer education program. Check with your local Cattlemen's)

Pre-Register before April 15/09 by calling Deb Garner (705)563-2761 dgarner@ontera.net



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RR Cattle Protocol Sale

Some producers have finished calving and some producers haven't begun calving, but all producers are looking to keep their cattle healthy and hopefully do well come sale time. The Rainy River Cattlemen's Association presents the First Annual Stratton Presort Protocol Sale. This sale is very similar to the programs that are being used in southern Ontario at the Keady Livestock Market, these programs have done very well for the producers and the consumers are also quite pleased.

Min of 3 Weeks Prior to sale

- Castrated
- Dehorned
- Ear Tagged (Rainy River Raised Tags); unless from outside of RR district then tagged with Orange tag
- Dewormed

Also to meet the sale, calves must be

- Age verified
- Spring Vaccination
 - o Vision 8 Somnus
 - o Covexin Plus + Somubac (for bull calves castrated in fall)
- Fall Vaccination (min 3 weeks prior to sale)
 - o Resvac 4 / Somubac
 - o Ultrachoice 8 **OR** CovexinPlus (if bull calves castrated in fall)
- Receipts of Vaccines presented – signed and dated by Vet Clinic
- Notification of Participation two weeks prior to sale

Recommendations

- Cows to Vaccinated with

- o Bovishield Gold 5 VL5
- o Ultrachoice 8

Dr. Blair Simonson will be speaking at the Stratton Municipal Office Wed. March 25th at 7pm about the use of these vaccines, whole herd health and also about working towards guaranteeing BVD free animals.

Once Spring starts to show itself in the Rainy River Valley, I will be working with several different local producers on new grazing plans. If you are thinking about restructuring your grazing plan whether it be with managed grazing, watering systems, etc. I am more than willing to help or answer any of your questions.

We are also selling Rainy River tags, these tags are available for the vaccination protocol but also for producers just simply interested in tagging their calves with a mark of origin tag. Most colours are available.

If you have any questions in regards to any of this please contact: **Jeff Hyatt – 482-3983**



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This newsletter is published monthly except for the month of December. Articles should be submitted by the 15th of the month prior to the publishing month. Material in this newsletter is based upon factual information believed to be accurate. Action taken as a result of this information is solely the responsibility of the user. We reserve the right to edit articles.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Local information depends on organizations providing information to the editor for publication. If you send it we can publish.

Thunder Bay Cattlemen's Association Completes Marketing Study

Farmers have been producing beef in the Thunder Bay area for several generations, but many factors, including recent market trends and high transportation costs, may be restricting beef revenue potential in the Thunder Bay Area. The Thunder Bay District Cattlemen's Association approached the Food Security Research Network to assist them with a strategy to overcome the competitive disadvantage of being located in an isolated area (the nearest Canadian city with >100 000 people is Winnipeg, over 700km away). The high cost of shipping live cattle or beef to non-local markets in Southern Ontario or Western Canada is a major barrier for Thunder Bay cattlemen. Instead, Thunder Bay's beef producers would like to have their product processed locally and marketed to local consumers and end users. Thus, this project aims to assess the market potential for local beef both at the consumer level and the commercial level. Market research included focus groups and written surveys to gain more knowledge about end-users' preferences.

2.1. Conduct focus group research with end users, i.e. restaurateurs, institutional chefs and managers, and retailers, to study preferences of those who tested the samples of locally produced beef

Focus groups were organized to showcase the quality of local beef and provide sampling opportunities. Participants engaged in a multiple-course dinner featuring a wide range of local beef dishes. This dinner was held at Good News Café [a local gourmet restaurant very supportive of local foods] in April 2008. The 20 focus group participants were divided into four focus groups that included a member of the Thunder Bay Cattlemen's Association and a group facilitator. Lively discussions were noted at all four tables. Following the dinner, each participant was given a freezer pack of local beef including samples of hamburger, steaks and roasts. Each participant was asked to fill out a pre and post survey that recorded their perceptions of local beef before and after cooking the local beef. The responses from

the focus group session and the written surveys were used to determine how local beef producers could best meet these users' needs for beef supply.



The results of the pre-test show that the three qualities of beef found to be most important in meeting customer expectations were taste and tenderness (92.9%), locally produced beef (78.6%) and not using hormones during production (71.4%). The fact that locally produced beef was considered to be the second most important beef quality indicates that over three-fourths of the commercial beef buyers are aware of their customers' interest in locally produced beef. After sampling the freezer pack beef, participants were asked to rate how willing they would be to purchase local beef (1 = *not willing*, 5 = *very willing*). The results showed that the participants would be quite willing to purchase local beef ($M = 4.33$, $SD = 1.15$). Further ratings of the sampled local beef revealed that participants gave the highest ratings to the taste of the beef ($M = 4.33$, $SD = .651$), as well as cooking quality ($M = 4.25$, $SD = .753$) and visual appeal ($M = 4.17$, $SD = .718$). Individuals who were identified as being the most willing to purchase local beef were most impressed with the marbling ($F(2, 9) = 1$, $p \leq .0001$) and the cooking quality ($F(2, 9) = 1$, $p \leq .0001$) of the sampled beef.

2.2. Carry out a market survey and market analysis of the regional potential consumer population to define consumption demand, trends, and preferences for locally produced beef

Participants (N = 439) from Thunder Bay, Ontario completed a questionnaire concerning their current beef purchasing habits and preferences for locally produced beef. The factors identified as important when buying beef (1 = *not important*, 5

= *very important*) were consistent quality ($M = 4.18$, $SD = 1.17$), taste ($M = 4.17$, $SD = 1.16$), tenderness ($M = 4.09$, $SD = 1.14$), and price ($M = 3.76$, $SD = 1.37$). Both participants who did buy local beef and those that did not stated that if they were to purchase locally grown beef they would prefer to buy it from the grocery store (58.5%). Approximately 37% of participants stated they would also buy local beef from specialty meat shops, 29% from farmers markets, and 20% from farm gates.

Any member of the Thunder Bay Cattlemen's Association is encouraged to grow beef according to the specifications of Superior Grass Fed and Grain Fed. A local beef branding label has also been selected to use with the established production protocol for both grass fed and grain fed. For further information or for a copy of the report please contact Bill Groenheide, President of the Thunder Bay Cattlemen's Association wjgroen@tbaytel.net

Funding for this project was provided by the Ontario Cattlemen's Association and the Thunder Bay Cattlemen's Association, as well as some local beef producers and the Food Security Research Network. In kind contributions for the project were provided by the Food Security Research Network and some members of the Thunder Bay Cattlemen's Association.

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Wheat – Pay Attention to Detail!

by Peter Johnson, Cereals Specialist, OMAFRA

WHAM! After one year on top of the cash crop heap, wheat is falling right back down to the bottom rung of the “favourite crop” ladder. Don't fall into the rut of treating wheat as a rotation crop with “no money, no management”. Paying a little attention to detail can tell you mountains about your management skills, and whether there are

more potential bushels and profit out in that field than what you are going to harvest.

Plant Count Guidelines

Ask yourself “how many times have I measured off 17 feet, 5 inches of corn row and counted plants to know the population?” The answer is likely “lots”!! Have you EVER done that in your wheat crop? My bet is “no” Why? Well, perhaps partly because you didn't know what to look for. So let's fix that! Some general guidelines for you to follow are below. It is assumed that everyone is in 7.5 inch rows, as virtually every no-till drill is set on this row spacing, and no-till cereals simply make sense.

- 20 plants/foot of row in wheat (17 plants/foot in barley, 14 plants/foot in oats)

- 50 stems/foot of row (main plus tiller stems at late tillering stage)
- 38 heads/foot of row
- 16 spikelets/head
- 3 kernels/spikelet

These counts are a minimum for high yield potential. As you move through the growing season, these counts can be a good indicator if you should push that field for higher yield, or if you should limit inputs and cut your losses early.

Planting Depth

If you don't measure up, start looking for ways to improve your yields. Start with planting depth and emergence. Research in Manitoba by Gan, Stobbe and Moes showed that wheat plants emerging early (Day 1 to Day 3), yielded 1.4 times higher than plants emerging from Days 4 to 6, and 3.2 times higher than the yield of plants emerging late (Day 7 to 9). There is significant yield gain and variability in that data!

Starter Fertilizer

Next, check your fertilizer application. Seed-placed starter fertilizer will aid in plant uniformity. Phil Needham, a leading wheat consultant in the US, says his growers would stop planting rather than plant without seed-placed phosphorus. Big yields need that attention to detail.

There are lots of other causes for poor uniformity –including residue distribution, planting speed and moisture. Whatever the cause, you now have the tools to assess your performance. Get out there, walk those cereal fields, and see just how close your management comes to perfection!

TBARS; Research 2008 Presentation – Main points

Dr. Tarlok Singh Sahota CCA

Most of the crop(s) variety results were shared with the members of the Thunder Bay Agricultural Research Association in the Annual Meeting last fall. This note summarizes findings from other experiments.

Spring cereals:

- Sable grain yield under organic farming system, even though double than that of Red Fife, was about 80% of its grain yield under conventional system.
- Barley + field peas intercropping in alternate rows with nitrogen (N) applied only to barley rows had an edge in combined grain yield from the two crops as compared to the two crops grown separately. The practice helped cutting N application rate by 50%. Produce value from barley + peas would be higher than that from barley alone. Fields peas alone, without any N application, gave as much grain yield as barley with N.
- Spring wheat @ 40 kg N/ha, in a field with 12 ppm (48 kg/ha) pre-seeding nitrate N (0-30 cm soil), produced as much yield as at 80 or 120 kg N/ha.
- ESN had a slight edge over urea in grain yield and had the same residual N as urea.
- Residual nitrate N in soil increased with increasing rates of N from 40-120 kg/ha.

Winter cereals:

- Winter wheat grain yield increased with delay in seeding from August 25 to mid September (~6,800 kg/ha) and declined thereafter. Winter wheat seeded early on August 25 or late on October 5 could produce over 5,200 kg grains/ha.
- Winter barley had a partial success with maximum grain yield of ~3,300 kg/ha, when seeded on August 25.
- Dakota, a western winter rye variety, gave 2.8 t/ha higher grain yield than Ontario's Common No. 1.

- Winter wheat harvested on July 14 (20 days after the boot stage) with a dry matter (DM) yield of ~10 t/ha could be a good forage option. Winter rye (Common No. 1) harvested on July 21 resulted in a DM yield of ~8.5 t/ha. Winter rye dry matter yield with other varieties would be higher than that from Common No. 1! Protein content was highest at the boot stage, but the DM yields were low (winter wheat: 6.1 t/ha, winter rye: 3.1 t/ha).
- Maximum grain yield in winter wheat was obtained when entire N @ 100 kg/ha was applied at seeding as compared to its split application in fall and spring or entire N applied in spring. Soil samples taken in spring, after the spring application of N, revealed that N in spring applied plots was only marginally higher than the plots with the fall applied N. This means that there was no significant loss of N from the fall applied N!
- Winter wheat produced the highest grain yield (5,837 kg/ha) and protein content (13.9 %) with N @ 80 kg/ha.

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Soybean:

- RR Rosco surpassed other varieties in grain yield, but forage DM yield at green pod stage was the highest (8.5 t/ha; 13.1 % protein) in OAC Prudence.
- Increasing plant population from 200,000/acre to 360,000/acre increased the soybean grain yield by ~600 kg/ha.
- Zero tillage, direct seeding, produced the maximum and fall chisel ploughing, followed by spring disking and cultivation before seeding gave the lowest soybean grain yield.

- Late sown (June 17) soybean grain yield wasn't affected by uni or bi directional seeding and decreased with increase in row spacing from 6 to 12 inches or more.

Forages:

- Partial (21%) substitution of urea N with N from ammonium sulphate or ESN made no difference in silage corn yield, but left a higher residual N in soil, after corn harvest, as compared to urea alone. Zn @ 7-14 kg/ha increased the dry matter yield by over 1t/ha!
- Timothy dry matter yield (DM) increased with increasing rates of N from 0 to 105 kg/ha; ESN had an edge over urea in residual soil N (fall 2008), but not in DM yield. In another experiment, however, ESN had an edge over urea in timothy DM yield, and 25% substitution of urea N with N from ESN seemed to be the best option.
- Seeding alfalfa in 30 cm rows gave higher yield than its seeding in 15 cm rows or paired rows at 30 cm or bi-directional seeding at 30 cm.
- Maximum yield of alfalfa was obtained with combined application of N, P, K and S.
- Residual effect of ammonium sulphate, applied to alfalfa in the previous years, had a significant positive effect on alfalfa yield and protein content (4% point higher in the first and 1% point higher in the second cut as compared to urea/or ammonium nitrate)!
- In an experiment on forage legumes (alfalfa and galega) and grasses (timothy and orchard grass), maximum DM yield (6.5 t/ha) was obtained with alfalfa + orchard grass (50:50). DM yield from alfalfa + orchard grass (80:20) was 5.4 t/ha; same as that from alfalfa + timothy (50:50 or 80:20). Amongst the pure stands, orchard grass resulted in the highest DM yield (5.1 t/ha). Galega DM yield was 95% of that from pure stand of alfalfa (4.7 t/ha).
- DM yield from berseem clover (6.0 t/ha; 21% protein) equaled that from oats (9% protein), but exceeded that from teff by ~2.3 t/ha (14% protein). Delay in seeding from May 20 to 30 significantly reduced the forage yield (~2t/ha).

Berseem and oats mixture (100:50/and 100:70) increased the DM yield by ~1-1.3 t/ha as compared to the pure stands of the two crops.

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Lime, wood ash and manure/NPK fertilizers:

- Application of wood ash increased soil pH and availability of zinc and manganese more than (did) lime. Wood ash, not lime, significantly increased the grain and straw yield of barley (as compared to the check – no lime or wood ash). Application of lime, but not wood ash, after every two years improved the grain yield. This means that lime has to be applied more frequently than wood ash.
- Wood ash increased soil pH, available calcium, magnesium, zinc, manganese (Mn), and boron more than manure, whereas, reverse was true for organic matter and available potassium. The ash didn't increase heavy metals contents in the soil!
- Barley grain and straw yields were in the order of wood ash \geq wood ash + manure $>$ manure \geq check (no manure or wood ash).
- Application of NPK fertilizers increased organic matter and availability of P and K, but not of secondary and micronutrients!
- Application of 70 kg N/ha increased the grain as well as straw yield of barley by ~1.1 t/ha. Addition of 20 kg P₂O₅/ha with N increased the yields only marginally (grains by 300 kg/ha and straw by 200 kg/ha). Addition of 20 kg K₂O/ha, along with N and P, didn't further improve the grain or straw yield as compared to N and P. Same holds good for foliar application of Mn @ 2 kg/ha.



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The Sustain Ontario website is launched!

www.sustainontario.com

Website features include:

News and events listing, Blog, Membership (become a member of Sustain Ontario today using the on-line membership/subscription forms), and coming soon - Bloggers from across the province and a Ontario Food News Watch service.

Sustain Ontario - The Alliance for Healthy Food and Farming

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Lauren Baker, Director

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Dr Temple Grandin is a Professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University. She has done extensive work on the design of animal handling facilities. Half of the cattle in the U.S. and Canada are handled in equipment she has designed for meat plants. Her curved chute systems are used worldwide and her writings on the flight zone and other principals of grazing animal behavior have helped many producers to reduce stress during handling. We are eager to learn how we can incorporate her learnings into our operations.

Dr. Grandin will be speaking to Horse Enthusiasts at the

Bayshore Community Centre, Owen Sound, October 1st, 7-10:00 p.m.

For more information call Grey Ag Services, 519-986-3756,

email, info@greyagservices.ca, or go to www.greyagservices.ca



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Fall Consignment Sale

The Holstein Breeders Club of Thunder Bay is pleased to announce the return of its fall consignment sale. The club will host the sale on Sept. 17th at the farm of Harold and Lee-Ann Streutker. All local dairy farmers are encouraged to consign cattle to the sale. Consignments can consist of calves to milking cows. Any questions please contact any member of the sales committee. Consignments must be in by Aug. 1st. Contact:

Henry Streutker 473-9527

Martin Schep 577-2455

Devin Jaspers 628-2276

Jed Blekkenhorst 935-2318

Harold Streutker 577-8097

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New or Revised Factsheets

The following new or revised products now available from ServiceOntario Publications at www.serviceontario.ca/publications

Agronomy Guide for Field Crops, Publication 811 (order number 0811E); the new cost is \$30.00. This revised and improved 2009 edition (over 300 pages) contains an index and tabs so readers can easily locate the various chapters; there is also an extensive colour plate section at the back of the book.

Integrated Pest Management for Apples, Publication 310 (order number 0310E); the new cost is \$50.00. This revised 2009 edition (over 200 pages) is four-colour throughout.

Leek Moth – A Pest of Allium Crops, Agdex 625/252; this is a new, 8-page, colour factsheet.

On-Farm Prevention of Broken Needles, Agdex 440/20; NEW factsheet

Evaluating the Feasibility of Business Opportunities, Agdex 811; replaces factsheet 03-051,

Dehorning of Calves, Agdex 420/20; replaces 87-038

Field Pocket Guide (Revised), Publication 820 (order number 0820E). This revised and improved 2009 edition contains a practical way to record crop production activities using a variety of record keeping pages and some handy conversions and calculations.

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Increasing Pasture Legume Content

by Jack Kyle, Grazier Specialist, OMAFRA

There are a number of advantages to including a significant level of legume content in pastures. Legumes provide nitrogen, improve yield and increase forage quality. The most common legumes used in Ontario pastures are alfalfa, white clover, trefoil and red clover.

Productive pastures require regular maintenance. Rotation is one very effective way to improve pasture productivity. Improving the species mix in the pasture is also important. There are many advantages to including legumes:

- Nitrogen provided to the soil by legumes encourages grass growth as well as supporting the legume growth.
- Legumes have more consistent production during the mid-summer period. Some of the legumes, particularly alfalfa and trefoil, are deep-rooted and have better tolerance for the warm, dry conditions generally experienced in July and August. Grasses grow well during May and June, but July and August production is typically reduced.
- Legumes hold their feed quality longer than grass, species, so pasture quality is more consistent throughout the summer grazing season.

Alfalfa Establishment

Alfalfa is the most productive of the legume species, but also has several drawbacks. Establishment of alfalfa requires excellent seed-to-soil contact and very little competition during the seedling stage. Most pastures with a significant level of alfalfa are established through conventional seeding, either planted into a tilled seedbed or no-tilled into a killed sod.

Frost Seeding Clovers & Trefoil

Clovers and trefoil can be established in a manner similar to alfalfa, or they can be frost seeded or over seeded into the pasture. In an established pasture, this is the easiest and likely the best option to increase the legume content. Frost seeding is done by broadcasting seeds on frozen ground in late winter or early spring.

The best success has been reported with white clover, red clover and trefoil using this method. The generally accepted seeding rate is 1-3 lbs of seed per acre, although there are no hard and fast rules as to the amount. White clover is often frost seeded at 1 lb/acre, trefoil at 2-3 lb/acre and red clover at 3-5 lb/acre. The seed should be broadcast when the ground is still frozen. The freeze-thaw action during the spring will help to establish seed-to-soil contact. This broadcasting can be done with a broadcast seeder on an ATV or snowmobile. Results are not always evident in the first year, but by the second season you will generally see an increase in the legume content of your pasture. White clover and trefoil can also be mixed in the livestock mineral/salt during the grazing season. The livestock will then spread the seeds across the pasture with the manure. This method may not be as effective but it is low cost and easy.

SUMMER JOB POSTING

Thunder Bay Agriculture Research Station has a job opening for a student between the ages of 15 and 24, who plans to continue his/her education in the fall of 2009.

A work week will be 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily, Monday to Friday.

Duties: Assisting technical staff with plot research work; general grounds maintenance; daily janitorial duties. Rate of pay: \$10 per hour.

Please send resume with two references and a handwritten letter of application on or before May 20, 2009, to:

Thunder Bay Agriculture Research Station
c/o Dr. Tarlok Singh Sahota
Suite B012, 435 James Street
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6S7

Only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

Less Expensive but More Profitable Cropping Options

Dr. Tarlok Singh Sahota CCA

Sustaining businesses or people's interest in businesses isn't possible without businesses making profits. Agriculture is no exception, especially if we wish to keep younger generations motivated to adopt agriculture as a profession. One of the options could be to look for less expensive but more profitable cropping systems. A couple of such options based on the experience at TBARS and elsewhere could be:

Barley + field pea intercropping: Seeding barley and field pea together in alternate rows can produce little bit higher grain yield than the two crops grown alone/separately. The seed rate for each crop in this system comes to half in absolute terms, though on per unit seeded area basis it is the same as for individual crops grown separately. Nitrogen (N) application rates are cut to half, because only barley needs to be supplied with N. At the current prices of urea, it is a saving of ~\$46/ha (over 900 dollars savings for every 50 acres). Pea grains will provide protein rich feed to the livestock and improve their health and productivity. Barley + pea, because of the legume component, is expected to leave the soil richer after the crops harvest than barley alone. MCPA that is recommended for weed control in both barley and peas can be used effectively for weed control in barley + peas intercropping system. If the produce is to be used for animal feed, separation of barley and pea grains may not be required. Otherwise, pea grains can be separated from barley grains by using two different sized meshes. Peas can then be sold at a much higher price as compared to barley. At the time of writing this note pea grains fetched ~3.5 times higher price than barley. Adoption of this system by the producers will improve the overall productivity and profitability! Research on barley + pea at TBARS is primarily an initiative of and in collaboration with Dr. Sukhdev S. Malhi of AAFC Saskatoon. It might make sense to buy barley that is cheaper and abundant in supply and replace barely acreage with more profitable crops such as spring wheat and peas. *Making more*

profit requires a change in mind set as well. Don't grow what you need, grow what the market demands!

Field Pea: Field pea can also be grown alone (as a solo crop), and that too without nitrogen fertilizer(s). In our experiments, peas applied with 45 kg N/ha yielded somewhat higher than the cereals. *Polstead* produced the highest grain yield (6,000 kg/ha) followed by *Sorento* (5,887 kg/ha). *CDC Tucker* (can also be grown for forage/silage) and *Fusion* had nearly 5,500 kg/ha grain yield. Please refer to page 58 of the TBARS Annual Report 2008 for some additional information on these varieties. Old varieties of peas couldn't hold for long at maturity/harvest time. These new varieties have a fair to good standability. Contact for pea seed supplier is:

FarmPure Seeds Inc.
426 McDonald St
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4N 6E1, Tel: 306-791-0500 ext 223
Fax: 306-791-055

Peas leave the soil richer in N and are known to improve yields of two crops in succession. This means that yield benefit from peas in crop rotation extends to two years. Peas find a good fit in cereals based crop rotations and improve both the yield and protein content of cereals. Pea - cereals rotation is also reported to be beneficial in controlling wheat midge and leaf diseases (<http://ssca.usask.ca/conference/1998proceedings/SCHNELL.html>).

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McGuinty Government Awards Top Two On-Farm Innovations

Ontario's agri-food industry continues to strengthen the province's economy. This was the theme of today's Premier's Summit on Agri-Food, where two innovators were recognized with the province's top awards for agri-food innovation excellence:

Fifth Town Artisan Cheese Company in Prince Edward County is the recipient of the Premier's Award of \$100,000. The dairy is recognized for its work in using green technology to construct the largest artisan goat and sheep milk cheese manufacturing facility in eastern Ontario.

Hillside Gardens Limited in Simcoe County receives the Minister's Award of \$50,000 for their innovation in implementing an electronic "gate-to-plate" traceability program.

The recipients are being recognized under the Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence, a \$2.5 million, five-year program (now in its third year) established to recognize innovators who contribute to the success of Ontario's agri-food sector.

The innovations of 55 regional winners, who will receive \$5,000 each, will be announced at regional award ceremonies this spring.

QUOTES

"In these challenging economic times, we need everyone working together so we can emerge from this recession even stronger. Our farmers produce the food we eat; their fields are home to wind turbines providing clean, renewable energy to Ontario families; and they're harvesting crops we're still finding new uses for in the auto industry. Agriculture has always been one of the cornerstones of Ontario's strong economy. These awards are a celebration of the talent and innovation we have growing here."

- Premier of Ontario, Dalton McGuinty

"Ontario's agri-food sector continues to lead through innovation. With these awards, we are supporting the creative ideas growing on farms and rural communities across this province. Together, we are building opportunities that will make our agri-food industry and economy stronger."

- Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs



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NEW DEADSTOCK RULES GIVE FARMERS MORE OPTIONS

Ontario farmers will have more choices to safely dispose of their deadstock under new regulations that would come into force Friday, March 27, 2009, pending approval from the Lieutenant-Governor.

The new rules, developed in consultation with industry partners, also provide greater flexibility for the deadstock service sector and include measures that will protect the environment. Key changes include:

- Giving farmers and deadstock receivers a wider range of choices for disposing of deadstock both on and off the farm, such as anaerobic digestion and central composting
- Including poultry and other farmed animals not previously covered under the old legislation
- Establishing enhanced environmental standards that will protect our water resources, with additional requirements that safeguard animal health and public health protection

The new regulations were developed jointly by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and the Ministry of Environment, with input from the livestock industry.

Minister Dombrowsky:

"We have worked with the livestock industry to modernize the regulations so that producers have more choices to safely dispose of their dead animals and to ensure we continue to have a system that is sustainable for the industry."

USEFUL CONTACT INFO

CROP RESEARCH STATIONS

Emo Agricultural Research Station:
807-482-2354 (telephone & fax)
Email: kbliss@uoguelph.ca

Thunder Bay Agricultural Research Association
Director of Research and Business
Dr. Tarlok Singh Sahota, CCA
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Email: tarloksahota@tbaytel.net

NORTHERN ONTARIO REGIONAL OFFICE

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North
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EMO OFFICE

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Email: rudy.buitenhuis@ontario.ca

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www.ontario.ca/omafra

Richard Lichty Memorial Award

At the graduation ceremony for the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program April 4th the Richard Lichty Memorial Award was presented to a participant who shows passion for their community and agriculture. Selected by Class 12 members, the award was presented to Peggy Brekveld, of Thunder Bay.

BOOSTING AGRI-FOOD PROFITABILITY AND INNOVATION

Canada and Ontario Sign Growing Forward Agreement

Ontario's agri-food sector will be more innovative, responsive and profitable as a result of a five-year, up to \$300-million investment by Ontario and the Government of Canada under Growing Forward. The Honourable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, and the Honourable Leona Dombrowsky, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, today announced new Growing Forward programs for the sector. The federal-provincial agreement outlining details of the program in Ontario has been signed.

Industry participants were consulted extensively on which programs should be available under the Growing Forward initiative in Ontario. As a result, programming focuses on two areas: Best Practices and Innovation and Science. Best Practices helps improve performance in four key areas: environment and climate change; food safety and traceability; business development; and biosecurity. Innovation and science programs will encourage and support ongoing research and the commercialization of research.

QUOTES

"I am very proud we have reached an agreement with Ontario. For Ontario producers, this is truly a momentous occasion. Growing Forward programs will deliver real results for farmers and their families and place greater emphasis on profitability and innovation."

- Gerry Ritz, Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

"Growing Forward reflects the needs of our agri-food industry. It puts emphasis on building a profitable sector through investment in innovation, a flexible approach to meet individual business needs and more partnerships with industry."

- Leona Dombrowsky, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

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Changes to Deadstock Regulations

After consultations with the industry, the province recently announced some changes to the handling of deadstock in Ontario. Previously the Dead Animal Disposal Act (DADA) regulated which species were affected and outlined the methods of disposal.

As of March 27, 2009 the DADA was replaced by the Nutrient Management Act (NMA) and the Food Safety and Quality Act (FSQA). The NMA will cover animals that die on the farm while the FSQA will apply to animals that die off farm.

There are now more species covered under the new legislation. DADA only dealt with cattle, horses, sheep, swine and goats. The new regulations will expand regulated species to include deer, elk, bison, alpaca, llama, yaks, donkeys, ponies, rabbits, poultry and fowl, ratites, and hybrids of the above.

Under the DADA the only options available for on-farm disposal were by collection (unavailable in the north), burial and composting. The new regulations have added incineration, a disposal vessel, or anaerobic digesters.

For on-farm disposals the producer must now record the species, age of animal, weight at time of death, the date, time and cause of death (if known) and the date, time, location and method of disposal. Records must be kept for 2 years.

Ag- Impact Study

A meeting is being held to generate a current profile of the agriculture sector in the Rainy River District while identifying past and emerging trends.

The Rainy River study will be conducted concurrently with agri-economic impact studies being conducted in three other districts: Thunder Bay, Cochrane and Kenora /Dryden

The meeting will be on Saturday, May 2, 2009, 10 AM to 3 PM at the Emo Inn. Lunch will be provided.

Contact Rick Neilson 487-2387
Linda Armstrong 852-3645

Recent Winnipeg Cattle Prices

Volume of cattle sold has been quite low in the past month. Prices have been slowly creeping up in the past few weeks. Following are the price ranges for steers for the past month at Winnipeg Livestock Sales to April 17.

Over 1000 lbs.	\$	NA
900 – 1000 lbs.	\$	88.00 - 100.00
800 – 900 lbs.	\$	90.00 – 106.00
700 – 800 lbs.	\$	99.00 – 110.50
600 – 700 lbs.	\$	100.00 – 122.00
500 – 600 lbs.	\$	100.00 – 128.00
400 – 500 lbs.	\$	105.00 - 130.00
under 400 lbs.	\$	NA

Slaughter cow and bull prices have remained fairly over the past few weeks. Here are the price ranges for cows and bulls to April 17.

Choice Strs. & Hfr.	\$	83.00 – 86.00
Select Strs. & Hfr.	\$	78.00 – 83.00
Cows Age Verified	\$	50.00 – 66.50
Dry Fed	\$	44.00 – 58.00
Good Fleshed	\$	35.00 – 48.00
Lean	\$	20.00 – 42.00
Good Bulls	\$	58.00 – 73.50



Growing Forward announced

On April 1 Minister Dombrowsky announced the new Canada – Ontario provincial agreement called Growing Forward had been signed. The announcement can be found elsewhere in this issue. Growing Forward will consist of a Best Management Practices suite and an Innovation and Science suite.

Under the Best Management Practices a number of familiar programs continue.

Environmental Farm Planning is continued through to March 2013 with some adjustments to available cost share opportunities but continuing the range of 30 – 50% cost share depending on category and with an overall cap of \$30,000 per farm. Complete program details and application forms will be available as soon as the third party delivery agreements are in place.

Also included in the announcement is the Business Development Best Practices Program consisting of Growing Your Farm Profits Workshops, Management Action Plans, Farm Financial Assistance, Advanced Business Planning, Agriculture Skills Development and Business Plan Implementation.

Farm families who develop an Action Plan for their business at Growing Your Farm Profits workshops may qualify for cost share assistance to access the business development programs. Third party delivery agreements are almost done. More complete information and applications should be available shortly.

A Business Development program is also under development for food processors with an expected launch in the fall of 2009.

Expect the launch of programs focussed on Food Safety and Traceability for farms and processors and Bio Security at different times during the coming months as well. Details will be presented as they become available.

The most current information can be found at: www.ontario.ca/growingforward

Growing Forward, a Federal-Provincial-Territorial Government initiative