



THAMES VALLEY REGIONAL SOIL & CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Oxford

Middlesex

Elgin

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COMING EVENTS....

July

2-3 Farm\$mart Exposition, Elora Research Station
<http://www.uoquelpk.ca/farmsmart/expo/>
8-9 15th Annual Southwest Crop Diagnostic Days,
 Ridgetown, Ontario www.diagnosticdays.ca
15th Ontario Forage Expo 2009 see page 2

August

24-28 IFAO 2009 Bus Tour, see page 2

September

15,16,17 Outdoor Farm Show, Woodstock
<http://www.outdoorfarmshow.com>
22-26 International Plowing Match, District of
 Temiskaming www.ipm2009.net



Brought to you in part by
 OMAFRA Resource Staff - Woodstock
 Your local Soil & Crop Associations
 OMAFRA Field Staff
 Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association



All three of these photos were taken on the Dibble farm at the same time,
 Clockwise from above: looking east, looking west, and looking down!
 The forecast was calling for rain that night so the push was on and we finished in time.
 Now that the corn is up, it's rock picking time (ugh)

Regional News

From Your Provincial Director, Gord Green : Hi. We are having another challenging spring. I hope everyone's planting season has gone well. I know there are still soys and coloured beans to go in. Hopefully the weather squares around for that and for the hay season. I know everyone is busy, but don't forget about opportunities with the EFP program. Details on the new program are still forthcoming but close at hand. The Growing Your Farm Profits past workshops have gone over well and more will be forthcoming. Also be sure to watch for future meetings, demonstration days and tours. I know very good ones are in the works. Thanks to everyone who have participated in field trials this spring. They take time and we appreciate the effort. Good luck on the rest of the season and I will see you at some of the events later on.

From TVRSCIA President, Kevin Rivers: I started wondering where Thames Valley Soil and Crop fits into the greater scheme of things, specifically what Oxford, Elgin and Middlesex add up to. If we add up the land mass we would come up with a State bigger than either Delaware or Rhode Island, a Canadian province bigger than PEI. Anyone reading this will already know the tremendous agricultural production that comes from the Thames Valley area. Natives may have been farming in this area since 1000 BCE. There are also miles of Lake Erie coast line in Elgin where fishermen still ply their trade. This area is also an industrial power house with many and varied manufacturers including many in the farm equipment business. The busiest highway in Canada runs through all three counties and there are also major rail and air links. Historically many characters have come to the fore including Thomas Talbot in Elgin, Joe Boyle in Oxford (and Springbank Snow Countess) and the infamous Donnellys from near Lucan. Most of what Thames Valley adds up to is the sum of it's people. Hopefully you might have an opportunity to explore this widely varied region soon, perhaps by taking part in a neighboring county's soil and crop event. It is always fun to rubber neck the crops away from home, if only the maps listed all the equipment dealers we'd be all set. I hope the crops are all growing great , and we all stay healthy this year.

New memorial scholarship announced by Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers program

Ancaster, ON [June 1, 2009] - A new annual scholarship from Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers (OYF) program is open for nominations from a young Canadian pursuing a post secondary education in agriculture. The \$1,000 scholarship was established in memory of the late Martin Streef, recipient of both Ontario's and Canada's Outstanding Young Farmer awards in 1996. "Martin had the foresight to begin this scholarship fund to help future generations of Canadians pursue their own passion for agriculture," says Richard Stamp, president of OYF Canada. "OYF is honoured to be administering this new scholarship on Martin and his family's behalf." The OYF Memorial Scholarship will be awarded annually on September 1, with 2009 as the first year for the new scholarship. Nominations are open to any individual in Canada pursuing a diploma or degree in agriculture at a Canadian institution. Applicants are required to submit a short essay on "Why are you passionate about agriculture in Canada?" Applicants must also supply a current transcript of their marks, a letter confirming their involvement in agriculture from a non-family member and a character reference letter from a non-family member. Application deadline for the 2009 OYF Memorial Scholarship is June 30, 2009. Full details and application forms are available at www.oyfcanada.com/scholarships. Martin Streef, who died in April 2008, was president of Streef Produce Ltd. - a family-run vegetable farming operation in Princeton, Ontario. Celebrating its 30th year, 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 Canadian Farm Business Management Council. Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers for 2009 will be chosen at the national event, December 1-6, 2009 in Ottawa, ON.

For more information contact:

Joan Cranston, Program Manager, Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers' Program,
(905) 648-0176 · cranstonclydes@yahoo.com · www.oyfcanada.com

**Innovative Farmers of Ontario Ag Bus Tour to Indiana and Illinois
August 24 to 28, 2009**

Five days of friendly, interesting travel and innovative farming ideas. Here are just some of the items on the tour.

- Monsanto Learning Center - an 850 acre research facility where you'll see what's coming to your farm in the future.
- A unique collaborative fish/vegetable operation using fish sludge as fertilizer for vegetable production
- Biotown in Indiana using 600 wind turbines for energy resources.
- Family-run dairy farm and cheese operation marketing cheese products internationally.

Cost: IFAO Members - \$500 / Non-members \$575 - no GST For more information, contact Lorraine House at 519-769-2443

**Ontario Forage Expo 2009
Wednesday, July 15, 2009 starting at 10.00 a.m.**

At Dunlea Farm Fritz & Gise Trauttmansdorff and Family, Jerseyville, Ontario (Brant County). No Admission to the farming community. Come and Enjoy Demonstrations, Trade Show, Exhibits and a Variety of Speakers. This event is hosted by WENTWORTH & BRANT COUNTY SOIL & CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION 'Focusing on the Golden Horseshoe Region & Beyond' www.ontarioforagecouncil.com or call 1-877-892-8663

A Workshop for Producers by Dr. Temple Grandin - Livestock Handling to Reduce Stress

November 26, 2009 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Elmwood Community Centre, Elmwood, Ontario (# 38 Queen St. W. Elmwood). Pre-registration is mandatory! Registration Price: \$30.00 which includes a hot beef dinner. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Autism Grey Bruce. Event sponsored by Farm Credit Canada.

For the Horse Enthusiasts: Preventing Behaviour Problems in Your Horse, with Temple Grandin, Ph.D., 5:30 pm - 10:00 p.m., Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre, Owen Sound (1900 3rd Ave E.). Pre-registration is mandatory! Registration Price only \$10.00 which includes refreshments. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Partners in Process Equine Learning Centre. Event sponsored by Purina; Alltech, Inc.; and Bluewater Feed Company. Full trade show. Registration deadline for both events is November 20th but space is limited, so register soon. For more info and to Register, 1-519-986-3756 (payment by Visa or Mastercard), or email, info@greyagservices.ca. Hosted by the Grey Bruce Farmers' Week Committee. Dr. Grandin's books will be available on-site, and an opportunity for book signing has been included in the agendas. Also check out www.greyagservices.ca for continuing updates.

FARM\$MART FARMING SYSTEMS EXPO 2009

Theme: Focus on Fertility

Date: Thursday July 2nd, 2009

Time: 8.30am start of registration with 9.30 session start, ending at 4.00pm, Elora Research Station, 6182 2nd line (1 block east of Cty Rd 7 between Side Rd 4 and 10). Information: www.uoguelph.ca/farmsmart, 877-424-1300 Registration: 877-424-1300

FARM\$MART YOUTH EXPO 2009

Theme: Focus on Fertility

Date: Friday July 3rd, 2009

Time: 8.30am start of registration with 9.30 session start, ending at 4.00pm. Elora Research Station, 6182 2nd line (1 block east of Cty Rd 7 between Side Rd 4 and 10), Information: www.uoguelph.ca/farmsmart, 877-424-1300. Registration: 877-424-1300



MSCIA SUMMER TOUR

The MSCIA summer tour is scheduled for Tues. August, 18. It is going to be at Foster Farms, RR # 3 Ilderton beginning at 4:30pm. There will be crop plots and results, innovative equipment display and demo, speakers. For info call Rob Foster - 519-666-3780

MIDDLESEX RAINFALL SUMMARY 2009

NAME	ADDRESS	TOTAL	APR	MAY
N. Stokman	R. 7, Strathroy			
H. Aukema	R. 6, Strathroy	178	120.5	57.5
L. Whiting	R. 5, Mt. Brydges	103	103	
J. Robinson	R. 5, Mt. Brydges			
G. Richards	6879 Longwoods Rd.	85	85	
G Cornelis	R. 1, Ailsa Craig	188	88	100
E. Fox	R. 5, Parkhill	124	124	
W. Mollard	R. 4, Parkhill	181.4	121.1	60.3
M. Robb	R. 1, Ilderton	177	82	95.0
R. Heard	Fanshawe Rd., London	136.5	136.5	
G. Duynisveld	R. 1, Ilderton	157	157	
D. Denys	R. 8, Parkhill	87	87	
F. Vanneste	R. 2, Lucan	118	118	
H. MacKellar	R. 2, Glencoe	121	73	48
C. McVicar	R. 1, Newbury	83	83	
B. Grieve	R. 2, Dorchester	246.5	104	142.5
A. Brown	R. 2, Belmont	234.5	80.5	154
A. White	3739 Harry White Dr., London	116	116	
D. Murray	4598 Murray Rd., London	157	100	57
S. Willemse	R. 4, Parkhill	114		114

MIDDLESEX CROP HEAT UNIT STATIONS 2009

	TOTAL	May *	
		Before May 10	After May 10
N. Stokman			
H. Aukema	336.0	135.0	336.0
J. Robinson			
G Cornelis	382.0	144.0	382.0
E. Fox			
R. Heard			
G. Duynisveld			
H. Dodge	326.0	131.0	326.0
H. MacKellar	325.0	120.0	325.0
C. McVicar			
A. Brown	319.0	122.0	319.0
B. Grieve	331.0	115.0	331.0
S. Willemse	380.0	151.0	380.0

* Under the Heat Unit system we have used for the last 25 years, we would start accumulating heat units on May 11. In 1994, a newer system was developed that starts according to average daily temperatures (third day averaging >12.8 C). For comparison sake, we have used the old method to develop totals, starting on May 11 and continuing until first frost.



Elgin News

ELGIN SUMMER TOUR

is slated for August, no firm date yet, so watch your mail. The tour will be held in the west end of the county this summer

ELGIN RAINFALL & HEAT UNIT DATA

NAME	RR	ADDRESS	TOTAL	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT
Keith Kelly	2	Rodney	76	0	76	0	0	0	0	0
	CHU		0	0	280	0	0	0	0	0
Jamie Littlejohn	2	Wallacetown	25	0	40	0	0	0	0	0
	CHU		0	0	170	0	0	0	0	0
Tom Oegema		Talbotville	91	0	91	0	0	0	0	0
	CHU		0	0	285	0	0	0	0	0
Doug Aldred	1	West Lorne	100	0	100	0	0	0	0	0
	CHU		0	0	243	0	0	0	0	0
Dana Porter	2	Pt Stanley	172	48	124	0	0	0	0	0
	CHU		0	0		0	0	0	0	0

Oxford News



Message from Al Bruce, Oxford SCIA President

This morning while reading the local newspaper, I glanced through an article from Environment Canada. The main story line was that they expected this summer to be slightly warmer and wetter than normal but their conclusion stated that it could also be cooler and drier than normal! I guess that means the weatherman will have an accurate forecast for the rest of the summer.

After coming through an old-fashioned winter it appears this summer could be filled with many questions. Why did two fields of wheat have such different winter survival?

Why did alfalfa fields that were one or two years old come through the winter fine, but a 3rd year stand was badly thinned?

Why are there wet spots in fields, even ponding, that usually is not there?

Ask your neighbour, your agronomist and yourself what differences you made last year -seed variety, fertility, compaction or manure application rate- there will be an answer.

The Forage Masters competition is under way again with six fields to be judged later this month. Thank you and good luck.

Oxford County also has many test plots on the go checking effect of no starter fertilizer on corn, effect of fungicide on corn and yield trials on corn. **Thank you to all cooperators!**

Oxford Summer Bus Trip to the Niagara Region!

On August 20th, 2009 the Oxford County Soil and Crop Improvement Association plans on having a bus trip to the Niagara Region. Planned stops include the Vineland Research Farm, a local winery/vineyard, and a local fruit farm and production facility. Stay tuned for more detailed information on times and prices. You don't want to miss out on your chance to see this very interesting and unique sector of Ontario agriculture

2009 OXFORD RAINFALL SUMMARY				(recorded in mm)							May-Oct	To Oct
NAME	RR	ADDRESS	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Total'09	2008	
David	Arthur	4 St Mary's	154	150						150	77	
Jeff	Dibble	2 Drumbo		69						69	71	
Gord	Haley	1 Otterville		107						107	97	
Peter	Johnson	Ingersoll		94						94	94	
John	Landsell	2 Thamesford									107	
RM	Matheson	3 Embro		105						105	91	
Bill	Orth	2 Burgessville									103	
Roger	Orth	1 Burgessville		122						122	83	
Barry	Smith	Burgessville									100	
Henry	Van Dorp	1 Woodstock	162	98						98	107	
Ross	Wilson	1 Salford									100	
HEAT UNITS												
	Dibble			179						179	234	
	Haley			243						243	243	
	Matheson			186						186	279	

To those of you who forgot to submit your data, please continue to do so...this is one thing everyone *always* checks to see how they compare! Sorry that I forgot to contact you this spring as a reminder!

OXFORD JR FARMERS NEWS

The Oxford Jr Farmers meets at 8:30 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the Woodstock OMAFRA Office. Social to follow at Kelsey's. Next meeting is July 14, 2009

New members are always welcome.

For more information, contact

Brad Ward @ 519-462-1537

or email golfclubs04@hotmail.com

Embro Truck and Tractor Pull
Presented by Oxford Junior Farmers
 Saturday August 1st and Sunday August 2nd

Cost: Adults: \$12/day or \$20/weekend
 Children (ages 5-12): \$5/day or \$8 weekend
 Children under 5: FREE



2-DAY EVENT!!!

Schedule:

Saturday August 1st:

10:00am Gates Open
 11:00am Heavy Horse Pull
 1:00pm Vintage Tractors
 2:00pm Local Farm Stock
 7:30pm LIVE Music - Cover Band playing new / classic Rock

Sunday August 2nd

11:00am Gates Open
 1:00pm PRO-Stock Modified Trucks and Tractors

All Proceeds support local community groups and Junior Farmer projects

GROWING FORWARD - FOOD SAFETY AND TRACEABILITY INITIATIVE INFO MEETINGS

Growing Forward supports the development and implementation of best practices in four key areas:

- environment and climate change
- business development
- food safety and traceability
- biosecurity.

Participants are encouraged to develop strategies across all these areas to meet their business goals through a variety of information sessions and workshops, as well as one-on-one training and technical assistance. In addition, an Innovation and Science Suite encourages and supports ongoing research and the commercialization of research. The **Food Safety and Traceability Initiative** is a cost-share funding program, developed to assist agriculture and agri-food facilities improve food safety practices and traceability systems in their operations. Improvements to food safety and traceability will strengthen Ontario's ability to provide safe, high quality food and provide economic advantages to our farmers and food processors.

The FSTI was developed by the Food Safety Programs Branch and will be administered jointly with the Rural Community Development Branch. For more details about the FSTI please contact us by: phone: 1-888-479-3931, website: www.ontario.ca/foodsafety, e-mail: fsti.omafra@ontario.ca. **Information sessions** are being held for applicants interested in applying for funding under Option 1 of the program (see the attachment for more details). Applicants applying for **Option 1** funding must attend an FSTI information session prior to submitting an application form. A certificate will be given to all participants that attend the information session. A copy of the certificate must be attached to your application form. Sessions are being held throughout Ontario. Those close to this area are as follows:

Location: Guelph **Date:** June 30, 2009

Morning Session (9:00 a.m. - noon): Food Safety for Food Processors

Afternoon Session (1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.): Traceability for Food Processors

Location: Leamington **Date:** July 7, 2009

Session (9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.): Food Safety and Traceability for the Food Processors and Agriculture Industry

Location: London **Date:** July 14, 2009

Session (9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.): Food Safety and Traceability for the Food Processors and Agriculture Industry

Location: Owen Sound **Date:** August 4, 2009

Session (9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.): Food Safety and Traceability for the Food Processors and Agriculture Industry

Complete list of information sessions at:

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/food/foodsafety/grants/infosessions.htm>

To Register: To pre-register for one of these scheduled information sessions - or to request the scheduling of a session in your region - call toll free 1-888-479-3931 (1-888-GRWFWD1).

HAY & STRAW BUY/SELL SERVICES

The **Ontario Forage Council's "Ontario Hay Listings"** service: <http://www.ontariohaylistings.ca>. A Free Listings Service for People Looking to Buy and Sell Hay and Straw For more information, comments or questions, call 1-877-892-8663 or email info@ontariohaylistings.ca

Another local option is the **Elmira Produce Auction Co-operative (EPAC)**. EPAC will be holding live "Hay Auctions" throughout this summer, and brochures are available which list the schedule of sales. The current schedule runs through July, so watch for a new brochure of dates starting in August. Remaining EPAC Hay Auction dates: (all times start at 8:30 a.m. prior to produce sales)

- Friday June 19th
- Friday July 3rd, + Friday July 17th + Friday July 31st

For booking hay & straw sales, call: Clarence Knorr at 519-699-4913

NMAN 2.1 RELEASED

The NMAN committee is happy to announce the release of NMAN 2.1. The NMAN committee has made every attempt to improve the outlook to attract more users, while NMAN is still compliant with the Nutrient Management Act the latest release is our committee's attempt to shed the regulatory look and feel it has garnered over the years. The New NMAN includes:

- New Nutrient Balance Interface. Uses a one-window approach when performing Agronomic and Crop Removal Balances (Quick Balance Calculator)
- Improved visuals within MSTOR, including a complete list of livestock and storage images.
- Improved printouts. A revamped layout that includes the newly added livestock and storage images.
- A new printout to handle Registrations required under the Nutrient Management Act.
- New Start Page, which enables users to access previously saved projects upon start up.

For those with NMAN already on your computers a downloadable upgrade can be found at the following website: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/nm/nman/software.htm> CD's will be available shortly, to get your copy please contact Matt Wilson, Environmental Specialist at matt.wilson@ontario.com, telephone 519-537-6592 or contact the Woodstock OMAFRA Resource Centre at 519-537-6621.

KEEPING YOUR BIRDS HEALTHY FREE RESOURCE KIT

This FREE resource kit contains practical information for all bird fanciers, small flock owners and non-regulated poultry owners. The "Keeping Your Birds Healthy - Biosecurity Basics for Small Flocks" initiative was developed by the University of Guelph, the Poultry Industry Council and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs to target non-regulated feather industries. The mission is to develop a network with the non-regulated feather industries to enhance technology transfer of information that will improve bird health and welfare and on-farm biosecurity.

The Keeping Your Birds Health Resource Kit includes Information on...

- Introduction to Biosecurity
- Seven Principles of Biosecurity
- Feed and Water Management
- Cleaning and Disinfection
- Introduction to Disinfectants
- Disposal of Bird Mortalities
- Introduction to Disease
- Foreign Animal Disease
- Dealing with Sick Birds
- Integrated Pest Management
- Understanding Antibiotics
- All of these + 30 more Disease Factsheets on CD
- Weatherproof Restricted Entry Sign
- Visitor Log Book
- Brochures and Posters
- Introductory Video

Pick up or order your **FREE** Resource Kit:

Call OMAFRA's Woodstock Resource Centre at 519-537-6621

Call OMAFRA's Agricultural Information Contact Centre at 1-877-424-1300

E-mail ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca

Order on-line at www.agbiosecurity.ca

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The Thames Valley Regional Soil & Crop Improvement Association newsletter is produced by Cathy Dibble, (519) 463-6374, Fax (519) 463-6375, email cdibble@odyssey.on.ca Submissions and advertising welcome.

MEMBERSHIPS

Memberships are \$20.00/yr or 3 for \$50.00; contact your local county secretary/treasurer

CONTACT INFORMATION.....

ONTARIO SOIL & CROP 1-800-265-9751

OSCIA WEBSITE: www.ontariosoilcrop.org

CROPLINE: 1-888-449-0937

CROPPEST <http://www.omafra.on.ca/croppest>

WOODSTOCK OMAFRA RESOURCE CENTRE: 519-537-6621

FARM CENTRE <http://farmcentre.com/english>

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT TOLL-FREE INFO LINE: 1-866-242-4460

THE FARM LINE Confidential support and referral services: 1-888-451-2903

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CATHY'S COMMENTS

Well, I think for most of us at least, a long, hard spring is finally over. Quite a bit of first cut hay has come off in Oxford, but I haven't heard any reports from other areas lately. I hope everyone survived this spring without too many setbacks. As I am writing this it is raining (again) but the crops are looking good and this warm rain will definitely keep things hopping (including the lawns!) The kids are starting to prepare for final exams, we are preparing for our first horse camping trip of the season, and then our daughter is off to Italy, Greece and Turkey on a school trip...the furthest I ever got was to Ottawa...oh, to be young again!

Local SCIA groups are in the planning stages for summer tours, twilight meetings and other events, so remember to watch your newsletters and emails for upcoming events. Also coming up in the near future is Canada's Outdoor Farm Show. I was at the Soil & Crop/OMAFRA site last week, and the plots are coming along nicely. OSCIA and OMAFRA staff have some great ideas planned for this year's show, and once confirmed, I will keep you posted on the highlights. We have been working with the Farm Show and Bayer CropScience in order to bring you another free admission/brunch opportunity again this year, and more details and passes will be mailed out later in the summer.

We are still waiting for details on the new EFP and Farm Business Management funding programs, but hopefully your local program reps will have the information and applications soon. Keep watch for an announcement on the OSCIA website, in the Ontario Farmer and other agricultural media outlets.

Have a great summer! Next newsletter will be sent out in August for the Outdoor Farm Show.