



**THAMES VALLEY REGIONAL SOIL & CROP
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION**

Oxford

Middlesex

Elgin

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MARCH 2007

23 Ontario Hemp Alliance Annual Meeting,
10 am - 3 pm, Grace Presbyterian Church
Woodstock. Registration \$20 includes Lunch (soup
& sandwich) Contact: 519-655-6277


13-15 Ottawa Valley Farm Show, Lansdowne
Park, Ottawa www.ottawafarmshow.com

7-9 Western Fair Farm Show, London
www.westernfair.com

AUGUST 2007

20-23 OXFORD SCIA Annual Summer Trip –
We're heading to PEI !!! All Thames Valley
members Welcome – see page 2

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In cooperation with:

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Ridgetown College

OMAFRA Resource Staff – Woodstock

Your local Soil & Crop Association

OMAFRA Field Staff



OXFORD SCIA SPRING MEETING

TUES MARCH 27, 7:30 P.M.

AGRATURF TAVISTOCK (just off Hwy #59 west of Tavistock)

Come early to see Agraturf's lineup and talk to sales staff

Tracey Baute - OMAFRA Field Crop Entomologist

"What might bug you in 2007"

Randy Huber - Agraturf Product Support Manager

"The importance of planter maintenance"

Brian will have a used planter on display to highlight main wear points with tips and tricks, as well as an overview Of the MeterMax planting unit

Peter Johnson - OMAFRA Cereal Specialist

"Winter wheat survival outlook"

New Members welcome ~ Refreshments courtesy Agraturf ~ Bring a friend!!

OXFORD'S ANNUAL SUMMER TRIP: Kevin Rivers and the tour committee are in the process of planning a summer trip to PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND. Kevin has been in contact with the PEI Soil & Crop Improvement Association, and they are **very excited** to host us on this tour. The PEI association is working on various ag-related stops on the island, and plans are being made for some sight seeing and free time as well. Space is limited to 40 people (minimum 30), and registration will be first come, first served. In order to fill the trip, we are opening this up to all Thames Valley members, but **TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE!!** This trip needs to be booked a.s.a.p. in order to get the flight we want, and the price we want. Details that we know so far:



DATE: Aug 20 Depart Hamilton Airport 1:15 pm, arrive Moncton NB 6:30 pm
 Take bus across Confederation Bridge to PEI
 Aug 21-23 Tour island
 Aug 23 Take bus to Moncton, depart 4:50 pm, arrive Hamilton 6:00 pm

Estimated cost per person \$600.00 (MAX) This will include your round-trip flight, bus and accommodations; meals are not included in this price at this time. Meals and transportation to Hamilton are not included. If you are interested, please contact Kevin or Cathy (info below). *A deposit of \$50.00 will be required at time of booking (for the flight).* This looks like a great opportunity for a bit of a holiday after wheat harvest, and is bound to be a great time!! Jeff and I are definitely planning on going, and interest looks good from many people we have spoke with. If you would like to come along, please call by April 10, 2007.

2007 FORAGE MASTERS COMPETITION: The deadline to register for this season's competition will be mid-April. Please call Albert Renkema at 475-4391 to get your name in. Note that 4-H members are encouraged to enter, but family must be local Soil & Crop members to be eligible to compete.

Oxford Executive and Directors 2007

PAST PRES Jeff Dibble RR 2 Drumbo 463-6374

PRESIDENT Albert Renkema RR 2 Embro 475-4391

1ST VP Kevin Rivers RR 5 Ingersoll 423-6797

2ND VP Alan Bruce RR 6 Woodstock 421-3467

3RD VP Wade Graham RR 2 Burgessville 424-9060

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Ron Marshall RR 3 Woodstock 475-4646

Bill Matheson RR 3 Embro 475-6089

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Arnold Haskett RR 1 Bright 454-8653

John Pyenenburg RR 2 Princeton 458-4616

SOUTHWEST OXFORD

Mark Kirwin RR 1 Salford 485-2618

Dave De Bruyn RR 1 Salford 485-9069

Adam Garfat RR 1 Beachville 533-1916

NORWICH TOWNSHIP

Evert Veldhuizen RR 4 Woodstock 537-1139

Mike VanBuggenhout RR 3 Princeton 467-5588

John Doan RR 3 Norwich 468-3270

. **OXFORD CROP PROJECTS 2007** Please contact Al Bruce at 421-3467 if you are interested in participating in one of the following field trials:

MAJOR GRANT PROJECT~ manure on alfalfa

Split application of N on Wheat

Starter fertilizer n cornfields with previous manure

Soybean aphids (treated vs non-treated)

Leafhopper resistant alfalfa

Frost seeding cereals

Peas as a cover crop (Thames Valley project)

Nitrogen calculator plots

Manure without nitrogen on corn

Manure on wheat

Fungicides trials on soybeans

New generation fungicides on wheat

Planting depth on corn

ELGIN NEWS

Sec. Margaret May 287-5334

ESCIA projects for 2007

Anyone interested in being a plot co-operator, please email Margaret May (mmay@execulink.com)

Milo for Ethanol production-Grant Campbell, Jamie McCaffrey

Proline on wheat- Brian Lyle

Sunflowers- Grant Campbell

Headline on wheat-

Proline on wheat-

Soil compaction- Jamie McCaffrey

Hog manure vs urea on wheat- Ron Buis and Henry Hartemink

SCN- Wayne DeVries, John Miller

Soy Innoculants- Jamie McCaffrey (Hi-stick, Cell Tech)

Split N on wheat-

Satellite Imagery- Jamie Littlejohn, John Johnston

Modified Relay intercropping- Jeff Davis

Corn Seed Treatments- Joe Fischer (Trilex and Poncho, Max Apron and Poncho)

2007 Middlesex Crop Projects ~ If you are interested in participating, please contact the following:

Project	Contact		Co-operators	
Cover Crops	Nick Stokman Dean VanArenthals	245-0250 227-0479	Jeramel Farms	271-8180
Peas as a Cover Crop – Nitrogen Value	Roy Bloomfield	666-1416	Gerard Cornelis Ken Nixon	293-3566 666-1616
Red Clover Establishment Effect of Tillage	Peter Johnson	271-8180		
Cruiser on Edibles	Roy Bloomfield	666-1416		
Proline/Stratego Evaluation	Rick McCracken Rick Willemse	289-5576 294-6684		
White Mould on Edibles	Greg Walls	666-1277		
Anthrachnose Control for Edible Beans	Mathew Aerts	666-0811		
Cruiser on Soys	Horst Bohner	271-5858	Ken Nixon	666-1616
Fungicides on Soys	Frank Dietrich	227-4150		
N Calculator for Corn	Dave Williams	692-4377		
Tillage Options for Corn - Strip Till ~ Vertical Till	Ken Nixon Roy Bloomfield	666-1616 666-1416		
Sulphur on Corn	Steve Fonger	247-3762		
Manure on Wheat	Greg Walls	666-1277		
Split N on Late Wheat	Peter Johnson	271-8180		
Protein on Hard Red Wheat	Peter Johnson	271-8180		
Spring Cereal Planting Populations	Peter Johnson	271-8180		
Frost Seeding Spring Cereals	Peter Johnson	271-8180		
Manure on Forages	Christine Brown	537-8305		

THAMES VALLEY NEWS

Greencover Canada Installment #1: "Dispersion Sandwich" Demonstration Project;

coordinated by Upper Thames River CA

With over a decade of research under their belt, Upper Thames and the University of Waterloo are working together to put a dispersion sandwich to the test. The project, installed in late October 2006 near Shakespeare, simply involves woodchips topped with a layer of gravel to keep them in place. It works as a simple purification system to remove nitrates from slow moving water flowing through the chips. The nitrates react with carbon in the woodchips to convert the nitrates into harmless nitrogen gas which bubbles up into the atmosphere. The concept was developed by the university about 15 years ago, and holds two patents related to the technology. Craig Merkley, of Upper Thames CA, says "The woodchips will not rot since they are under water, but the tricky part was getting the water to flow through the chips, and not over them." He continues that "If you can start at the top end and make it cleaner, that's a good thing." The project, along with other producer initiatives such as tree planting and buffer strips, will have a positive effect on water flowing into Stratford. Greencover Canada funding covered the installation of the project, as well as a number of others in the watershed. More dispersion sandwich projects are planned for areas near St Marys, Wheatley and Putnam.

Updates on various projects will be published as installments in upcoming newsletters and local media.

Greencover Canada Program

Greencover Canada is a five-year, \$110-million Government of Canada initiative to help landowners improve grassland-management practices, protect water quality, reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, and enhance biodiversity and wildlife habitat, focusing on four components: land conversion; critical area-management; technical assistance; and shelterbelt establishment on agricultural land. OSCIA delivers the Greencover program in Ontario, in partnership with Ag-Canada and OMAFRA. Typical projects include: buffer strips and livestock fencing projects alongside watercourses, structural erosion control work next to creeks, and tree shelterbelt plantings. The program offers up to 50 percent cost-share to a maximum of \$20,000 per registered farm business to establish eligible BMP's. A partnership between OSCIA and Conservation Ontario (CO), which represents 36 watershed-based Conservation Authorities (CA's) across the province, will deliver the Greencover program to producers to improve the availability of on-farm technical and financial assistance. CA's can provide producer-requested on-farm technical assistance, and in return, will receive modest compensation for each completed project through OSCIA. Environmental work along watercourses has been a tough sell to many Ontario producers as compared to in-field practices that can offer the farmer a promise of return on investment. Having skilled specialists from the watershed authorities available to offer ideas and advice onsite, at no direct charge to the farmer, will result in more producers taking advantage of what GC offers. Conservation Ontario is excited with the prospect of CA's being involved in province-wide delivery to the agricultural community. Offering environmental assistance to farmers has been an important activity for many Authorities over the years, and is an excellent example of producers and conservation specialists working together to improve on-farm management of the environment. Ten on-farm demonstration projects involving Greencover BMP verification are being established across the province, to measure the performance and promote specific Greencover BMP's on the landscape. Canada and Ontario will invest \$628,400 to support a variety of on-farm projects to improve water quality and quantity, enhance wildlife habitat, control erosion and reduce greenhouse gases. Some of the projects established in the Thames Valley Soil & Crop region include:

"Ecological Performance of Buffers" Demonstration; *coordinated by Grand River Conservation Authority 20 existing buffer sites along the Grand River Watershed* - This project will assess the impacts of existing buffer sites on water quality in the Grand River Watershed, by using indicators such as the Index of Biological Integrity. The

results of this project will encourage farmers and other landowners to use buffer strips in riparian areas.

"Direct Seeding of Native Trees" Demonstration; *coordinated by Upper Thames River CA 6 sites in Haldimand, Norfolk, Oxford, Middlesex and Elgin.* The objective of this demonstration project is to determine if direct seeding (planting seeds directly to the land) of native plant materials is a cost-effective, viable option to planting bare root seedling stock in on-farm restoration projects, e.g. field windbreaks, shelterbelts, riparian buffers, and highly erodible land retirement. It is anticipated that direct seeding will encourage a diverse mix of native trees and shrubs that will result in healthier restoration projects.

"Dispersion Sandwich" Demonstration; *coordinated by Upper Thames River CA* Several locations in the Upper Thames River Watershed. The objective is to demonstrate the feasibility of using woodchips to protect shallow groundwater from nitrate contamination in riparian areas. This new, low-cost technology is called a "dispersion sandwich." The project will show that these "sandwiches" can be installed along watercourses or around wetlands and environmentally sensitive areas to treat and protect water quality.

"Innovative Livestock Restriction" Demonstration; *coordinated by Upper Thames River CA 4 sites in the Upper Thames River Watershed* This project will demonstrate innovative techniques: to restrict livestock from watercourses in order to control streambank erosion and enhance aquatic areas; to enhance species diversity on the agricultural landscape; and, to protect both the quality and quantity of existing water supplies. The following techniques will be demonstrated: installing a "Texas Gate" along a watercourse to see if cattle will respect it; introducing natural channel design techniques in order to help move sediment and narrow the channel; the effectiveness of a "virtual fence" along a creek; and, streambank planting of selected shrub and tree species to encourage biodiversity, shade and improve aesthetics.

"Effectiveness of Buffers" Demonstration *University of Guelph Washington Creek in Oxford County, Grand River Watershed* The project will assess the long-term effectiveness of vegetative buffers in mitigating agricultural impacts, including nutrient loading, on soil and water quality. Four land-use systems will be studied: a natural forested region, containing trees common to southern Ontario; pasture area in which cattle have traditionally had access to the stream for a source of drinking water; a cropped area supporting a standard soybean-corn rotation; and, a "rehabilitated" section composed of planted trees now approximately 20 years of age. The project will also assess improvements in species biodiversity, and determine the carbon sequestration potential of the four systems.

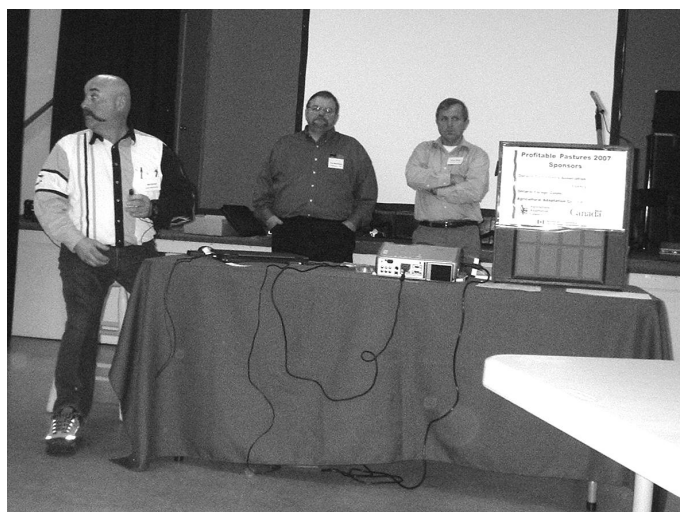
THAMES VALLEY FORAGING ALTERNATIVES

Thanks to combined efforts of Agriculture Environmental Renewal Canada Inc (AERC) in a joint venture with University of Guelph, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, AERC has successfully launched a number of alternate crops to Canadian growers, specifically developed to meet growing and climatic conditions in Ontario. From our Research Facilities in Delhi, Ontario, we have successfully introduced forage sorghum silage hybrids and multi-cut forage sudan hybrid. Silage Sorghum Hybrid nutritive value rivals corn silage when harvested at dough stage yielding more forage matter than corn silage. Sudan Hybrid is comparable to conventional forages and can be under seeded with alfalfa or planted as a cover crop. Sudan is recommended for silage, green chop, baleage, dry feed or for pasture and is noted for its excellent re-growth capacity (2-4 cuts per season) and exceptional palatability with crude protein of 14-15%. Be assured that the hybrids offered are safe to feed at all stages of growth over the growing season and after a frost. Canadian Forage Pearl Millet is used primary for control of Root Lesion Nematodes (RLN) in rotation with potato and other vegetable and fruit crops. This product provides an environmentally safe and non-hazardous alternative to fumigation for RLN suppression. In addition, CFPM provides high protein forage for dairy, beef, horses and sheep or it can be left to improve organic matter, reduce soil erosion and improve productivity with crop production. Maximum RLN suppression is achieved with multi-cuts to encourage continuous root activity. A new Grain Pearl Millet was released in 2006. NEW for 2007, Greenfield Ethanol will be accepting grower contracts

from producers to their Tiverton location for our Sorghum Grain Varieties. The purpose of this program is to evaluate the impact sorghum grain has on fermentation, distillation and bi-product (wet distillers grain) output in ethanol production. Grain Sorghum is a major feed ingredient in the U.S., Mexico, Argentina, Brazil and Japan. An information meeting is planned for March 20. For more information, please call. With Research Facilities in Delhi, Ontario, Seed Production and Processing near Wallaceburg, Ontario, MILO PRO Inc., the marketing arm to AERC, offers producers viable alternatives in the race to find new alternate crops for our farm operations. For more information on product performance and seed availability please contact Marv Eberle at 1-519-808-9909 or email at meberle@odyssey.on.ca.



Sorghum grain for ethanol production grows up to 8' tall



Neil Dennis, Saskatchewan, Ron Woodisse, OCA, and Dennis Martin, OMAFRA, were the featured speakers at the 2007 Profitable Pastures conference held in Drumbo in February. Highlighted topics included profitability of pastures vs cropping, and natural vs managed grasses in pastures. Over 75 people enjoyed the day (and a great hot beef lunch) thanks to the efforts of the Ontario Forage Council, with support from the Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Program from Agriculture and Agri-food Canada in cooperation with OMAFRA and the Thames Valley Soil & crop Improvement Association.

Amy, a blonde city girl, marries a Colorado rancher.

One morning, on his way out to check on the cows, the rancher says to Amy, "The insemination man is coming over to impregnate one of our cows today. I drove a nail into the 2 by 4 just above the cow's stall in the barn. You show him where the cow is when he gets here, OK?" So then the rancher leaves for the fields.

After a while, the artificial insemination man arrives and knocks on the front door. Amy takes him down to the barn.

They walk along the row of cows and when she sees the nail, she tells him, "This is the one...right here." Terribly impressed by what he seemed to think just might be another ditzzy blonde, the man asks, "Tell me lady, how did you know this is the cow to be bred?"

"That's simple. By the nail over its stall." Amy explains very confidently. Then the man asks, "What's the nail for?" She turns and walks away, and with complete confidence, says, I guess it's to hang your pants on."

OTHER LOCAL NEWS

Courtesy of: Kim DeKlein, OMAFRA Regional Information Coordinator, Woodstock Resource Centre Phone 537-8078 Fax 539-5351 kim.deklein@ontario.ca

GROWER PESTICIDE SAFETY COURSE/EXAM SCHEDULE

The Ontario Pesticide Education Program provides pesticide safety and application training to Ontario farmers and pesticide vendors. For those requiring certification this year, following is a schedule of courses and exam only sessions currently scheduled for Oxford County.

Wed Marc 28	Woodstock	Exam	7:30 pm	call 1800-652-8573
Sat April 21	Woostock	Course	8:45 am	call 1800-652-8573
		Exam only	2:30 pm	call 1800-652-8573

For sessions outside Oxford, visit <http://www.ridgetownc.uoguelph.ca/o pep/GrowerTraining/courses.cfm>. Note that pre-registration is required. Training manuals are available to be picked up in the Woodstock OMAFRA Resource Centre. If you have any questions or require further information please call the Ontario Pesticide Education Program, 1-800-652-8573.

ANNUAL JFAO ALUMNI CURLING BONSPIEL & EUCHRE TOURNAMENT Saturday, March 24, St. Marys Curling Club (with March Conference Banquet to follow in Stratford at the Festival Inn)

Competitive draw 8:30 a.m., Social Draw 10:00 a.m., Euchre tournament starting at 12:00 noon

Cost for curling: \$25/person including 3 6-end games and lunch, Cost for euchre: \$5/person (lunch is \$5 extra)

Deadline to register: March 9, 2007

(after that the bonspiel will be opened up to current JF members) For more information please contact: Mary at 519-669-5608 or mfeldsko@uoguelph.ca or Elizabeth at 519-291-2888 or johnfarm@wightman.ca

GATHERING THE FARM COMMUNITY IN HOPE "A Christian Faith-based Resource in the Farming & Rural Community" Website: www.casselmc.com/FarmGathering.dsp

SEEDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT conference for the farm community! Resource Person: ELAINE FROESE Friday, March 30, 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - "Encouragement" Saturday, March 31, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. - "Tools for Talking About Issues" "Planning for Change" Location: East Zorra Mennonite Church, #677044 16th Line, East Zorra Township For more information, please contact: Jim Whitehead, Pastor, Cassel Mennonite Church #696556, 17th Line (at Cassel Road), R. R. 1, Tavistock, ON N0B 2R0 Phone: (519) 462-2251, Fax: (519) 462-1921 Email: casselmc@execulink.com

What's A Computer's Gender ??

A Spanish teacher was explaining to her class that in Spanish, unlike English, nouns are designated as either masculine or feminine. "House" for instance, is feminine: "la casa." "Pencil," however, is masculine: "el lapiz." A student asked, "What gender is 'computer'?" Instead of giving the answer, the teacher split the class into two groups, male and female, and asked them to decide for themselves whether "computer" should be a masculine or a feminine noun. Each group was asked to give four reasons for its recommendation.

The men's group decided that "computer" should definitely be of the feminine gender ("la computadora"), because:

1. No one but their creator understands their internal logic;
2. The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else;
3. Even the smallest mistakes are stored in long term memory for possible later retrieval; and
4. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you spend half your paycheck on accessories for it.

The women's group, however, concluded that computers should be Masculine ("el computador"), because:

1. In order to do anything with them, you have to turn them on;
2. They have a lot of data but still can't think for themselves;
3. They are supposed to help you solve problems, but half the time they ARE the problem; and
4. As soon as you commit to one, you realize that if you had waited a little longer, you could have gotten a better model. The women won



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- Environment (MOE)
- Agriculture and Food (OMAF)
- Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC)



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Wet Harvest Leaves Soil Erosion Challenges for this Spring and Beyond!

Adam Hayes and Anne Verhallen, Soil Management Specialists, OMAFRA

The fall of 2006 will probably go down as one of the most difficult harvest seasons for a wide range of crops. In Ontario, there are numerous fields with deep ruts, compacted sections or even fields that were not harvested as winter closed in. A common question this winter has been what approach to take to rehabilitate these fields. Some growers used light fall tillage in between rain storms to fill in and cover over any damage. Others have left the ruts to mellow over winter, whether by plan or because the soil was just too wet. In some cases this spring this means we are looking at using tillage to repair ruts in no-till fields and certainly more primary tillage than many fields/areas have seen for a while.

The greater use of tillage and the reduction in cover cropped acres due to wet planting conditions means that we have more fields bare this winter and less crop residue will be covering and protecting fields. The potential for all types of soil erosion; wind, water and tillage, is much greater this year. It will be critical to maintain as much residue as possible on the soil surface during tillage operations and to use the least amount of tillage possible to achieve good crop establishment.



Cover crops and crop residues are some of the keys to preventing wind erosion. Wet fall conditions in 2006 prevented much cover crop planting.

Well we've been here before. In the winter of 2005/2006 the PFRA commissioned The Soil Resource Group to review the current knowledge on soil erosion in Ontario. Much of the soil erosion research dates back to the 1970's and '80's. This is the data that helped to push forward funding and support for erosion control measures like reduced tillage and no-till, windbreaks and erosion control structures. Current programs like the Environmental Farm Plan

(EFP) have their origins in this early erosion work. There is a value in looking back – our soils have not changed, they may have improved under the last

15 to 20 years of reduced tillage but like the saying goes, "Those that ignore history are doomed to repeat it".

Research has shown that you can expect a 23 to 30 bu/acre loss of productivity on average for corn when 15 cm of soil has been lost due to erosion. Erosion has a direct on farm cost that was estimated for Ontario to be upwards of \$68 million and an additional \$100 million annually of off-farm damage due to sediment.

Soil erosion is often a matter of soil that has been rearranged within a field. Hills and slopes have
lost



Ruts and heavily compacted areas from the fall 2006 harvest will need some careful tillage to get those areas ready for spring planting.

nutrient rich topsoil while low areas have accumulated deep deposits of this moved soil. The result, a field with inconsistent fertility and water holding ability that is less productive overall and less resilient to stress. This is a concern in any year but will become more of a concern in the future. The climate change models suggest that we can expect to see more extreme and unpredictable weather. We are more likely to see more heavy thunderstorms and extended periods of either drought or wet conditions. We can expect to see more soil erosion because of what climate change will bring in terms of rainfall intensity.

We can expect that weather changes are only part of the pressures that climate change will bring to bear on our soil resource. The interest in renewable fuels will force some crop rotation changes and can be expected to leave less crop residues in many cases. Now is the time to take another look at what we learned about preventing soil erosion in the 1980's to ensure a productive future!

**THAMES VALLEY REGIONAL
SOIL & CROP IMPROVEMENT**

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The Thames Valley Regional Soil & Crop Improvement Association newsletter is produced by Cathy Dibble, (519) 463-9737, 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

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

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

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

LOCAL SOIL & CROP SEC/TREAS

Middlesex ~ Marian Desjardine 873-4077
Elgin ~ Margaret May 287-5334
Oxford ~ Cathy Dibble 463-6374

EFP PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVES

Oxford ~ Cathy Dibble 463-9737 oxford@ontariosoilcrop.org
Middlesex/Elgin ~ Margaret May 287-5334 elgin@ontariosoilcrop.org

Cathy's comments....

Okay, sometimes we all have too much on the go ~ as evident when I sent out the **Feb 2005 Oxford** newsletter to you all last month! With two weeks of annual meetings, EFP peer review, dentist appointments, judging for the Agricultural Awards of Excellence, Cody's hockey playoffs, a new flock of chicks coming in, and a day or two at work, I inadvertently sent the wrong file to the printing company, and neither of us noticed. Thanks to Lorraine House (who was the first of many to let me know I goofed) I was able to get the 2007 edition off to the printer early enough on Thursday to have it rolling off the press and in the mail by the weekend. We had so many calls about the flub, I had to change the message on our answering machine to acknowledge the error! I really must thank Marian and Chuck at the Woodstock branch of Minuteman Press for dropping everything and printing the rerun so quickly. I hope you all found your free lunch offer from Bayer in the first mailing, which was promoted so prominently on page one of the second mailing! (This did not affect some new members in Elgin who were not on the first mailing list). I guess this was a good test to see how many of you actually DO READ the newsletter. I know I won't live this one down for a long time!

Please note the Oxford Summer tour on page 2 of this newsletter. This trip to PEI is an extremely ambitious venture for our group, and I hope it works out for everyone interested! In order to fill the seats, we are opening this up to the entire Thames Valley membership, but we need to confirm early. Looks like a great trip, so please consider joining the Oxford folks to the east coast!