

February 2009

NORTHWEST LINK

Thunder Bay ★ Rainy River ★ Kenora Districts

Northwestern Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Associations

Thunder Bay Information Session

**Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program
Information and Recruitment Night
February 11, 2009 at 7:30 at Founder's
Museum**

Are you an active part of the farming community? Do you own your own farm, or work in an agriculture related job? Do you wish to improve your leadership skills, along with 29 other participants from around the province? Do you enjoy travel, including International and North American study? Then AALP is the program to take.

Applications are now available for AALP Class 13, starting in October 2009. There is no age limit, with the current class ranging from 26-52, 16 women and 13 men. The variety of class members is wide, including high school grads to Master Degree holders, from primary producers to government, finance, marketing, media and farm equipment dealers. Participants also hail from a variety of locations including Thunder Bay, Ottawa, Lambton County and Guelph. Don't think that you can't apply. The benefits of taking a program like this will last a lifetime a go far beyond your agriculture involvement.

Bill Groenheide and Peggy Brekveld, current Class 12 members, are hosting an AALP Information and Recruitment Night, Wednesday, February 11, 7:30pm at the Founder's Museum. Come out and hear about AALP from those who know what it is all about. We look forward to seeing you there!

Applications are available online at <http://www.aalp.on.ca/application.aspx> or may be

obtained by contacting Centre for Rural Leadership office at 519-826-4204.

 RAINY RIVER FUTURE
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
A Community Futures Development Corporation 

Jeannette Cawston
Rural Agriculture Co-ordinator

jeannette@rrfdc.on.ca Cell 807.275.8743
www.rrfdc.on.ca Alternate 807.482.3983

807.274.3276 - 1.800.465.8502 - Fax 807.274.6989
608 Scott Street, Fort Frances, ON P9A 1H6

Nutrient Management Software Training

How to Prepare a Nutrient Management Strategy and Plan (Using NMAN)

Learn the features included in the latest release of NMAN in this workshop March 24 & 25 in Thunder Bay.

To register (\$95 for producers \$70 per person for additional members of farm or farm family) contact Nutrient Management Branch at OMAFRA 1-866-242-4460

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Applications are now available for the Brian Schubert Memorial Scholarship. Eligibility: Residents of Northern Ontario, not yet 25, acceptance into a qualifying college or

university program. For applications, call or email Linda Turk, 807-577-4787, linda.turk@ofa.on.ca.

Scholarship value: \$1,000

Workshop Series

Farmers Markets Ontario (FMO), in cooperation with *The Centre for Rural Leadership*, is offering the following workshop series in Thunder Bay:

Tips and Tools for Productive Meetings,
February 7

Meet the Media: Getting Their Attention on Your Terms! March 21

Create a Memorable Customer Experience!
March 28

Each is a 3 hour workshop with registration of \$20 with a hot meal and workshop materials included. To register or for additional information please contact Farmers Markets Ontario at 1-800-387-3276.

For Rainy River and Kenora District members of Farmers Market Ontario FMO is offering the following assistance:

- Organize car pools of at least four people per car and we will reimburse the car owner at the rate of 40¢ per km, return mileage.
- Free hotel accommodation (two to a room) at Thunder Bay on the **Saturday** night. Hotel location to be determined.
- \$20 per person meal allowance for meals enroute
- \$20 workshop fee **waived**

Call Catherine Clark at FMO today!
Tel: 1-800-387-3276 or email fmo@farmersmarketsontario.com and we will handle the rest including the pre-payment of your hotel room!

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**

RED DIAMOND FARM

ANGUS  CHAROLAIS
BULLS BULLS

WE SELL BULLS TO EASTERN MANITOBA AND NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO SINCE 1990

MICHAEL BECKER
WHITEMOUTH
MANITOBA

204-348-2464
www.reddiamondfarm.com
just 90 minutes west of Kenora

Growing Your Farm Profits


Growing Your Farm Profits: Planning for Business Success is a voluntary awareness and education program designed to help Ontario farmers complete confidential self-assessments and prepare business action plans for their farm businesses.

The two-day workshop will give you the tools needed to assess your current farm management practices and understand how proactive planning can influence effective decision making.

The assessment covers eight key areas of your business:

- Marketing
- Production
- Financial Management
- Human Resources
- Social Responsibility
- Succession Planning
- Business Structure
- Business Strategy

A workshop is scheduled to be held in Thunder Bay March 19 and 20. For additional information or to register contact Peter Brunner 807 938 6417



Alta Genetics Inc.

Willem Vellinga
Alta Dairy Representative

Phone: 807-475-9515
Email: lwvellinga@air.on.ca

Variety Performance Brochures


The Ontario Forage Crop Variety Performance 2009 Brochure is now available online at www.GoForages.ca.

Other brochures available include:


2008 Hybrid Corn Performance Trials
<http://www.gocorn.net/v2006/CornReports/2008cornreport/2008performancetrials.html>

2009 Ontario Soybean Variety Trials
<http://www.gosoy.ca/2009Report.pdf>

2009 Performance Trials for Spring Cereal Crops
http://www.gocereals.ca/Spring_Cereal_Infosheet_2009.pdf



DAVIES
Legacy Planning Group Inc.



**Farm Succession Planning
Retirement Planning**

15564 Muirkirk Line
RR#2 Muirkirk, ON N0L 1X0
Office: 519-678-3862
Home: 519-678-3237

Len Davies CFP CLU CIP EPC CAFA
Member of Million Dollar Round Table

Kenora District Information

Local Food Map

Partnering with the Northwestern Health Unit, we are producing a local food map. This is a tool for consumers to access locally grown food in their area.

I would also like to send out a survey to local producers in the area. If you could somehow mention this and leave my contact info for anyone who is interested, that would be really appreciated as well

Please contact Sara Campbell for more information

Tillage Equipment Wanted

Looking for 12-16 foot wide set of discs and/or similar sized cultivator / chisel plow.

Phone Fred at (807) 475-8528 or e-mail silvermt@tbaytel.net

Cattle For Sale

27 Herford/Red Angus cows cross bred to red angus to calve at the end of Feb. 1-3 year old Herford bull, 1-1 year old Red Angus bull, 8-1 year old Herford/Red Angus cross heifers.
Call Jim at 935-2840

Dairy Housing Design Seminars

OMAFRA is once again sponsoring Housing Design Seminars for Dairy Cattle.

This year the Free Stall Seminars will be held February 10 & 11 in Stratford and March 4 & 5 in Kemptville.

Tie Stall Seminars will be held February 18 in Linwood and March 3 in Kemptville.

The complete brochure can be found at:
http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/dairy/facts/info_freetiestall.htm

Conference manuals may be purchased from the OMAFRA Woodstock office by calling 519 537 6621

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.



Norlund Oil Limited (2003)

Paul Koomans
Petro Canada Distributor
6115 Hwy 11/71 Box 266
Emo, ON P0W 1E0

pkoomans@bellnet.ca
807-482-2680 phone
807-482-2014 fax
807-275-5282 cell

Rainy River Cattlemen's Association

Stratton Sales Barn

Dates for 2009 ~

April 25, 2009

August 22, 2009

October 3, 2009

October 24, 2009

Please contact Clayton Teeple at 807-487-1465 for any further info.

Semen Order

February 10, 2009

Call – Kim Jo 482-2863

4-H Awards Night

March 6, 2009

Stratton Millennium Hall

7:00 p.m. – Supper

Please call Kim Jo to confirm attendance – 482-2863

Needing Blades
Grooming Blade Sharpening
Blades for cattle, sheep, horses and pets

Steve Roberts, 8 Little Trout Bay Road
Needing, Ontario, P7L0A4
807-964-2781
roberts.steven@sympatico.ca

Recent Winnipeg Cattle Prices

Volume of cattle sold has been relatively low in the past month. Prices have been fairly steady to what was received before Christmas. Following are the price ranges for steers for the past month at Winnipeg Livestock Sales to January 20.

Over 1000 lbs.	\$	NA
900 – 1000 lbs.	\$	78.00 - 84.00
800 – 900 lbs.	\$	85.00 – 96.75
700 – 800 lbs.	\$	88.00 – 105.50
600 – 700 lbs.	\$	90.00 – 108.50
500 – 600 lbs.	\$	97.00 – 114.00
400 – 500 lbs.	\$	98.00 - 111.00
under 400 lbs.	\$	NA

Slaughter cow and bull prices have remained steady to slightly higher compared to before Christmas. Here are the price ranges for cows and bulls to January 20. Note that they are now reporting prices for age verified cows.

Choice Strs. & Hfrs.	\$	80.00 – 88.75
Select Strs. & Hfrs.	\$	NA
Cows Age Verified	\$	40.00 – 61.00
Dry Fed	\$	38.00 – 53.00
Good Fleshed	\$	34.00 – 48.00
Lean	\$	25.00 – 40.00
Good Bulls	\$	45.00 – 59.50

Buy Local! Buy Fresh! Guide

The Rainy River Valley Buy Local! Buy Fresh! Guide to Local Food is currently being updated for the 2009 season. 2,500 copies of the guide/map will be produced. If you would like to be included in this guide or to find out more about it, please contact Gary Sliworsky at 807-482-1921.



JOHN GEORGIU
Agent/Owner

JOHN GEORGIU & ASSOCIATES INC.
340 Second St S Kenora ON P9N 1G5
Bus: (807) 468-5588 Fax: (807) 468-2272 Toll Free: 1-800-387-6079
After Hours Emergency Service: 1-800-465-2667
e-mail: john_georgiou@cooperators.ca Internet: www.cooperators.ca
Home Auto Life Investments RSPs Group Business Farm

Grower Pesticide Safety Courses

Grower Pesticide Safety Courses have been arranged across the Northwest. They are set for

Thursday, Feb 12 - Thunder Bay

Friday, Feb 13 - Dryden

Saturday, Feb 14 - Emo

Cornell Farms

Superior Beef Genetics
Bulls for Sale

offering Polled Herefords, Red Angus, F1 Heifers

Breeding 300+ Females in 2005

Kim & Pat email: cornell@nwonet.net
Ph. 807-486-3477 Fax 807-486-1095

Agricultural Operations Planning Certificate

Farmers hoping to be certified as Agricultural Operation Planning Certificate holders have the following options to fulfill their requirements:

Option A:

1. Regulation and Protocols course (in class or on-line)
2. Introduction to Nutrient Management course or historical Fundamentals of Nutrient Management Course

Option B:

1. Regulation and Protocols course (in class or on-line)
2. Agronomic Quiz and confirmation and completion of a 3rd Edition Environmental Farm Plan (ie. a letter from the local Peer Review committee accepting the farm action plan).

The equivalency option for farmers seeking certification to prepare their own NMS/P has been extended to June 30, 2009.

PURITY SEEDS LIMITED

FOR ALL YOUR SEEDING NEEDS
SPECIALISTS IN FORAGES, CEREALS, AND SOYBEANS

Larry Lamb, P.Ag.

Box 555

Emo, Ontario

POW 1E0

Phone : (807)-482-2420

Toll Free: 1-888-500-3159

We'll arrange delivery to your Farm, in Ontario, Minnesota, or Manitoba.

New or Revised Factsheets

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

2009 Field Crop Budgets, Publication 60 [order number 0060E]; this is a free annual publication

Agroforestry Series volume 2: Establishing Tree Cover, BMP 21 [order number BMP21E]; the publication is free to Ontario residents,

08-055: Guide to Cost of Production Budgeting, Agdex 831; free, new factsheet.

08-057: Deterioration of Concrete Tower Silos, Agdex 732; free, replaces factsheet 90-235

PD Philpot & Delgaty
INSURANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICES
Insuring Farms since 1910.
Contact David Toivonen today!
800 E. Victoria Avenue, Thunder Bay 807-623-9022

KAEMINGH FUELS LTD.
ESSO Sales Agency
P.O. Box 236
Emo, ON P0W 1E0
Ph: 807-482-2390
Fax: 807-482-2635
1-800-465-7769

Esso
Imperial Oil
Arnold Kaemingh: 482-2311
David Kaemingh: 482-2468

Serving the Rainy River District
with Quality Esso Fuel & Lubricant Products

TAIT BROS. CONTRACTING LTD
Drainage Specialists



PETER ZANDSTRA
(807) 939-1784
THUNDER BAY

JOHN TAIT
(888) 268-TAIT
GRAND VALLEY, ON

Gencor
Committed to Serving our Members!
R.R. #6 Thunder Bay, Ont. P7C 5N5
Head Office: 1-888-821-2150
<http://www.gencor.ca>

Productivity Improvement Using Microsoft Outlook®

This day long workshop on productivity training and time management solutions will help you integrate communications, tasks, activities and planning using Microsoft Outlook®. This workshop will show you how to reconfigure your task pad enabling you to focus on your priorities, how to communicate more effectively and how to fulfill and coordinate your commitments, all of which will contribute to a measurable increase in productivity at work and at home.

The cost of this day long workshop is \$545.00 with refreshments and lunch included. The workshop will be offered from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the ACC Farmers' Financial Boardroom, Ontario AgriCentre, 100 Stone Road West, Guelph, on:

- o Tuesday, February 24, 2009
- o Tuesday, June 16, 2009

For more information and to register for this workshop please contact *The Centre for Rural Leadership* at 519-826-4204.

TBARS Research Results Revealed

Thunder Bay Agriculture Research Station will have its 2008 Research results presentation by Dr. Sahota on February 10, 2009 at the Founders Museum, starting at 1pm. This presentation is only for the paid up members and the ones who want to become a member of TBARS.

Refreshment will be served.

TBARS members, now is the time to sit down with Dr. Sahota for crop and nutrient management planning for the 2009 crop season. Those who have consulted Dr. Sahota in the past, not only got higher crop yields and better quality, but also saved on input cost.

Dr. Sahota can be reached at 1-807-475-1373 or tarloksahota@tbaytel.net.

Dr. Sahota's service is free of charge to members of TBARS.

Ontario Cattlemen's Association Annual General Meeting - "Close to Home"

February 25-26, 2009

All Day

DoubleTree International Plaza Hotel, 655 Dixon Road, Toronto

ADOPT ADVANTAGE GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES FOR FOOD SAFETY AT THE FARM

Food safety is everyone's responsibility! That's why Ontario has introduced the *Advantage Good Agricultural Practices* for Ontario farmers. This resource covers food safety practices at the farm. It offers a whole-farm approach covering all aspects of crop and livestock production. The practices can be applied to any farm, regardless of size, farming methods or products produced. For multi-commodity farms, the *Advantage* manual allows farmers to use only one resource and keep one set of records. OMAFRA offers a series of free workshops to help you with your food safety needs. Current workshop topics include irrigation water, post-harvest water, manures and composts, hygiene, risk assessment, multi-commodity on-farm food safety and an introduction to traceability. Participants will receive a copy of the *Advantage Good Agricultural Practices* manual plus additional resource materials related to the workshop topics.

Look for workshops in the Northwest in April

Why do it? How do I do it? Who are the Certifiers? What are the New Canadian Regulations all about?

Monday February 23, 2009: 7:00 pm, Millbrook Lions Hall

This session will be open to all commodities. Sponsored by the Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario (EFAO) and Kawartha Heritage Conservancy. There will be no charge to attend. Please register by contacting Carolyn Geer, 705-439-2692 carolyn.geer@sympatico.ca

EMO FEED SERVICE LTD.

YOUR ONE STOP FARM SHOP

Box 26, Emo, Ontario P0W 1E0

Phone (807) 482-2017 Fax (807) 482-2207

Feed – Seed - Fertilizer

Farm Supplies – Fencing

Gallagher Power Fencing

Committed to helping Agriculture Grow in Northwestern Ontario.
Proud participant of the Annual Spring Farm Conference.



For more information, contact one of our Commercial Account Managers:

Shirlee Bayda-Clace (807) 343-1435
Roberta Simpson (807) 343-1445

BMO Bank of Montreal

What's next for you?

© Registered trade-marks of Bank of Montreal

An Introduction to Organic Certification

DAWSON RANCH SUPPLIES

-Kelln Solar 4 Season Livestock Water Systems (for your Environmental Farm Plan project)

-Morand Cattle Handling Systems

-Super Trail Bale Feeders & Fence Panels

-Cypress Industries Creep & Bunk Feeders

-Electric Fencing Supplies

John (807) 483-5893

or

Amos (807) 483-7717



Farm Credit Canada - Financement agricole Canada

Agriculture. It's all we do.
L'agriculture... notre raison d'être.

1-800-387-3232

Stinky Neighbours? What Happens When people Make Complaints

By: Finbar Desir, Innovation, Engineering and Program Delivery Unit

With farms, woods, wildlife and fresh air, rural residents cherish the charm and beauty of the countryside. Many people move from cities seeking peace and a pristine environment in the country.

Most people understand that a rural community includes farmers and that farming is a business. Ontario's agriculture and food sector employs 650,000 people and contributes more than \$30 billion to the province's economy every year. This means that certain activities take place according to a production schedule; and some affect residents living close to farms. In almost all cases, farmers and their rural neighbours get along well together. However, there are some exceptions.

Last year (2007-08) the ministry received 203 complaints related to farm practices. Of these, 103 (51%) were about odour. The others were mainly about noise (35 %) and dust (8 %). The odour complaints are generally related to:

- farmers spreading manure on fields
- fans ventilating livestock barns
- manure piles
- mushroom farms.

To manage conflict about farm practices, the Ontario government enacted the Farming and Food Production Protection Act (FFPPA). This act establishes the Normal Farm Practices Protection Board (NFPPB) to determine "normal farm practices". When a person complains about odour or other nuisance from a particular farming practice, the board has the authority to hear the case and decide whether the practice is a "normal farm practice". If it is, the farmer is protected from any legal action regarding that practice.

Traditionally, when people make complaints about farm practices, a regional agricultural engineer works with all parties involved to

resolve the conflict. This year (2008-09), the branch's environmental specialists have joined the engineers in resolving complaints. The board requires that any complaint go through this conflict resolution process before it comes to a hearing.

Each year, through the conflict resolution process, branch staff have resolved the vast majority of complaints. In 2007-08, only six of the 203 cases resulted in hearings before the board. Of these, only two were odour cases. Thus, while odours remain the biggest cause of complaints about farm practices, branch staff working through the conflict resolution process has proved very effective in dealing with them.



SUNRISE EQUIPMENT & SERVICE
KING OIL DISTRIBUTOR

NT OIL ADDITIVE & SUPER SOLVENT AW 32
PERFORMANCE OILS - ENGINES TRANS. DIFFS.
HYD. - ATF - HYDROSTATS - ETC - PETRO & SYNTH.
GAS & FUEL CONDITIONERS - GREASE

BOX 46
BARWICK, ONTARIO P0W 1A0
PHONE/FAX: (807) 487-2620

HARRY STEINER
Owner



Jones
Associates Insurance
(2002) Inc.

Jeffrey M. Jones

521 Memorial Avenue
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 3Y6
Office: (807) 343-9444
e-mail: jjones@jonesins.com

Direct Line: (807) 766-2086
Cell: (807) 476-8651
Fax: (807) 345-4955
Home: (807) 767-1556

Wood Ash Available

Thunder Bay Farmers are invited to apply for wood ash to be used as a soil amendment. There is a large stock of ash available. If we don't use it, we'll lose it. Please call Linda Turk 577-4787 or email lindat@tbaytel.net for an application or renewal



LC Digesters

Low Cost, Compact, Automatic and Portable
Guaranteed Performance !

Biogas, dewatering and fertilizer products
Grant application assistance

Rick Harmer, Sales agent
(807) 767-8590
Email ec-rick@tbaytel.net

OSCIA WEBSITE

VISIT US AT

www.ontariosoilcrop.org

Important Points from CCA Annual Meeting 2009

Dr. Tarlok Singh Sahota CCA

This was my second year of attending CCA (Certified Crop Advisors) Annual Meeting (Cambridge, January 14-15, 2009). There were ~13 topics covered by over 13 speakers (researchers/or specialists) from Canada and USA. Important points that could be of interest to our growers from some of the speakers are as follows:

Bruce A. Babcock, Iowa state University - Socio Economic Impact of US Ethanol:

➤ US Ethanol industry showed 15% to >30% growth, and the production capacity went for

above the requirement (7.5 billion gallon RFS i.e. renewable fuel supply).

➤ Ethanol profits can't be high for long. Ethanol plants were making \$3/gallon (for corn processed it worked out to be \$9/gallon) in 2005, which has now come down to \$0.20/gallon. At the moment disinvestment is going on and no new ethanol plant is being built, but there are enough plants for corn producers. There is continuation of US ethanol policy; RFS requirements have been raised to 15 billion gallons.

➤ Despite high fertilizer prices, farmers made money by growing corn and soybean.

➤ Poultry industry in USA is shrinking because of high feed cost. Net feed grains supply increased only by 14% as compared to 30% increase in food grains production (because part of the grains was used for ethanol production). About 35% of US corn was used for ethanol production.

➤ Ethanol plants are largely setting the prices of corn. Stable ethanol industry stabilizes corn prices!

➤ For 2009, US needs ~84 million acres under corn to meet RFS targets. Corn prices, relative to soybean, need to be high enough to plant corn in such acreage. Because of RFS, corn prices in 2009 are likely to go up!

John Gavloski, Extension Entomologist, Manitoba – Leaf Hoppers:

➤ World wide 20,000 species of leaf hoppers have been described, out of which 1262 species are found in Canada (359 in Manitoba).

➤ Potato Leaf Hopper (alfalfa, beans, cereals and potato) and Aster Leaf Hopper that spreads Aster Yellow virus in vegetable crops, and infests flax and canola are the economically most important leaf hoppers. Phyllody, a disorder in which floral parts are replaced by leaves in canola, is caused by Aster Leaf Hopper. Phyllody prevents seed production. One of the major differences between the two leaf hoppers is that Potato Leaf Hopper has white eyes, whereas Aster Leaf Hopper has dark eyes.

➤ Other potentially economical leaf hoppers are Grape Leaf Hopper and Three Band Leaf Hopper.

➤ Their mouth parts have two tubes; one injects saliva (results into leaf burn) and the other sucks sap.

➤ Potato Leaf Hoppers (PLH) from alfalfa moved to soybean fields after alfalfa harvesting. Economic threshold in alfalfa varieties resistant to PLH was higher than susceptible varieties. Mixed cultivation of alfalfa with grasses is known to reduce intensity of PLH infestation in alfalfa.

Michael Cahn, University of California – Irrigation/Fertigation of Vegetable and Berry Crops:

➤ California accounted for 80% of US lettuce production and together with broccoli it is a \$22 billion industry.

➤ Yield of cool season vegetables and berries is sensitive to water stress and nitrogen (N) fertilizer application. Average N uptake by lettuce is <130 lb/acre (<90 lb/acre is removed by harvested parts), whereas growers on an average apply ~200 lb N/acre. There are a few rotational crops to scavenge residual N; soils have a luxury amount of N. Phosphorus fertilizer application rates are much higher than needed.

➤ Sprinklers are used for establishing vegetables and strawberries that lead to ~30% loss of applied water through runoff (that carries along dissolved nutrients, pesticides and other sediments leading to eutrophication). Water application rates by farmers were usually double than the crops' requirements. University of California is advising drip irrigation (drip lines 1-2 inches below the soil) even for establishing crops, and weather based irrigation scheduling to minimize run off losses of water and N. Even though there is a challenge to move water laterally to seed line, area under drip irrigation has doubled since 2002.

➤ The university has also developed a quick N test; >20 ppm soil nitrate N meant that there was enough N in the soil for current growth. On an average ~65 lb N /acre could be saved.

➤ Agronomic threshold for Phosphorus application in lettuce was 50 ppm.

➤ Use of polyacrylamide with irrigation water helped to keep the sediments in the fields and dramatically reduced impact of agriculture on water quality. Polyacrylamide contains carbon and

nitrogen and degrades naturally in the soil; a lot of organisms liked to eat it.

Mario Tenuta, University of Manitoba – Soil Health:

➤ While soil health referred to continued capacity of the soil to function as a living system, it was soil quality that was related more to productivity. Soil quality means capacity of a soil to function within ecosystem boundaries to sustain biological productivity, maintain environmental quality and promote plant and animal health.

➤ Plant roots are covered by bacteria and fungi. Bacteria are the dominant microorganisms in tilled soil and make Sulphur available to plants. Fungi attack nematodes to get nitrogen.

➤ Fungi die if the soil is kept fallow for over 6 months (to 22 months) and the crop yields drop down. Fungi build soil structure through large size soil aggregates that promote infiltration and aeration. Corn, peas, lentil and alfalfa have high (60-80%) root coverage by mycorrhizal fungi that dissolve mineral soil phosphorus and make it available to crop plants. Flax has the high (>90%) and sorghum, Sudan grass and soybean medium (40-60%) root coverage by the fungi. Canola reduced mycorrhiza and yield of the following wheat crop. Mycorrhizal fungi hate tillage and there colonization is more in no till than in the tilled soils.

➤ Microbial grazers (Rotifers) eat bacteria and fungi and release nutrients held by them.

➤ An acre of good soil contained 63,000 earthworms; they will bring to the surface 2 inches of new top soil every 10 years (Charles Darwin).

➤ Nematodes are small worms (0.5-4 mm long) present in all soils (30-60 species in a handful soil; 10,000-15,000/kg soil). Nematodes belong to 3 categories; plant predators (e.g. soybean cyst nematode) – more prevalent in warm areas, microbial grazers, and predators of pests (including other nematodes). The latter two categories are farmer friendly, and are sensitive to soil disturbance and agrochemicals.

➤ To build soil health, Mario advised to rotate wisely, increase soil organic matter

(through high biomass crops, perennial crops, cover crops, reduced tillage, animal manure), change mind set (you are also growing soil organisms), and include building soil health through critters below ground in your annual farm plans. Good advice! Isn't it?

Albert Tenuta, OMAFRA – Meeting the Challenge; New Emerging and Old Pests:

- *Goss's Wilt*, a bacterial corn disease, was recorded in Michigan during 2008. The bacteria could over winter on corn grain and residue. Green foxtail, barnyard grass and shattercane were the alternate hosts.
- *Western Bean Cutworm* is a new pest recorded in Ontario in corn last year that inflicts a serious damage to the corn cob. The pest has two broad stripes on the neck unlike corn earworm that has a pinkish top.

Sheng Li, University of Manitoba – Tillage Erosion:

- Tillage erosion (TE) is the net redistribution of soil resulting from the variability in soil translocation by tillage. It could lead to 20-100 t/ha soil loss on 15-30% of cultivated landscape. Risk of TE decreased in Canada between 1981 and 2001; 50% of the cultivated land has very low TE risk and was sustainable!
- Addition of 10 cm top soil to severely eroded hill tops increased crop yields by 10%-33% in wet years and 39%-133% in dry years.

Other presentations included Disease resistance in common bean, Improving the competitiveness and profitability of farming, Improving managers on the farm, Developments in forage harvesting, Canada's Weed Seed Order and invasive plants in Canada, Sprayers and Nozzles: Water volumes and droplet sizes and their impact on pest management and crop production, and Source water protection for which I can share my notes with the member farmers (or try to write another note later). I also have the contact information of the speakers that could be shared with the member farmers.

**Thunder Bay District Veterinary Services Committee
Annual Meeting
February 24, 2009
8:00 pm**

Rosslyn Community Centre

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Minutes of the Last Annual Meeting
3. Business Arising from the Minutes
4. New Business
5. Financial Statement
6. Elections
7. Adjournment

For more information, contact Carol Maki,
Secretary-Treasurer, 625-0030

**OSCIA WEBSITE
VISIT US AT
www.ontariosoilcrop.org**

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
Telephone 807-475-1373 Fax 807-475-1313
TBARS website (www.tbars.net)
Email: tarloksahota@tbaytel.net

NORTHERN ONTARIO REGIONAL OFFICE

Caldwell Township Hall Building
Hwy 64, Box 521, Verner P0H 2M0
Telephone: 1-800-461-6132 Fax: 705-594-9675

GROWING YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

2009 Value Plus™ — QUEST FOR NEW FARM VALUE
2-Day Workshops



Who should attend these workshops?

Farm and rural based entrepreneurs who want to learn how to tap into new market place and value added opportunities.

Workshop Leaders:

Ontario farm business owners, entrepreneurs and advisors will share lessons learned and best practices to engage participants in evaluating new product and service ideas and steps to successfully

You Will Benefit From These Workshops By Learning How to:

- Identify, find and evaluate new value added ideas
- Put your ideas into action using the seven step value added development process
- Connect with the right market channels
- Find innovative ways to market your products and services
- Build a business that can support your new idea
- Create a dynamite, but simple business plan
- Finance the different stages of your new ventures
- Save time and money in the development process
- Price your products properly
- Manage your risk

Over The Two Days You Will:

- Explore case studies of how innovative rural and farm businesses developed their value added ideas and opportunities
- Follow a new product from conception to integration into the marketplace
- Take home lots of practical and useful tips

Workshop Limited to 25 participants.
Pre Registration required.

Cost for the 2-Day Workshop is \$75.00

Rainy River and Area Value Plus™

QUEST FOR NEW FARM VALUE

2-Day Workshop

Emo Inn, Emo, Ontario

Day 1—Fri. Feb. 6th

Day 2—Sat. Feb. 7th

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Registration 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Contact Angela (807) 274-3276

