

June 2008

NORTHWEST LINK

Thunder Bay * Rainy River * Kenora Districts

Northwestern Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Associations

Nutrient Management BMP Demonstration Grant available

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) has allocated funding to Organizations supporting demonstration projects targeting any producers not regulated by the Nutrient Management Act. Up to \$20,000 of grant funds are available for innovative demonstration and validation field projects related directly to improving the management of nutrients on agriculture lands within Ontario.

These funds are administered through the Nutrient Management BMP Demonstration Grant. Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) will deliver the grant on behalf of OMAFRA, but the grants are available to any agricultural organization, Conservation Authority, college or university. OSCIA is a non-profit farm organization, representing a credible, active grassroots voice, devoted to communicating and facilitating responsible, economic management of soil, water, air and crops.

OSCIA has issued this Request for Proposal to solicit project proposals for funding consideration under the Nutrient Management BMP Demonstration Grant Program. Enclosed are the eligibility criteria and details of funding available. All templates required for application are attached and are also available on the OSCIA website www.ontariosoilcrop.org
Request for proposals issued – May 2, 2008

- 1st round letter of intent deadline – 4:30 pm June 2, 2008
- 1st round proposal submission deadline – 4:30 pm June 27, 2008
- 2nd round letter of intent deadline – 4:30 pm October 13, 2008
- 2nd round proposal submission deadline – 4:30 pm November 7, 2008

For more information, please contact:
Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association
c/o Deanna Deaville
1 Stone Road West
Guelph, ON N1G 4Y2
1-800-265-9751 Tel: 519-826-4219 Fax: 519-826-4224
deanna.deaville@ontariosoilcrop.org

Survey Winners

Thank you to everyone who completed a survey for Northwest Link. Results will be published in the July Issue.

District winners are:

Rainy River: Stan Armstrong

Kenora: Fritz Kamm

Thunder Bay: Fritz Jaspers

Action taken as a result of this information is solely the responsibility of the user. We reserve the right to edit articles.

Scholarship Winners

Two winners have been selected for the Brian Schubert Memorial Scholarship, Both Ms. Vicki Sansoucy and Mr. Josh Jackson are attending Kemptville College with plans to return to their family dairy farms.

Temiskaming Federation of Agriculture will be pleased to begin receiving next year's applicants any time after Sept 30/08.



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Alternate 807.482.3983

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McGuinty Government Inks Deal To Boost R&D, Food Safety, Environment

The partnership between the Ontario government and the University of Guelph that resulted in the Omega-3 egg is being renewed and improved. Under an agreement announced today, the university will receive \$300 million over the next five years to help it continue its top-notch agri-food and rural research and development programs, animal health and food testing services, and veterinary education. This is in addition to \$56 million in one-time funding announced in the 2008 Ontario Budget. The partnership also provides Ontario with improved methods to detect animal diseases such as rabies and tuberculosis, protecting lives and livelihoods.

More information available at:
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/infores/releases/2008/042808.htm>

Band Aid Solutions for Winter Killed Alfalfa Fields

Dr. Tarlok Singh Sahota CCA

Alfalfa, the premier forage legume grown in Ontario, often suffers from winter kill. It is advisable to assess the alfalfa stand for survival and plant health in early spring. Count the number of healthy crown (plants) from ~20 randomly selected areas in the field. The minimum number of healthy plants per square foot should be 12 to 20 plants for 1st year stand, 8 to 12 plants for second year stands and 5 plants for a third year or older stand. However, number of stems per square foot, when plants are 6 inches tall, is considered better way to decide whether to keep an alfalfa field as such or to find some band aid solutions for such a field. Stem density of more than 50-55 per square foot does not limit the yield; stem density of 40-55 per square foot will limit the yield and a stem density of less than 40 per square foot will severely limit alfalfa yield.

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.

Stem density may not always be uniform throughout the field. Patchy winterkilled fields can

be drill seeded with annual rye grass @10-20lb/acre. The addition of 1/2 to 3/4 bu/acre of a small grain could provide quicker cover and weed control and boost first cutting yield. For milk cows, wheat would likely provide the most palatable silage, followed by oats, then barley. Red clover @8-12lb/ac, which can better handle low spots and improve the protein quality of the haylage, should be preferred for seeding low spots. Uniformly thinned out alfalfa fields may be retained at least for a first cutting, more so if short-term forage supply is really low. There is little benefit to inter-seeding into uniformly thin stands. Oats can be seeded in such fields after the first cut if the soil moisture is adequate. Come back to alfalfa/alfalfa grasses mixture next year, if need be, especially on sandy soils that have less persistence to alfalfa auto toxicity. Consider replacing alfalfa in badly damaged fields (<40 stems/square foot) by seeding silage corn (highest tonnage option) or annual ryegrass (high quality grass option); or annual ryegrass + clover or oats followed by alfalfa reseeded in summer on lighter soils with adequate moisture. On heavier soils, it's best to wait until next spring to attempt to reseed alfalfa to avoid potential auto toxicity damage. Small grain(s) + peas can provide good quality forage within two months after planting. Soybean harvested at green pod stage is another option for such fields. If some one is looking for nearly as good dry matter yield and protein content in forage as in alfalfa, soybean and clover seem to be the only choices. Small grains harvested at boot stage will have almost as much protein content as alfalfa, but the dry matter yield from small grains at this stage will only be about half of that from alfalfa. Dry matter yield from small grains at milk stage will equal that from alfalfa, though not without ~25% loss in protein yield per acre. Turnip tops have about 20% protein; turnips for pasturing could therefore be a good option, especially for seeding during mid June to mid July. Growers may like to experiment with two new crops; berseem (an annual forage legume) and teff (an annual grass) as short term alternatives. I will reveal more about these crops in my next note! A part of the Ontario Field Crop Report April 30,

2008, on alfalfa, reproduced below may be of interest to the readers:

“Consider replacing the stand if there are less than 40 stems per square foot, especially if the crown and root health is poor. Older alfalfa stands which have been thinned out can be reseeded with a drill as soon as the ground firms up using either red clover (3.5–5.5 kg/ha), white clover (2-4 kg/ha), orchard grass (3.5-5.5 kg/ha), or perennial ryegrass (4-5.5 kg/ha), depending on the anticipated future life of the stand. Applying new alfalfa seed to an established alfalfa field, in order to thicken a stand, is rarely successful due to auto toxicity.”

Winter kill avoidance strategy: Seed alfalfa in to well drained fields with soil pH of 6.1-6.6; apply wood ash/or lime to soils with lower pH. Ensure adequate supplies of potassium (120-160ppm), sulphur (20-30lbs/acre) and boron (~1lb/acre). Sulphur and boron contribute to root sugars and proteins and hence help alfalfa in winter survival more than perhaps potassium does. Use disease resistant varieties with low fall dormancy ratings. Prefer seeding alfalfa mixed with reed canary grass and smooth brome grass (winter hardy) or orchard grass and tall fescue (lack some cold tolerance) or high-quality, short-term grasses like perennial ryegrass and festuloliums (meadow fescue x ryegrass hybrid). Delay second cutting until about 50% bloom or at 2-3 inches regrowth from crown, but don't go into critical fall harvest period (<200 or >500 GDD). Harvesting alfalfa in the last 4 to 6 weeks of the growing period has been associated with reduced yield and persistence of stands. Leaving 6-8 inch stubble or unharvested strips in the field are options to not cutting in the fall and can be effective in catching snow. This will help reducing the risk of winter injury. Old stands are more susceptible to winter kill; rip off/replace stands older than 3-4 years.

Winter kill stand by strategy: Seed 20-30 acres under winter wheat; harvest it at boot stage (dry matter of ~2 tonne/acre) as hay in the event of alfalfa winter kill, otherwise keep it for grain production. Reseed winter wheat harvested at boot stage with oats/barley with or without alfalfa under good soil moisture conditions or consider seeding soybean for forage.

Weather at TBARS during April-May 2008

By Harjit Dhillon

Month	Average Maximum (°C)	Average Minimum (°C)	Extremes (°C)	Total Rainfall (mm)
April	6.9	-3.8	19°C & -11°C	50.8
May (up to 19 th)	10.9	-1.3	19°C & -6°C	54.6

In April 2008 average maximum temperature remains 2°C below the normal whereas average minimum temperature noticed 0.5°C below the normal. Total rainfall remains more than 20 mm above the normal.

In May 2008, same way average maximum temperature remains 5.5°C below the normal and average minimum temperature was about 4°C below the normal. Total rainfall also seems to be above normal

Send your articles to: Linda Turk
 R. R. #1 Kakabeka Falls, Ontario P0T 1W0
807-577-4787 (voice), 807-577-4459 (fax)
Email: lindat@tbaytel.net

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

Organic Information

ON Organic is intended to be a newsletter for organic producers. The url for the newsletter is:
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/organic/news/news-organic.html>

Upcoming Dates

June 2, 2008
 4-H Leader's Meeting
 7:30 p.m. - Barwick Hall

June 10, 2008
 Semen Order
 Call Kim Jo - 482-2863

June 18, 2008
 RRCA Director's Meeting
 7:30 p.m.- Stratton Municipal Office

July 22, 2008
 TENTATIVE DATE
 EARS Open House / RRSCIA Tour
 (Watch for further details.)

September 6, 2008
 Cattle Sale
 Stratton Sales Barn
 Call Clayton Teeple - 807-487-1465

October 4, 2008
 Cattle Sale
 Stratton Sales Barn
 Call Clayton Teeple - 807-487-1465

October 25, 2008
 Cattle Sale
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Mark the calendar now!



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RRCA considering co-mingled / pre-sort sale

The Rainy River Cattlemen's along with the Sales Barn Manager, Clayton Teeple have been tossing around the idea of having co-mingled / pre-sort sale. There are all kinds of details that need to be worked out - but we need to know - would the producers be interested in participating in this??? With the new RFID equipment installed - it is one the steps that would help us make this happen. We are open to ideas and suggestions and Clayton is hoping to get to talk to as many of you as possible. It is known that the buyers like large, uniform lots - and if we could put some nice packages together that would fill their trucks more quickly - we think this would benefit us all. Please let us know ; the Sales Barn Success will depend on us moving in the right direction to keep both our producers and buyers happy! Clayton can be reached at 807-487-1465 - if you would prefer to email comments you can email Jason Teeple at jkteeple@jam21.net. We are truly hoping to hear from you! The current Sales Barn Committee is Jason Teeple, Herb Govier & Clayton Teeple - feel free to talk to anyone of them.



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May EARS Report

Hello! What can I say... cold and wet! I am not sure what to think about this early Easter, early time change: I think it means late everything else!

My students have started. I have two new students this year: Matt McQuaker, eldest son of Bud & Donna McQuaker who is in an engineering program at University of Manitoba, and Shannon Darby, youngest daughter of Bill Darby and Deb Cornell who is taking Music at University of Brandon. We are all anxious for better weather. We did manage to plant some on May 8th but we have not yet been able to return to the land. Of course we are wet from the rain we had this week, but the main ingredient we are missing is HEAT!

Normally by now we would have harvested our spring cut of our Switch Grass Trial. Unfortunately we have some major drainage problems in our north east corner and we cannot get near our trial. It is a huge mess. We did go out and cut some Reed Canary Grass today; it is not close to the drainage problem. This is the first time this has happened, and of course we were anxious for the data this year with the On-Farm Switch Grass Trial but not much I can do about it.

On-Farm Switch Grass Trial – the producers that are participating in this exciting project are Stephan Szeder, Bernie Zimmerman, Bob LeBlanc, Tom & Jo Woolsey, Jim Teeple, Herman Krahn and Amos Brielmann. We are looking forward to this exciting project and hoping for some successful partnerships in the future.

We have another interesting project we are organizing right now. Currently we are calling it "The Green Manure Project." We are looking at doing some strip trials of Buckwheat, Red Clover

(double cut), Red Clover (single), Red Clover / Sweet Clover Mix and Hairy Vetch. Also, Common Vetch, Oil Seed Radish, Braco Mustard and Hybrid Pearl Millet have been suggested but depending on seed access and area to plant will determine if we make the trial this large. Our plans are to soil sample prior to planting, plough down and soil sample again. With the price of fertilizer high and continuing to rise there seems to be a lot of interest in this project and it looks like we are going to have some similar type of work on a few farms as well. Stay tuned...

Last year RRSCIA established a couple of cicer milk vetch plots on a couple of farms and here at the Station. I understand a few Dryden producers are going to try and establish some Sanfoin this year. We decided to do a bit of Legume Comparison Trial this year, so we will have a small trial with Alfalfa, Birds Foot Trefoil, Cicer Milk Vetch and Sanfoin in it. Again this will be worth checking out. Our block of Cicer Milk Vetch here at the Station has survived the winter; it is not as high as the alfalfa, but it is visible and I am sure some good heat would see it sprout right up.

We are still awaiting seed so I guess this weather that isn't co-operating isn't so bad for that situation.

You can mark your calendar; it looks like we are planning the Open House / RRSCIA Field Tour for July 22, 2008. There are of course further details to be worked out but we hope you will all be able to make it.

So, I hope by next month at this time our cattle have made it to pasture. The crops are up and the air conditioners are running...

Drop in anytime!

Kim Jo kbliss@uoguelph.ca 807-482-2354

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HARRY STEINER
Owner

Looking for some partners
and/or suggestions...

As some of you may have seen, Ontario Soil and Crop announced a new Nutrient Management Grant. The grant is for innovative demonstration and validation field projects related to improving the management of nutrients on agriculture lands. (DEADLINE FOR LETTERS OF INTENT IS JUNE 2.)

Eligible projects include innovative demonstration and validation field projects related directly to improving the management of nutrients on agricultural lands. So, more or less anything that you will find in the Best Management Practice books...

John Rowsell has suggested that in Emo we do something in regard to nutrient leaching in our drainage problem areas. We have some major problems with some tiles near the back of the place and possibly we could plant a crop requiring heavy fertilizer and monitor nutrient flow...??? BUT WE WILL NEED A PARTNER! RRCA, RRFA or RRSCIA would be awesome!

We are open for any other type of suggestions. In New Liskeard they are planning to do some manure work but they have a beef herd at the Station.

So - please get in touch with me or John Rowsell at 705-647-8525 jrowsell@uoguelph.ca - as soon as possible as the deadline is fast approaching.

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2007/2008 stats for the wildlife damage programs

WILDLIFE DAMAGE PROGRAMS - 2007/2008 FISCAL YEAR	# OF CLAIMS	COMPENSATION AMOUNTS
Wolf/Coyote Predation Program <i>(Established under the Livestock, Poultry and Honey Bee Protection Act)</i>	3,161	\$1,038,618.
Damage to Honey Bee Colonies by Bears Compensation Program <i>(Established under the Livestock, Poultry and Honey Bee Protection Act)</i>	89	\$38,488.
Bear Damage to Livestock Compensation Program <i>(Established by Order-in-Council)</i>	62	\$36,584.
Total =	3,312	\$1,113,690.

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Brochures on Geese and Farms

Environment Canada through Canadian Wildlife Service has 2 brochures on Canada Geese and Farms and Canada Geese and Shorelines available for viewing and distribution.

A PDF version of each brochure can be found at <http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/publications-e.html>. There are many other publications available there as well. Email orders can be placed at Wildlike.Ontario@ec.gc.ca


In light of some of the problems last year with geese readers may be interested in these links



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Sharecropping Practices and Ontario Pesticide Regulations

Prepared by: John Negusanti and Don Mitchell, MOE
Regional Pesticide Specialists, Northern Region

Background

Sharecropping is an arrangement where two or more farmers enter into an agreement to share the tasks, expenses and profits of producing a crop on land owned by one of the farmers. Financial compensation arrangements may vary and usually involve some form of cost/profit sharing agreement. Since skills and resources are shared, only one of the partners may have pesticide training and certification. When pesticides are used, pesticides classified in schedules 2 & 5 can only be purchased and applied by the partner that holds a current Grower's Pesticide Safety Certificate (GPSC) or Agricultural class Exterminator's Licence. Where pesticides classified in Schedule 1 are used an approved permit to purchase and use a pesticide is also required.

Purchasing Pesticides

Pesticides classified in Schedules 2 & 5 can only be sold by a General Vendor to the holder of a GPSC or Agricultural class Exterminator's License. In addition, pesticides classified in Schedule 1 can only be sold to a person holding a valid permit to purchase and use a pesticide.

Fees for Using Pesticides

The Ontario *Pesticides Act* and Regulation 914 do not allow the farmer with the GPSC to receive a fee for the purchase and application of pesticides unless he is the holder of a current Pesticide Operators Licence issued by MOE. The GPSC holder may not receive payment for the performance of the extermination, but may account for the exact cost of the pesticide product used if the following conditions are met:

1. The extermination is performed on farm land that is not owned by the GPSC holder,
2. The extermination is performed by means of a schedule 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 pesticide, AND
3. The extermination is performed by the operation at any given time of only one piece of application

equipment and that equipment is normally used on the GPSC holders own farm land."

Vendors Records and Transportation

General vendors are required to keep records for sales of pesticides classified in Schedules 1.2 & 5.

With authorization from the GPSC or License holder, the partner without the GPSC or licence can can pick up, and transport the pesticide from the vendor to the pesticide storage or treatment site. The partner without the GPSC or license may not pay for the pesticide and the vendor's records must clearly indicate the name of the person to whom the pesticide was transferred.

Related Articles: Ontario Agri Business Association Newsletter Spring 2008 <http://www.oaba.on.ca/>

For further information, please contact:

<p>Northern Region West Don Mitchell 435, James St. S Suite 331 Thunder Bay, ON., P7E 6S7 1-800-875-7772, 807-475-1712</p>	<p>Northern Region East John Negusanti 199 Larch St. Sudbury, ON., P3E 5P9 1-800-890-8516, 705-564-3249</p>
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USEFUL CONTACT INFO

CROP RESEARCH STATIONS

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

Thunder Bay Agricultural Research Association
Research and Business Manager
Dr. Tarlok Singh Sahota, CCA
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Fax: 807-475-1313

TBARS website (www.tbars.net)
Email: tarloksahota@tbaytel.net

NORTHERN ONTARIO SPECIALISTS

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Email: Barry.Potter@ontario.ca

Julie Poirier Mensinga, Ag Business Management Specialist, Verner

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Email: Julie.Poiriermensinga@ontario.ca

NORTHERN ONTARIO REGIONAL OFFICE

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Mary Ellen Norry Car, Regional Manager, North
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Rudy Buitenhuis, Agricultural Representative

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EMO OFFICE

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Gary Sliworsky, Agricultural Representative

Email: gary.sliworsky@ontario.ca

Visit OMAFRA on the internet at

www.ontario.ca/omafra

Here you will find information on Ontario's agri-food industry and rural communities and the services and programs OMAFRA provides.

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Thunder Bay Cattlemen's Marketing
Committee

Update on Branded Beef Program

As announced at our annual meeting in January the Thunder Bay Cattlemen's have been working towards developing a local branded beef. From discussions at various meetings in the fall of 2007 the following brand characteristics are proposed:

“Superior Choice Beef”:

- locally born and raised
- under 20 months of age
- barley finished – 100 to 120 days
- fat colour – white/amber
- hang time 14 – 21 days
- hanging weight 600 lbs – plus or minus 50 lbs
- no dairy genetics
- no growth hormones
- no implants
- farm must be part of Quality Starts Here program and be inspected

“Superior “Light” Beef”:

- locally born and raised
- under 12 months of age
- hay/grass fed – high protein grass
- hang time 8 – 10 days
- hanging weight of 450 lbs – plus or minus 50 lbs
- no dairy genetics
- no growth hormones
- no implants
- available during specific times of the year
- farm must be part of Quality Starts Here program and be inspected

(Please note that a license to use these specific titles is still a work in progress.)

Continuing with the proposed specifics and working with the local university we have had various discussions and meetings on marketing/promotion/feasibility of development. The goal is to launch the brand into the market place this fall.

At this time the group's executive structure consists of the following:

Chairperson: Bill Groenheide

Secretary/Treasurer: Carol Maki

Directors: Bruce Forrest, Len Reid, Johan Huisman

Other: Jason and Trudy Reid, Jenny Groenheide.

Our Mission Statement:

“To locally produce and market quality beef as part of an environmental sustainable agricultural enterprise.”

On April 23 we had a “Focus Dinner” which was hosted at the Good News Café. Local butchers, general store owners, chefs and restaurant owners were invited. Positive feedback was given by all.

Anyone that is a member of the Thunder Bay Cattlemen's Association is welcome to attend our meetings/group. There is a monetary and production commitment to join in this development.

For further information please contact Carol Maki at 625-0030 or email at camaki@xplornet.com

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Environmental Farm Plan Applications

Project proposals under Environmental Farm Plans **MUST** be submitted on applications with 2008 on the first page. Any applications submitted on the old application form will be returned.

Application forms are available from the EFP coordinator for each district or from the local Ag Office.

Insects to watch 2008 – soybean aphid

Christina DiFonzo, Entomology

Source: MSU Field Crop Advisory Team Alert newsletter, Vol. 23, No. 4, May 1st, 2008

Last season was a banner year for worms and beetles, but where were the soybean aphids? Chris DiFonzo, the self-proclaimed soybean aphid queen (that's me) predicted an aphid outbreak for 2007. Where was the outbreak? Will the prediction for 2008 be equally as accurate? Let's recap the 2007 season. In the winter of that year, entomologists in the Midwest predicted a soybean outbreak. That prediction was based on two lines of evidence: suction traps and egg numbers.

The Northcentral Aphid Suction Trap network consists of over 40 traps in 10 states, running in the summer and fall. Fall catches of soybean aphid are important because they consist of winged males and females leaving soybean for buckthorn, the overwintering host. The females land on buckthorn and have daughters; the daughters mate with the males (in human terms, mating with their uncles), and lay eggs. The egg stage allows soybean aphids to survive the cold northern winters. In general, a large fall flight predicts an aphid outbreak the following year, in this way:

Large fall flight of soybean aphid leads to...
More eggs on buckthorn in the winter, which means...

Higher spring aphid populations on buckthorn in May, so there is...

A heavier flight to the soybeans in June, and finally...

An aphid outbreak in July and August.

At the end of 2006, dozens to hundreds of winged soybean aphids were captured in the suction trap network (Table 1), The numbers may not seem high, but remember the trap is a vertical PVC pipe drawing in air 25-30 feet above ground. It is sampling a small amount of air overall, so the trap catch is a tiny fraction of the aphids actually flying from soybean to buckthorn.

In the winter of 2006-07, entomologists sampled buckthorn for soybean eggs. Eggs were found at numerous locations, hundreds on branches at some

locations. Again, this may not seem very impressive, but aphid eggs are very small and generally difficult to find. Finding eggs at all, much less multiple eggs on a bud or branch, is significant. Because of the fall suction trap counts and egg numbers, we predicted an outbreak.

A spring freeze in April damaged buckthorn buds across the Midwest. In central Michigan, buckthorn shrubs growing along the edge of wood lots or the road were severely hit, and the damaged branches did not leaf out quickly, and did not support soybean aphids. However, many buckthorn shrubs further back from the edge were not damaged, and leafed out normally. Thus the aphid population was probably "dinged" a bit, but not knocked out. In Michigan, aphids colonized soybean fields as normal, beginning in early June. By mid-June, fields in the Frankenmuth area were over threshold, reminiscent of the early aphid infestation in southwest Michigan in 2005 - our last big outbreak year. Only fields planted early (in April) went over threshold; May-planted fields emerged later and missed the aphid flight that colonized the April fields. Early-planted fields in Ontario also went over threshold. The over-threshold fields were treated, and predators and parasitic wasps attacked the survivors.

Aphid numbers increased slowly until early July. Then unseasonably hot weather and minimal canopy resulted in very hot temperatures at the soil surface. In research plots, the ground was too hot to sit on. That same week, the building aphid numbers took a dive. Soybean aphids can survive hot weather when they are under a cool plant canopy, but they likely cannot tolerate 90-degree days when plants are still small. The population growth rate appeared to slow, and perhaps predators had a chance to catch up. Fields were essentially aphid-free until August, until winged aphids blew in from surrounding states. Some fields went over threshold, but for most fields it was too late to build aphid populations.

Surrounding states, northern Indiana and the Toledo, Ohio area, had a similar experience to Michigan. An outbreak was predicted, but did not materialize. In contrast, many other states did have

their predicted "aphid year." From Quebec to the Dakotas, millions of acres were treated for soybean aphid. Michigan didn't have an outbreak, but many other states did. We were the hole in the outbreak donut, so to speak.

What about 2008? Table 1 shows that the suction trap catches in the fall of 2007 were considerably lower than at the same locations in 2006, with one exception, Michigan. A couple of traps did catch aphid moving out of soybean to buckthorn. That makes some sense, because 2007 was essentially a non-outbreak year for Michigan, and low years tend to be followed by outbreak years. However, I have not found any eggs this winter on buckthorn. Across the Midwest, a low aphid year is expected in 2008, but Michigan is more of a mixed bag. We may see some pockets of infestation if certain locations have high egg numbers. The key is to scout fields to catch these potential infestations before they go over threshold.

Table 1. Soybean aphid suction trap catch in 2006 and 2007

State	Fall catch 2006	Fall catch 2007	Reduction 2006-07
Illinois	196	1	99.9%
Indiana	1472	10	99.9%
Iowa	133	2	98%
Michigan	42	31	26%
Wisconsin	32	2	94%

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