

August 2007

NORTHWEST LINK

Thunder Bay * Rainy River * Kenora Districts

Northwestern Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Associations

Stewardship Fund Deadline

The Species at Risk Stewardship Fund has been established to encourage greater public involvement in species at risk protection by supporting recovery and conservation activities.

Through this fund, \$3.0 million is available for species at risk stewardship projects for 2007-2008. Funds will be available through an application process and through direct grants to organizations already involved in stewardship activities. The deadline to apply for this year's funding is **August 20, 2007**.

Funding across the province for species at risk actions is available to landowners, farmers, Aboriginal communities/organizations, academic institutions, industries, conservation organizations and others who undertake eligible protection and recovery activities.

The Species at Risk (SAR) **Stewardship Fund** is linked to the recently passed *Endangered Species Act, 2007* and represents a commitment to a stewardship-first approach to species protection. This is the first year of a four year \$18-million fund. The SAR Stewardship Fund is encouraging your involvement in a variety of initiatives aimed at reversing the rate of species decline in Ontario. By establishing this fund we will be able to enhance the great stewardship work individuals and organizations have been doing to date.

Initiatives eligible for funding include outreach and education, habitat enhancement and recovery, youth employment and research, and support for landowner efforts to protect species and habitat.

Many of the province's species that need protection are found on private land, making voluntary stewardship activities essential to reversing the rate of species decline that is now happening in Ontario.

Through your responsible and effective stewardship actions Ontarians will assist with the prevention and decline of species at risk. You may obtain information about the Stewardship Fund by contacting MNR @ 1-705-755-5340 (JJ Beechie) or by visiting our website at:

<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/mnr/speciesatrisk/>

Please apply by using the electronic copy of the application form. Do not forget to consult the accompanying guidelines to ensure your proposed project fits well with the SAR Stewardship Fund goals, objectives and priorities. All applications will be assessed and funds will be allocated to the projects that receive the highest assessment scores.

The next call for applications will be in the fall of 2007 for 2008/09 funding and projects.

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.**

This newsletter is published monthly except for the months of April and 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.

ESN (smart Nitrogen) and Best Management Practices Fertilizer trials.

Some of you might have driven by an awful spotty looking corn field on Hwy 61 just past Jim and Wilma Mol's farm. Some parts of the field look considerably less healthy and are paler looking than the rest of the field. The reason for this is that there are two different fertilizer trials in that field.

The field was sprayed and plowed this spring. One variety of corn was planted for the whole field on May 18.

The first trial, almost right beside the highway, is the Best Management Practices (BMP) corn trial. In this trial we are looking at three different treatments on corn. Treatment # 1 is a mix of Urea, MAP and Zinc. Treatment # 2 is a mix of Urea and MESZ (MicroEssentials™ SZ). The actual percentage of nutrients is very similar in these two mixes. The fertilizer was banded with the seed in the corn planter at a rate of 180 lbs/acre. The last treatment got no fertilizer at all. We took many pictures of the rows of corn with the different treatment, which we will report on in Soil and Crop meetings later on in the year.

In this BMP trial there are significant differences in treatments. The no-fertilizer corn rows look paler and are not so tall. Treatment # 2 looks the best with nice dark green leaves. At one point in June all corn leaves had stripes on the leaves and after about two weeks the stripes in treatment # 2 disappeared. We will not speculate on what deficiency might be displayed in the corn. We took tissue samples of all treatments and are waiting for the results.

The second trial is more in the middle of the field and is the Major Project Grant trial with ESN (Environmentally Sound Nitrogen) on corn. In this trial we are looking again at three different treatments. Treatment # 1 is just Urea. Treatment # 2 is just ESN. The actual percentage of N is 46% for Urea and 44% for the ESN. The fertilizer was banded with the seed in the corn planter at a rate of 100 lbs/acre. The last treatment got no fertilizer at all. We took many pictures of this trial as well but the differences are not as prominent as in the BMP trial. In this trial all the corn looked very pale and there are no height or colour differences between treatments. ESN is

supposed to release its Nitrogen later on during the summer. With the lack of rain we had this spring we might not see the total effect of ESN. We saw the lines on the leaves in all treatments again in this trial. Tissue samples were taken at the same time it was taken in the MESZ trail and will be taken again at tasseling. We took Nitrogen Soil samples before we planted and again in June. This will give us a good indication how much N was available to the plants. We will be taking N soil samples again after harvest.

All in all, it has been very interesting to plant this trial and see so many differences already. We are looking forward to getting some of the test results back and see what they tell us. We will keep you posted.

Wilma Mol



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Quality Starts Here Course

I have some names on my list but I would like a few more. It looks like we will have the Course in later September. This is one of the steps you need to qualify for the MAP program... This is a simple, short, informative program. Please let me know and I can add your name to my list.

Kim Jo 482-2863

Upcoming events in Rainy River

RRFA Directors Meeting
August 7, 2007
7:30 p.m.
Emo

Semen Order
August 10
Call Kim Jo 482-2863

Dr. Stacey Angus will be in the area-
August 9, 10 & 11 -
To book an appointment or to order medications - call
204-326-3935
Next Dates:
(September 6, 7 & 8)
(October 18, 19 & 20)

August 14, 2007
Andrew Graham (OSCIA) and some officials from
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada will be in the
area...

RRCA Directors Meeting
August 15, 2007
4-H Work-Bee
August 13, 2007
10:00 a.m. - Emo Fairgrounds

4-H Barn Set Up
August 15, 2007
7:00 p.m. - Emo Fairgrounds

Emo Fall Fair
August 16, 17 & 18

Dryden Fall Fair
August 23, 24 & 25

August 28, 2007
John Rowsell (NLARS) and Mike Goss (U of G) -
will be visiting EARS.

RRFA Directors Meeting
September 4, 2007
7:30 p.m. - Stratton

Cattle Sale
September 8, 2007
Stratton Sales Barn

RRCA Directors Meeting
7:30 p.m.



RAINY RIVER FUTURE
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
A Community Futures Development Corporation



Angela Halvorsen
Business Investment Officer

angela@rrfdc.on.ca
www.rrfdc.on.ca

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608 Scott Street, Fort Frances, ON P9A 1H6

Recent Gencor Cow Prices

Week ending July 07, 2007
Average Hot Weight 633.03 lbs
Average Price 85.80¢/lb
Average Settlement \$543.16

Week ending July 14, 2007
Average Hot Weight 665.35 lbs
Average Price 84.80¢/lb
Average Settlement \$564.23

Week ending July 21, 2007
Average Hot Weight 645.34 lbs
Average Price 82.20¢/lb
Average Settlement \$530.55

Week ending July 28, 2007
Average Hot Weight 636.37 lbs
Average Price 80.40¢/lb Average
Settlement \$511.85

Grid range for cows has been 48.6¢ to 89.8¢ per
pound

The most recent grid range for bulls has been 83.0¢
to 90.0¢ per pound.

The range for steers and heiferettes has been 76.0¢
to 97.1¢ per pound.

Age Verification

This is a really important tool and we need to make
use of it. If you would like help with this let me know
and we can try to make it work - Kim Jo 482-2863 It
is really quite simple. We need to catch up!

Recording Pasture Events

What pasture records are you keeping for the 2007 grazing season? Was your pasture more or less productive than last year? Do you have records to show the results of each of the past year's performance for both the pasture and the livestock? These records will enable you to make comparisons that will provide valuable management information. Over time, record keeping can give you an informative picture of your grazing management, and provide the tools to make more profitable grazing decisions.

A good set of pasture records provides details of what has happened and will allow for accurate comparison from one year to the next. A pocket notebook and three-ring binder can form the basis for a good system. It can be expanded to a complex computer spreadsheet if you are so inclined.

The records can be as simple or as complicated as you wish, but can include:

weather data - rainfall amounts, frost dates, extreme summer temperatures

forage or sward - pasture species mix, fertilizer application, forage growth at different times during the grazing season

livestock - size, type and number of animals, frequency of moves to new paddocks, beginning and ending dates of grazing season, amount of residual forage, supplemental feed required.

Each year is different in the grazing business, but with records you will be able to analyze the differences. Did a lack of rain or too much rain affect production? One of the things that can happen is that lots of rain makes for green grass, yet cattle gains often are not as impressive as the grass growth. In a dry year, it often appears like the gains will be very low, and yet at weigh-off the gains can be better than might have been expected. Height and density are the two important components in sward evaluation. There are a number of tools to assist in measuring the amount of forage present, including a grazing stick or pasture plate.

With a good set of notes and records you will be able to manage your pasture for maximum returns.

Jack Kyle, Provincial Grazier Specialist, OMAFRA

Pricing Standing Hay

What is standing hay worth and what is a fair price? The price of standing hay is what the market determines it is, not necessarily what we think it should be. From the seller's point of view, the price should cover the cost of production and provide a profit. However, there are limits to what buyers can and will pay that are related to the price of livestock, as well as the availability and price of other forages.

There is a tremendous range in standing hay prices. In recent years, we have seen prices from zero to over 3¢/lb of dry hay produced. The cost of production for a hay crop is typically at least 2¢/lb. However, the market does not always recover this. Some years, standing hay might trade from 1.5 to 2¢/lb for first-cut. Hay prices are often extremely volatile until after 1st cut, when there is a better idea of what the hay supply will be for the year. Similar to 2006 when there was a good hay crop, supply can exceed demand, reducing the price paid for second- and third-cuts.

Supply & Demand!

When hay supplies are low during dry years or following winterkill, standing hay will be in demand and worth more. Poor pasture years, when hay is fed during the "summer slump", also results in greater demand. The amount of spring inventory "carryover" from one year to the next can have a big impact. Lots of hay has been advertised for sale. There appears to be the potential for adequate hay in most parts of the province.

Higher Corn & Soybean Prices?

During years of higher corn and soybean prices, land shifts from hay to grain production, especially from some of the older, low yielding hay fields. Typically, hay prices will then increase in the longer term. A decade ago when we had some higher corn and soybean prices, we also saw a much stronger market for standing hay. Hay supplies became tighter, and some standing hay prices jumped up to as high as 3 or even 4¢/lb.

Factors That Affect Price

- Cutting Date & Percent Alfalfa - The earlier the date of cutting and the better the quality, the more the standing hay will be worth. Hay cut later will be worth less per pound, but there will be more pounds. Hay stands that contain more alfalfa are usually worth more.

- Yield, Weeds & Age of Stand - Higher yielding fields will be worth more per pound because the fixed harvesting costs per acre are spread over more lbs. Generally, newer stands are worth more, while hay fields that have been seeded down for a number of years will be weedier, lower yield, and worth less.
- Location - The location of the field relative to the buyer is important. A livestock producer may be willing to pay more if he doesn't have to haul long distances. A seller needs more than one interested buyer in order to bargain a higher price.

Considerations For The Seller

Sellers should start by determining their own cost of production per pound of standing hay. In an example budget, assume a \$40 per acre land rental value, a four year hay crop, using typical custom rates and input costs, and a 6,000 lb annual hay yield in a 2-cut system. The cost of production for the standing hay in this example works out to about 2 cents per pound of dry hay, or \$120 per acre per year.

Don't Forget P & K Removal

Forage has high fertility requirements and these costs are increasing. With a mixed stand, the value of phosphorous and potassium removal is close to 1 cent/lb. As an example, assuming a mixed stand with a modest yield of 3 tons per year, hay will remove about 36 lbs of P₂O₅ and 138 lbs of K₂O, with a value of \$56 (assuming P₂O₅ @ \$0.40, K₂O @ \$0.30). Without manure or commercial fertilizer, the soil test will drop quickly. Assuming that it takes about 35 lbs/ac of P₂O₅ and 20 lbs/ac of K₂O to move the soil tests by 1 ppm on some soils, after 5 years the P₂O₅ soil test could drop by 5 ppm and the K₂O by 35 ppm.

Occasionally, standing hay is given away to avoid the down-side of leaving it in the field. The fixed costs, such as establishment, have already been paid regardless of whether or not the crop is harvested. As a minimum, a producer may want to recover the variable costs, which include the nutrient removal.

Considerations For The Buyer

Buyers should consider what their costs will be after the hay is baled. In this same example budget, swathing and raking costs 0.7 cents/lb, while large round baling costs about 0.8 cents. This means that the standing hay costing 2 cents per pound would result in

a total cost of 3.5 cents, or \$28 per bale for an 800 pound bale in the field. This may or may not reflect the local market. Also consider that in a standing hay transaction, the buyer assumes the weather risk of that hay getting rained on.

To accurately determine the pounds of hay sold it is helpful to weigh some bales or wagon loads. Pounds of haylage can be converted to a dry hay equivalent by adjusting for percent moisture.

It is important that you make your own assumptions and calculate your own costs to determine what you feel is an acceptable price. Then negotiate the best you can. Crop budgets and custom rates are available on the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs website at www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/analysis.html.

Joel Bagg, Forage Specialist, OMAFRA, Lindsay

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ONTARIO FARMERS HAVE A ROLE

As the Ontario Government moves forward, implementing the Clean Water Act, Ontario farmers are encouraged to get involved.

THE PROCESS

- The province has been divided into 19 Source Protection Regions (SPR)
- Each region will elect a Source Protection Committee (SPC)
- Every SPC will have Agricultural Representative(s) to represent farming
- Agricultural Representatives will be elected at farm meetings in each SPR

Criteria for Source Protection Committee Ag Reps:

- Must farm in the Source Protection area/region
- Must have a Farm Business Registration number
- Capable of representing the broad interests of agriculture throughout the watershed
- Will cooperate with other Ag Reps to ensure consistent representation on the SPC
- Will work with Project Manager, Martha Harris, to develop communications on the SPC process

Nominations accepted to Friday,
August 10, 2007

For nomination forms or further details, contact

Martha Harris 1-800-668-3276 • 519-821-8883
• martha.harris@ofa.on.ca • fax 519-821-8810

Or Linda Turk 1-807-577-4787
lindat@tbaytel.net



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Thank You

To the members of the Thunder Bay Cattlemen's Association who participated in the local beef promotion held at the Country Market June 30, 2007. Carol Maki for producing the brochures of local beef producers with beef for sale. MaryAnn Stewart for obtaining promotional material, banner, and for submitting the application for shared funding from Ontario Cattlemen Association. To Sherry and Gerald Dykstra, Len Reid, Bill and Jenny Groenheide, Carol Maki and Bruce Forrest for handing out brochures and answering consumer questions. To Bill and Jenny Groenheide, Sherry and Gerald Dykstra, Carol, Cheryl and Allan Maki, Jim Byers, Dennis Ellchook, Valve and Bruce Forrest for providing the delicious, tender, juicy beef. To Michael Ellchook, Betty and Sandy Ellchook and their dedicated staff of Tanis Belluz and Sarah Clasen-Byce who prepared the beef to perfection and served the samples to the nearly 2,000 people who attended the market

It was a fun day!

**Welcome to the
75th Annual Slate River Plowing Match
and Antique tractor & Equipment Show**

In conjunction with this anniversary we are proud to host the
2007 Canadian Plowing Championships

daily plowing from Sept. 5 to Sept. 7 on
Hwy 130, at the "Agriplex" field
and at Breukelman's Potato Farm

Saturday, Sept. 8, from 9 am till 3 pm
**Slate River plowing match
and final day of Canadian plowing**
on Hwy 130, at the John Hanna Seed Farm

Fund raising Buffet Dinner and Auction
Thursday, Sept. 6, at 6.30 pm
Kakabeka Falls Royal Canadian Legion

Slate River Women's Institute Turkey Dinner
Saturday, Sept. 8, from 4.30pm till 6.30 pm, at the
Roslyn Community Hall




Alta Genetics Inc.

Willem Vellinga
Alta Dairy Representative

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

**Requirements for Agricultural
Operation Planning Certificate**

Farmers in the Northwest wishing to obtain their Agricultural Operation Planning Certificate (AOPC) to prepare Nutrient Management Strategies and Plans for their farms have been able to make use of equivalencies for the Fundamentals of Nutrient

Management component of the AOPC requirements.

The deadlines to use the equivalencies have recently been extended to April 1, 2008.

A farmer who has a deemed appropriate EFP 3 workbook may apply to write a "Fundamentals" quiz. Obtaining a minimum 70% grade on the quiz will result in the applicant achieving the equivalency. A Regulations and Protocols course must also be completed in order to obtain an AOPC.

Participants in the 30xxx series of NOHFC projects may also claim the "Fundamentals" equivalency based on their attendance at the Nutrient Management courses related to those projects. When issued, AOPC certificates are valid for 5 years.

To apply to write a quiz contact:
Thel Simpson
Education Coordinator Assistant
Environmental Management Branch
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural
Affairs
519-826-4392
thel.simpson@ontario.ca

To confirm attendance at an NOHFC related course contact your Agricultural Representative.

Become Connected

Do you want to know what the Ontario Cattlemen's Association is doing? What R-Calf is up to? How country of origin labeling will affect the Canadian cattle industry? What is happening in the cattle business around the world?

The answer, my fellow cattlemen, is available by contacting:
Lianne Appleby - Communications Manager, OCA
Lianne@cattle.guelph.on.ca or 1-866-370-2333(beef) ext 230 and you will receive all this and more by weekly e-mail updates.

PROVINCE INVESTS IN RENEWABLE ENERGY

New Program Turns Greenhouse Gases From Farms Into Clean Energy

The McGuinty government is launching a new program that will help farmers and rural businesses develop and build systems that turn farm waste into clean energy.

"Developing renewable energy resources in the agri-food and rural sectors is an important part of the government's climate change initiative," said Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. "It is also an opportunity to support rural economic development and partnerships."

The \$9 million Ontario Biogas Systems Financial Assistance Program, launched by the McGuinty government, will help farmers and rural businesses carry out feasibility studies for the installation of biogas systems as well as cover a proportion of construction and implementation costs. Applicants can receive up to \$400,000 in funding.

The province is also streamlining the process that farmers follow to build bio-digesters and is providing clear standards and guidance on designing and operating these facilities.

"This is good news for the environment, for farmers, and for all Ontarians," said Laurel Broten, Minister of the Environment. "Biodigesters encourage renewable energy production and reduce greenhouse gases that cause climate change."

Biogas systems are fuelled by renewable materials like manure, crops and crop residues and food processing by-products. They can produce electricity and heat or replace conventional fuels like natural gas. Agricultural and food producers can use the electricity produced from their biogas system to meet their operation's energy demands. In addition, they can sell excess electricity to the electrical grid.

A biogas system that uses manure from 250 cows could result in 400 fewer tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions and 550 additional megawatt-hours of power production every year.

"Operations like ours generate enough material to run a biogas system," says Mark Donnan, owner of Donnandale Farms, who hosted today's announcement. "These systems benefit not only

farmers, through added revenue and cost savings, but the public as well through reductions in greenhouse gases and odours. This is a technology that will help build a greener Ontario."

Today's announcement is just one more example of how, working together, Ontarians have achieved results in rural Ontario. Other examples include:

- Investing \$32 million in the construction of new ethanol plants, which will provide jobs, economic opportunities, new markets for farmers, and cleaner air for all Ontarians.
- Launching, Ontario's ethanol-in-gasoline regulation, which calls for an annual average of 5 per cent ethanol in gasoline beginning in 2007 and will reduce annual greenhouse gas emissions by about 800,000 tonnes.
- Recognizing innovation in the province's agriculture sector by creating the five-year, \$2.5-million Premier's Awards for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence.
- Providing \$12.5 million towards research projects that support the mission of the Vineland Research and Innovations Centre Incorporated.
- Providing \$6 million to the Ontario BioAuto Council, a multi-industry initiative to position the province as a global leader in manufacturing auto parts and other materials from agricultural and forestry feedstocks.

All Ontarians have a role to play in making our province greener. The government has already taken action by making \$220 million in loans and grants available to help municipalities reduce greenhouse gas emissions; setting ambitious but realistic targets to reduce greenhouse gases below 1990 levels and launching a \$650-million fund that will help secure the next generation of high-paying jobs for Ontarians by developing new clean and green technologies.



Agricultural Protection Plan

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Pam@causewayinsurance.com

278 Algoma Street S
Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 3C2
Office 807 344-8400
Fax 807 345-0949
Contact: Wendy Cooke
Wendy@causewayinsurance.com

Quality Starts Here / Verified Beef Production

Workshop Benefits:

- Required for Market Access Program
- Basis of recording for many branded programs
- Be part of the national food safety program
- Enhance records to demonstrate due diligence
- Become eligible for cost share funding for
 - A) Hand held RFID readers
 - B) Software to track withdrawal periods
 - C) Scale/Calibration devices for medicated feeds
 - D) Neck Extensions – for head gates on chutes
 - E) Disposal container for used drug bottles

- Workshops usually set in evening (7-9pm)
Requires two hour commitment
- Workshop Cost - \$50.00
- Refresher Cost - Free

Contact your local advisory councilor for more information and to register for a fall workshop

Gerald MacRae	Kenora District	807-937-6110
Kim Jo Bliss	Rainy River	907-482-2863
Bruce Forrest	Thunder Bay	807-473-9609



TBFA Annual Meeting

All members of Thunder Bay Federation of Agriculture are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting at 7:30, Thursday, October 18, at Murillo Community Centre. Please mark your calendars! More information will be in your September Northwest Link.


Select Sires Canada, Inc.
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www.selectsirescanada.com

Ben Bilker
Area Representative
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Trenton, ON K8V 5P7
Cell: 613-847-6267
Home/Fax: 613-475-2346
email: bbilker@reach.net

Thunder Bay District Soil and Crop Improvement Association – Crop Tour

Thank you to Dr. Tarlok Sahota for the very informative tour of the Thunder Bay Agricultural Research Station. To Harjit Dhillon and Blaine Tomeck for having the crops looking their best. To Christina Mol for the display she prepared of activities at the Station. To Erik Johansson, John Hanna (Canola) and Wilma & Jim Mol (Corn) for opening their farms and supplying the information on their crops. To Erik Johansson for making and distributing posters advertising the crop tour. To Trudy, Marshall and Emily Bolt, Karri and Erik Johansson for preparing the lunch. To Linda Turk for preparing and sending out the press release which resulted in good press coverage. To Ken Boshcoff, Bill Mauro and Richard Neuman who took the time to learn more about Thunder Bay Agriculture. To Keith Reid, OMAFRA, Soil Specialist, for his observations and comments, To Rudy Buitenhuis, OMAFRA, for his behind-the-scenes involvement. Last but not least to all of those who attended. A good attendance always makes the effort of organizing worthwhile.

International Stock Food Co.
Cambridge, Ontario

 **1-877-473-2474** 

Erik Johansson, your ISF Sales Agent serving the Thunder Bay area, 807-577-2685 (res)/807-627-5247 (cell)
In the Stratton area, call Bob Leblanc, 807 487-2671

Factsheet

07-029: CASTRATION OF CALVES, Agdex 420/26; new factsheet.

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<http://www.gencor.ca>

Scholarship

Thunder Bay Federation of Agriculture is again offering a \$150 scholarship to a student entering the first year of studies at a college or university. For further details and an application form, please call Trudy Reid at 935-3224

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EARS Report – July 2007

Hello! Hope you're doing well and enjoying the "heat wave." Really, we shouldn't complain because it won't be long and we will be back into our long underwear...

We might as well begin with the weather update: of course Mr. Nighswander is kind enough to provide the weather data at the end of each month so the GDD and CHU are only till the end of June. GDD – 780, CHU – 1216 (Actually been a bit cooler up until now.) Rain (to July 25) – 361.5 mm or 14.46" – so yes I have done some complaining about our wet spells. I understand that West of here, you are not so damp. At home we have had about 300 mm (12") as we still had spots we had to cut and bale around this past week.

As for the crops, we will likely be harvesting a good portion of our cereal trials next week or at least beginning the harvest. Looks like the “suzee” should be up and running; we can leave the scissors in the drawer this year. The blackbirds were starting to move into our Oat Trials so we decided to net them. We thought the birds would be so busy in the sunflowers that they would avoid the rest of our crops! We are also ready to start some 2nd crop – much different than last year – at least there is something there to cut. Sadly, the deer have been cleaning off the soybeans; funny thing is we spend quite a few hours pulling weeds in the beans. I thought that might deter them, but I think they have enjoyed the fact we cleaned out the weeds for them. I managed to kill the Canola trials. I sprayed hoegrass and the plots just didn’t recover... I think they were quite stressed with moisture then I hit them with chemical and it was just too much. We did manage to take some population counts – of the dead plants. The flax is better than last year, but I don’t think we will have any record breaking yields. The trees are keeping us busy right now as well; besides mowing, we are collecting data. It is a huge job so if you stop in and we are not around, most likely that is where we will be.

The Open House was last night. Thanks to all that attended. I was disappointed in the attendance this year, but I am sure these extreme temperatures played a role. Please stop in any time and stay in touch. It was nice to have Keith Reid (OMAFRA) and Frank Hoftzyer (OSCIA) join us – both on the Soil & Crop Tour and the Open House.

Take Care!

Kim Jo
kbliss@uoguelph.ca

Cornell Farms

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Bulls for Sale

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A CLOSER LOOK AT OUR FOOD SYSTEMS

PART 1 – FOOD SECURITY

In the past year, Canadians have become much more aware of the importance of food security. Numerous incidents have occurred involving unsafe food that resulted in the illness or death of both people and animals.

The tainted spinach ordeal in the United States in September 2006 caused over 100 people to suffer the ill effects of E. coli bacteria contamination and resulted in one death. In October 2006, a recall was ordered on carrot juice that was contaminated with botulism. This past March, pet food made with contaminated wheat gluten from China, caused the deaths of at least 16 cats and dogs.

At Thunder Bay’s Lakehead University, students and researchers have recently begun focusing on food security. The Food Security Research and Service Exchange Network brought together numerous community and campus partners in May 2006 to create Community Service Learning opportunities – community-based research projects that can be incorporated into university credit courses. Dr. Connie Nelson of the School of Social Work and Dr. Doug West of the Department of Political Science worked together to form the Network, which serves as the hub for faculty and community members to work together to build community-based research projects.

As part of their studies, participants in the Food Security Research Network outlined the need for and proposed a local Food Charter. They also worked with the University’s on-campus food services to ensure local food is being served and they assisted the Regional Food Distribution Association to optimize its capacity to obtain and distribute reclaimed food. The second annual Food Security Forum is in the planning stages and I look forward to seeing what new projects have been undertaken for improved food security in Thunder Bay.

The lessons learned through the Food Security Research Network can and must be extended across the riding of Thunder Bay-Rainy River. Does your child's school serve local food in its cafeteria? Do you make the effort to buy from local producers throughout the year? Have you planted an extra row in your garden to help those less fortunate in your community to obtain fresh food?

Next week – we'll discuss a new Canadian labeling initiative for domestically grown products.

SUBMITTED BY KEN BOSHCOFF M.P,

PART 2 – BUY LOCAL, BUY DOMESTIC

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA), Canada's largest farmers' organization, recently unveiled the results of a cross-country study that shows Canadian consumers would support a labeling program that identifies and promoted Canadian-grown foods in markets and on grocery store shelves.

Some highlights of the study included:

- 90 percent of respondents felt that Canadian agricultural products should always be easy to identify at the store; and,
- 73 percent of respondents were willing to pay more of a premium if they knew the premium would go to Canadian farmers.

Moving forward from the study, the CFA hopes to undertake pilot labeling studies and seek out partners to further this labeling concept with the goal of improving communications between farmers and consumers, and providing safe, quality foods to Canadians.

I am very pleased to see the CFA moving this initiative forward. At this time it is very hard for consumers to know where the food they are buying is coming from. Are those fresh tomatoes from Mexico or Murillo? Did this rib eye steak come from a cattle producer in Texas or Rainy River? In most cases, unless the retailer takes the initiative to put up a sign that indicates the origin of the product, consumers are left to guess where it has come from.

As consumers, we must take the initiative to ask our local grocers about the source of the food items they are showcasing. Further still, we must encourage them to support local and domestic suppliers instead of foreign suppliers. We need to put our money where our mouth is and purchase local and domestic products in lieu of the multinationals. I for one much prefer a loaf of homemade bread from the bakery on the corner when compared with a loaf of bread that has been trucked from Indianapolis.

Continuing on that same thought, I encourage residents across the riding to consider their choice of retailer. Although I am not opposed to multinational retailers, as I recognize that they provide employment opportunities in our communities, I ask you to consider the value of the local and Canadian retailers in your area. Wouldn't you rather support your neighbourhood grocer instead of giving your hard earned dollar to an American owned super-store? In order to ensure the strength of our national economy, we must consider the impact of our purchasing activities in the bigger picture.

Next week – we will review the benefits of buying local products

SUBMITTED BY KEN BOSHCOFF M.P,

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Tips for winter wheat cultivation

Winter wheat has the potential to yield considerably more than the spring wheat, because of its (i) relatively longer duration and (ii) maturity before the soil moisture declines in late July-August. Some of the other advantages from winter wheat cultivation include:

- It utilizes residual fertilizer nutrients, especially N, from spring/previously seeded crops, which minimizes chances of damage to the environment
- It helps in spreading of labour peaks, farm operations, and cash flows because its seeding and harvesting times are different from those of spring cereals
- It acts as a cover crop during fall and winter, which reduces soil and nutrient losses and improves soil quality
- It smothers weeds and might even eliminate the need for herbicide application provided a burn down application of Round Up is made to control perennial weeds/or preceding crops before seeding and an adequate plant stand is assured
- Winter wheat in rotation with other crops, especially soybean and corn, is reported to improve their yields, and
- With commissioning of a pilot scale flour mill in the area, there is an opportunity for a local market

Three Thunder Bay growers (Fritz Jaspers, Jacob Schep and Tim Janssens) seeded winter wheat last fall on about 200 acres and at the time of writing this note, their crops had a reasonably good growth after surviving a winter that didn't provide adequate snow cover. Here are some tips for those who are interested to diversify their cropping systems with winter wheat.

Selection of field: Fields vacated by forage legumes and grasses may be the best choice for seeding winter wheat. A burn down application of Round Up will however be required to control perennial crops and weeds in such fields before land preparation. Winter wheat after spring barley/other cereals can lead to competition from volunteer barley/cereals.

Selection of varieties: CDC Falcon (hard red), 25R47 (soft red) and AC Ron/Superior (soft white), in descending order of winter hardiness, had given higher grain yield than other varieties in the same group at TBARS. Remember as well that each type has a different end use.

Tillage: Zero tillage should be an option only if there had been sufficient rain in the pre seeding months. Otherwise, resort to normal tillage (ploughing and disking/cultivation before seeding) particularly to overcome volunteer cereals. Shallow tillage (disking/or cultivation without ploughing) can increase the challenge of volunteer cereals.

Seeding: Optimum seeding time window is August 25 to September 5. Seed into the moist soil at a depth of 2.5cm and target a population of 350-450 plants/m² (~15% higher than spring wheat). If the surface soil is dry, increase the seeding depth to 3-5cm. Seeding when maximum afternoon soil temperature is 18^oC that provides 4-5 weeks of growth before the maximum soil temperature drops to 10^oC in the afternoon and 7^oC in the morning is considered ideal in western Canada. This helps to establish healthy vigorous plants before soil freezes to attain maximum cold tolerance and to provide optimum energy reserves for the following spring.

Fertilizer application: P and K application at seeding should be done based on soil tests using the fertilizer recommendation tables in Agronomy Guide for Field Crops (OMAFRA publication 811). Economic optimum rate of N will depend upon targeted yield and grain prices. Generally, 110-120kgN/ha is required by winter wheat. Apply at least 40kgN/ha at seeding and the rest in early spring. It is desirable to use a mix of urea and ammonium sulphate (~80:20 on N basis) than urea alone. At this mix, ammonium sulphate will adequately meet sulphur requirements of winter wheat. If 11-52-0 (safe to drill with the seed) is used as a source of P, reduce the amount of N supplied by this fertilizer from the total rate of N application (from N fertilizers). Like wise, take into account N supply from manure application, if any, while deciding on the rate of application of N fertilizers. In the absence of a manure test, N contribution from manure could be taken up to 10kg/1000 gallons of liquid dairy manure or up to 1kg/tonne of solid

dairy manure. If zinc has not been applied in the previous 2-3 years, it may be desirable to apply 14kgzn/ha at seeding through zinc sulphate.

Weed Control: A burn down application of Round Up, well before land preparation, is desirable to control perennial weeds/crops. Seasonal weeds aren't a problem in the fall. Scout for weeds in spring. Stink weed and shepherd's purse are the weeds noticed in early spring and other dicot weeds such as lamb's quarter appear late in the spring. Lamb's quarter can outgrow and shade the dwarf winter wheat varieties in patchy stands. Annual chickweed doesn't survive the winter, but perennial chickweed can. These weeds will fill gaps in the crop stand, and give an ugly appearance to the field, but can be controlled by spraying Refine Extra/or 2, 4-D. Please check the product labels for the right amount and time of application of herbicides. However, as mentioned earlier, herbicide application isn't required if the crop stand and tillering is adequate. Winter wheat can very well smother weeds.

Insect-pests and diseases: Since winter wheat is a new crop to the area, no serious pest or disease has been noticed so far, especially in the varieties mentioned in this note. However, use treated seed and keep an eye on the crop for disease and insect-pest development.

Crops after wheat: If residual moisture is good enough, direct seeded alfalfa after winter wheat harvest is a very good option. Winter rye for fall or spring pasturing is another option. Alternatively, soybean/or silage corn could be seeded next spring in the fields vacated by winter wheat. However, fall seeded crops would better utilize residual fertilizers from winter wheat and will serve as cover crops protecting the soil.

Dr. Tarlok Singh Sahota

I am available for field visits/consultations!

I can make myself available for farmers' field visits and technical discussions/guidance on site with the willing growers. This service is free of cost and is meant primarily for the members of the Thunder Bay Agricultural Research Association. However, I

will consider requests from non-members as well; though I may request them to become members during my visit to their fields.

If there is anything wrong with your soils and crops and if something is bothering you, please give me a call at **807 475 1313** or write to me at tarloksahota@tbaytel.net.

Have a Good Summer!

Dr. Tarlok Singh Sahota

Factsheet

Field Crop Protection Guide, 2007-2008, Publication 812; the cost is \$15.00; please recycle former editions of this recommendation book.

2007 SUPPLEMENT Growing Greenhouse Vegetables, Publication 371S - These supplements contain updates to pesticides registered up until 2007, and will be included with any book orders for the 2005 editions of Publications 371 and 371F; the supplements can also be ordered separately, free of charge.



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Update on Wheat Milling Pilot Project Food Security Research Network

Hi everyone, I hope that your summer is going great so far. I thought I would give you a quick update of what is going on with the wheat milling project to date. The mill is on its way to Thunder Bay and Robert Groenheide is in Southern Ontario right now learning how to operate one. There are just a few more details to work out and then hopefully we will be milling by the beginning of August.

We will have booths set up at the CLE, the Murillo Fair, the Hymers Fair, and the Slate River Plowing Match to help inform people as to what's going on. Also, as part of our study of the market potential for local flour, we will be conducting short surveys at these fairs as well. For anyone who wants more information or is willing to fill out a survey please visit our website at www.foodsecurityresearch.ca, or email me at jjburke@lakeheadu.ca.

Another part of our study will be to test the actual quality of the flour and how consumers like the product. For this study we will give out 2.5kg bags of the flour that we have milled to individuals who are familiar with baking and flour and get their opinion through a short questionnaire. If anyone wants to try a free bag of flour and give their opinion of the product please email me at jjburke@lakeheadu.ca. I hope we can get a positive response and hope to see all of you at the fairs.

Jeff Burke H.B.E.Sc

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Food Security Research Network
in and for the North

Email: fsrn@lakeheadu.ca
URL: www.foodsecurityresearch.ca

The Food Security Research Network has been successful in working with the agriculture community to develop a local stone ground grain milling operation. We need your help. Please fill out the below survey and tell us how interested you are in buying local flour. Your opinions will assist local farmers in deciding whether to grow more wheat for locally produced flour. The results will be posted in the November *Northwest Link*.

Please return your answers to this survey by

- Mail to: Food Security Research Network, Lakehead University, 955 Oliver Road, Thunder Bay, ON, P7B 5E1, or
- Fax to 807-346-7727, or
- Go online to www.foodsecurityresearch.ca and fill in the survey online

If you have any questions, please send an email to fsrn@lakeheadu.ca

SECTION 1: PREFERRED AND PURCHASED FLOUR

All questions in Section 1 are related to the brand and type of flour you are **currently buying**.

1. What kind of flour do you buy? Please select all responses that apply.

- Bleached white flour Unbleached white flour only
 Whole wheat flour only Other, specify please:

2. How often do you buy flour? Select the response that most closely represents your buying pattern.

- Biweekly Monthly
 1 to 3 months Yearly

3. What size do you usually buy and what is its typical price? Please select the **one** best answer.

- 1 kg Price \$ _____ 2.5 kg Price \$ _____
 10 kg Price \$ _____

4. What is your favorite brand?

- Robin Hood Purity
 Five Roses No name
 Generic brand Other, specify please:

5. From where do you usually buy your flour?

- Grocery store Specialty store, eg. health store
 Market Other, specify please:

6. Please indicate why you buy that brand? Please select all responses that apply.

- Price Quality
 Loyalty Works better for what I make
 Other, specify please: _____

7. What do you make with your flour? Please select all responses that apply.

- Bread Cakes

- Pies Cookies
 Pizzas Other, specify please:

8. What is the max price you're willing to pay for a bag of flour?

- 1 kg **max** price \$ _____ 2.5 kg **max** price \$ _____
 10 kg **max** price \$ _____

9. What type of packaging do you prefer? Please check your favourite choice.

- Paper Plastic
 Reusable Cloth
 Bulk Other, specify please:

SECTION 2: LOCALLY PRODUCED FLOUR

All questions in Section 2 are related to **the new locally produced brand of flour**.

10. Are you willing to switch to a locally grown and produced flour?

- Yes No Not sure

11. Where would you prefer to buy locally grown and produced flour? Please check all that apply.

- Grocery store
 Specialty store, eg. health store
 Market
 Directly from the mill
 Other, specify please: _____

12. How much are you willing to pay for locally grown and produced flour?

- \$0.10 more per kilogram/ by bag
 \$0.50 more per kilogram/ by bag
 \$1.00 more per kilogram/ by bag
 more than \$1 per kilogram/ by bag
 Other, specify please: _____

SECTION 3: GENERAL INDICATORS

Please tell us a little bit about yourself as a potential consumer of locally grown and produced flour.

13. What is your Gender?

- Male Female

14. What is your age?

- 20-24 36-40
 25-30 40-50
 31-35 50 +

15. What is your occupation?

- Farmer Homemaker
 Teacher Mining
 Trades person Forest Industry
 Government employee Health sector
 Attending school Locally owned and operated business
 Retired Other, specify please:

16. What's your postal code? _____ - _____

Thank you for your participation! Please see directions at the top of the survey for sending in your answers.