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### Nipissing West/Sudbury East:

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### Parry Sound/Nipissing East:

Klaus Wand . . . . . (705) 724-2314

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### Temiskaming:

Dennis Jibb . . . . . (705) 563-8405

## Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)

### Northern Ontario Regional Office

Ontario Ministry of  
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P.O. Box 521, Hwy. 64  
Caldwell Township Building  
Verner, ON P0H 2M0

**TOLL FREE / General Inquiry . . . 800-461-6132**

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Monique Roberge

### Agricultural Representative

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### Agricultural Business Management Specialist

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Beef Cattle Production Systems  
Program Lead . . . . . Tom Hamilton

# Breaking Ground

(in Northeastern Ontario)

FALL 2007

A Publication of the North Eastern Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association (NEOSCIA)



West Nipissing Soil and Crop members, Norm Delorme, Janet Parsons and Gilles Renaud were among thousands of Soil and Crop members taking advantage of their free entry passes to the Outdoor Farm Show and complimentary brunch tickets, a \$25 value. This is just one benefit of belonging to your local Soil and Crop Improvement Association. A partnership of OSCIA with Bayer Crop Science and the Outdoor Farm Show makes this possible.

## Northern Farmers to Attend Circumpolar Conference

### Congratulations!

Northern Ontario Agri-Food Education & Marketing Inc. is pleased to announce its delegates to the Circumpolar Agricultural Association Conference in Happy Valley - Goose Bay Labrador, October 1st to 3rd, 2007. Applications were received from across Northern Ontario. Partial funding for the project was received from the Agriculture Adaptation Council and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through CanAdvance. This project is developed in partnership with the Northern Ontario Federations of Agriculture.

Northern Ontario Agri-Food Education & Marketing Inc. wishes to thank all who applied for this unique opportunity. The committee needs to be recognized for its efforts in securing funding, marketing the opportunity, and ensuring a fair and transparent selection process. The delegates selected will represent the Northern Ontario agriculture community at this conference.

**Matthew (Matt) Duke**, District of Temiskaming. Matt and his wife Carol own and operate Terza Farms, which consists of a 420 sow farrow-

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### NOTE: **Sponsors/Advertisers needed for coming year. \$500 for 4 issues!**

This newsletter is published 4 times per year. Articles can be submitted in either English or French and should be submitted to the Communication Coordinator (see below). Please supply translation, if available.

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.

Send articles to:  
Graham Gambles  
Box 586, Temiskaming  
Shores, ON P0J 1K0  
Tel: (705) 672-3105  
Fax: (705) 672-5959  
E-Mail:  
gamblesgraham@yahoo.ca

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- show due diligence
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1-800-265-9751



[www.ontariosoilcrop.org](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org)

The Agricultural Policy Framework (APF) A Federal-Provincial-Territorial Initiative  
Le Cadre stratégique pour l'agriculture (CSA) Une initiative fédérale-provinciale-territoriale

## Environmental Farm Plan Representatives

### Algoma:

Jonathan Stewart  
705 842-2182

### Muskoka:

Katya Riley  
705 764-1695

### Manitoulin:

Mary Scott  
705 377-4928

### Cochrane, Nipissing, Parry Sound, Sudbury and

### Temiskaming:

Clare Venne  
705 594-9194

# COMING EVENTS

## Nutrient Management Training Courses

**Regulation and Protocols – December 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, New Liskeard;**

Check the OMAFRA web site  
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/nm/cert/training.htm> for NM course details.

The following Nutrient Management courses have been booked for the September to December period. Sessions are held in Manitoulin – West Sudbury, Algoma and Temiskaming:

**Manitoulin – West Sudbury:** How to Prepare a Nutrient Management Strategy/Plan using NMAN – **November 30<sup>th</sup> (5 pm-10 pm) & December 1<sup>st</sup> (9 am-1 pm), Little Current**

**Algoma:** Fundamentals of Nutrient Management – **November 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, Desbarats;**

Regulations and Protocols – **December 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, Desbarats**

**Temiskaming:** Temiskaming Crops Coalition Annual Meeting – **November 23<sup>rd</sup> (9:30 am) Joe's Steakhouse, New Liskeard.**

## Risk Management for Non-Profit Organizations

**November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9 am-12 pm, North Bay.**

For more information and registration, visit: <http://www.imaginecanada.ca> or Contact: Colin Thacker (705) 474-1200 ext. 7818 or CThacker@nemhc.on.ca.

## Bus trip to the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair

**November 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

Sudbury District Cattlemen's Association Beef Producer Education Day.

Seat and Admission = \$60.00

For seat reservations and location for bus pick-up, contact Jimmy Barrett at: (705) 671-9137 before October 27<sup>th</sup>.

## Commodity Marketing Management Course

**February 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>.**

**9 am-5 pm, Joe's Steakhouse, New Liskeard.** For more information and registration, visit: [http://www.fcc-fac.ca/en/LearningCentre/workshops\\_on\\_e.asp](http://www.fcc-fac.ca/en/LearningCentre/workshops_on_e.asp)

# NEOSCIA Members Classifieds

Are you a member of your local Soil & Crop Improvement Association in Northern Ontario? If so, that membership entitles you to one free classified ad each year in this newsletter (that goes out to over 1000 farmers across the North). Subsequent ads will cost \$10.00 per issue.

Note that the editor may "shrink" the amount of info in any given ad due to space limitations in a specific issue.

For more information, Contact Graham Gambles, editor, at 705-672-3105 or e-mail to [gamblesgraham@yahoo.ca](mailto:gamblesgraham@yahoo.ca)

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Call Yves (Cache Bay)  
705-753-3867 - 7pm

## RESOURCES • E-Bulletin

Parry Sound - Nipissing - Sudbury  
East Ontario Ministry of Agriculture,  
Food and Rural Affairs

Northern Ontario  
Regional Office (NORO)

Toll Free: 1-800-461-6132

Fax: 705-594-9675

Please note that the target publication date of this bulletin is the first Friday of each month. Submissions for the bulletin and requests to subscribe/unsubscribe may be forwarded to: [pierrette.desrochers@ontario.ca](mailto:pierrette.desrochers@ontario.ca).

### Upcoming provincial events:

#### 1. Farm Tax & Business Seminar 2007, October 2007.

Seminars are delivered across the province and also available through Webinars. For more information, visit: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/conference/2007ftbs.htm>

#### 2. 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Agri-Food Innovation Forum, October 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>.

Ottawa Congress Centre, Ottawa Register now for the Early Bird rate. Visit: [www.agrifoodforum.com](http://www.agrifoodforum.com)

#### 3. 2007 Royal Agriculture Winter Fair, November 2<sup>nd</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>.

The Direct Energy Centre, Exhibition Place, Toronto <http://www.royalfair.org/>

### New Business

#### 1. Hydro One's Electricity Retrofit Incentive Program

The program provides business, farm and institutional customers of Hydro One Networks Inc. with an opportunity to realize their energy efficiency potential, and to receive attractive incentives to reduce the capital cost of energy efficient technologies. The objective of the program is to initiate energy conservation and load management projects within the Commercial, Industrial, Agricultural and Institutional sectors by offering financial incentives. For more information, visit: [http://www.hydroonenetworks.com/en/efficiency/electricity\\_retrofit\\_incentive\\_program/default.asp](http://www.hydroonenetworks.com/en/efficiency/electricity_retrofit_incentive_program/default.asp)

#### 2. Fencing off watercourses

This fall take time to examine fences along pastures and watercourses. The following factsheets provide information

on fencing, fencing types and alternative watering devices for livestock. Keep animals away from watercourses.

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/engineer/facts/00-049.htm>

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/engineer/facts/99-057.htm>

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/environment/bmp/afirstlook/fragile.htm>

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/engineer/facts/04-027.htm>

#### 3. Hay in Cow Wintering Ration can be Replaced by Grain

The following factsheet can be found at: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/beef/facts/grainforhay.htm>

#### 4. Harvesting Corn Silage at the Right Moisture

The following factsheet can be found at: [www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/harvesting\\_corn.htm](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/harvesting_corn.htm).

#### 5. New Program Turns Greenhouse Gases from Farms into Clean Energy

The \$9 million Ontario Biogas Systems Financial Assistance Program 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. 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.

#### 6. 2008 Call for Letters of Intent – New Directions Research Program

Through investment in innovative and high quality agricultural research, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs program contributes to the Ontario government's priorities of "Better Health" and "Strong People, Strong Economy". The deadline for receipt of Letters of Intent is Friday, September 28, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. The Call for Letters of Intent document and program information can be accessed at the OMAFRA web site: [http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/research/new\\_directions/index.html](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/research/new_directions/index.html). You may also email [research@ontario.ca](mailto:research@ontario.ca) to request an electronic copy.

#### 7. Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture Competition (CYSA)

If you are between the ages of 11 and 24, don't miss this great opportunity to participate in the 23rd annual competition, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Call or write to request an application, or visit <http://www.cysa-joca.ca/> for more details. Inquires should be directed to Ted Young, President, at 519-824-9253 or [tedyoung@cysa-joca.ca](mailto:tedyoung@cysa-joca.ca). Applications can be made on-line, or forwarded to CYSA Inc., P.O. Box 25015, Stone Road Mall Postal Outlet, 370 Stone Road West, Unit 17, Guelph, Ontario N1G 2X0. The deadline for applications is September 28, 2007.

#### 8. Start Your Succession Plan Early- Julie Poirier Mensinga, Agricultural Business Management Specialist

This was one of the many advises given at the 2007 International Farm Succession Conference August 6 to 8. Succession planning is a process occurring over time during which a family plans for the transfer of knowledge, skills, labour, management, control and ownership of the farm business between the founder generation and the successor generation. The preliminary step to succession planning is to open the lines of communication between the two generations. For more information visit: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/succession.html> and <http://www.farmcentre.com/EventsAnnouncements/Events/FarmSuccession/2007>. The Specialized Business Planning Services provide funding to off-set the cost of

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# Northeastern Ontario Loses Two Board Members in OSCIA Restructuring Proposal

By Janet Parsons, NEOSCIA, President

For a number of years the provincial board of OSCIA has discussed the need to restructure the representation on the provincial board. The proposal that was accepted at the August board meeting for presentation to the membership at the annual meeting proposes one board member per region. This reduces the number of board members from northeastern Ontario from three to one and the provincial board from 19 to 11. While the objective is to reduce overlap of board member duties and regional Co-ordinator territories, this is not an issue in the northeast. However, for fair representation for provincial governance issues, one director from the northeast is proposed.

The unique problem in the northeast is distance between farming communities. NEOSCIA directors discussed the one

board member proposal and supported the idea with conditions. A business case is being prepared for more funding to make it possible for NEOSCIA directors to meet and carry out the business of the organization in an effective manner.

NEOSCIA is always looking for innovative ways of serving its diverse and scattered membership. Breaking Ground is the number one communication tool and new ideas are constantly being introduced. Comments and suggestions and always welcome.

The vote on the proposed restructuring will take place at the provincial annual meeting in Niagara Falls in February. Make sure your local delegate is ready to vote. If you have comments or questions please contact your board member: Murray Cochrane, Bill Muggler, or Janet Parsons.



## Temiskaming Cattlemen's Association

Ruth Snider  
(705) 647-5937

## MARKET ACCESS PROGRAM (MAP)

1 "Canada's beef industry is export dependent. We became very aware of this in 2003, when Canada's first case of BSE was reported, and various trade restrictions were put in place. It is in our best interest to set a higher standard for product quality and safety, to ensure market access.

The Ontario Cattlemen's Association has initiated the **Market Access Program (MAP)** to encourage age verification and increase demand for Ontario cattle.

Deb Garner is available to age verify your calves for FREE, and can provide you with application forms if you decide to join the Market Access Program.

Dairy farmers that are on DHI can have their data transferred to the MAP by simply filling out a Data Release Form. Thus saving a lot of time with paperwork. Bull calves, not on DHI, can be entered by Deb.

*NOTE: Program Deadline has been moved ahead to November 1, 2007"*

### 2 "AGE VERIFICATION REQUIRED BY BUYERS THIS FALL

With Cargill recently increasing the discounts for cattle that are over 30 months (OTM) of age, cattle buyers will be sure to be buying youthful cattle this fall. In part because of new regulations with SRMs (Specified Risk Material), Cargill has increased the discount by 60% such that OTM cattle will be discounted about \$320 per head. Consequently buyers will be looking for cattle that are age verified, as documented with a birth certificate. This is certain to apply to yearlings coming off grass but will likely have some effect on calves as well. Cargill also continues to pay a premium for cattle that qualify for the Japanese market. To qualify, cattle must be less than 627 days of age and grade AA or AAA. Eliminating OTMs and increasing the amount of beef going to Japan would have a positive impact on the beef price and improve the profitability of all beef producers in Ontario

OCA/BIO have a number of representatives throughout the province to assist with age verifying your animals. The representative will either enter the birth dates of your calves for you, or show you simple ways that you can do it yourself. In addition, they will explain how to get a birth certificate that you can send to the sales barn or buyer with your cattle. Your local representative, Debra Garner, can be reached at (705) 563-2761"

## ATTENTION BEEF & DAIRY PRODUCERS

### Market Access Program

You could qualify for \$3.00 for each of your 2006/07 bull calves that is Age Verified

### 3 Easy Steps

1. Age verify your calves
2. Take the QSH/VBP course
3. Have a vaccination program

*For an application or more information contact:*

Deb Garner, 563-2761  
dgarner@biobeef.com

# Breaking Ground (in Northeastern Ontario)

## Northern Farmers to Attend Circumpolar Conference

*Continued from page 1*

ing unit, processing piglets for the feeder industry and an on-farm flour milling business. They crop over 240 acres with product being directed to both livestock feed requirements and their flour mill.

**Birgit Martin**, District of Manitoulin Birgit and her husband Jim own and operate a beef cow-calf, feedlot and cash crop operation on Manitoulin Island. They own 75 Shorthorn, Angus and commercial cows, selling purebred stock, stockers and finished cattle. In addition, they board 30 cows on a permanent basis, producing a pre-conditioned calf for the owners. In 2007, they are cropping, share-cropping and custom harvesting approximately 750 acres of hay, barley, winter wheat and corn.

**Christina Mol**, District of Thunder Bay Born and raised on a dairy and field crop farm, Christina is the Research and Extension Intern with the Thunder Bay Agricultural Research Association (TBARA). She is involved in the stone-ground wheat mill pilot project in Thunder Bay and is acting as a liaison

with grain producers in the region. Beginning this fall, Christina will be pursuing a Masters degree in biology with a focus on agricultural soils in Northern Ontario through Lakehead University.

**Janet Parsons**, District of Nipissing Janet and her husband John, under Roche Court Farms, operate a 500 acre cash crop business, growing winter and spring hard red wheat, canola, oats, barley, soybeans and clover for forage, seed and green manure. In addition, Janet is certified Financial Planner and works as an executive assistant in an agricultural accounting business.

**Robert (Bob) Wall**, District of Kenora With over 50 years experience in agriculture, Bob is well-known for his innovation and leadership to the development and diversification of the agricultural industry in the District of Kenora. From crop production to agriculture infrastructure development, Bob has experimented extensively with new commodities; production practices; technology utilization; and marketing systems and has a wealth of knowledge



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that he willing shares with others.

A founding member of the Kenora District Federation of Agriculture, Bob continues to provide leadership to this organization as well as the Kenora District Soil and Crop Improvement Association, the Dryden Agricultural Society and the Environmental Farm Plan Peer Review Committee. He is active in crop research and hosts demonstration plots on his farm.

## NLARS Expanding Its Strawberry Research

*Becky Hughes, NLARS*

The New Liskeard Agricultural Research Station (NLARS) is expanding its research in dayneutral strawberries as part of a project to develop extended season strawberries in eastern North America. The University of Guelph has received funding from the Agricultural Adaptation Council's CanAdvance Program and the Ontario Berry Growers Association for this three-year project. Research will be conducted at three University of Guelph research stations, Cedar Springs, New Liskeard and Simcoe, and at the University of Florida's Gulf Coast Research and Education Center in Balm, Florida.


Dayneutral strawberries offer Ontario producers a chance to produce fresh local strawberries six months of the year. There are currently several limitations to dayneutral production in Ontario and this project focuses on a number of these. In the short term, producers will have to modify their production practices with

existing varieties to extend the harvest season. In the long term, Canadian-adapted varieties and propagation systems are required for this industry to develop.

NLARS will be involved in all phases of this project. NLARS and Ridgetown's Cedar Springs research station will investigate improved production systems for the dayneutral cultivar 'Seascape'. Seed-propagated dayneutrals will be evaluated for their local and broad adaptability at all three University of Guelph sites, grower locations in Ontario, Manitoba and Florida, and at the Florida Gulf Coast Research and Education Center. Research to develop plug production systems for the different growing areas will be conducted at New Liskeard, Simcoe and Balm, FL.

With increasing consumer interest in buying local, producers across Ontario are showing more interest in producing dayneutral strawberries. This research

aims to help this industry develop both in the short and long term.



**West Nipissing  
Soil & Crop  
Improvement  
Association**

## Winter Wheat Test at New Liskeard Agricultural Research Station

John Rowsell and John Kobler

We invited sponsors, distributors and breeders to enter up to 3 lines each into a winter wheat comparison test at New Liskeard. We seeded 19 winter wheats and 1 spring wheat on September 16, 2006 (more on the rationale for including a spring wheat will follow). Some of the entries have not yet been registered and are not for sale. These were placed in the test so that their potential under our climatic conditions could be assessed. No herbicide was used on this test since the wheat had very good ground cover before the spring annual weeds could get established. We fertilized with 70kgN/ha very early in the spring.

All of the entries except one winter wheat and the spring wheat (AC Taho) had survival in excess of 50%. Of these 18 remaining varieties, yield was not correlated with winter survival scores based on

visual ratings (0-100%;  $r^2=0.13$ ,  $P>F=0.14$ ) or spring vigor ratings (1-9, 1 being lowest vigor;  $r^2=0.05$ ,  $P>F=0.38$ ).

Yields were respectable with an average of 6147kg/ha (2.5t/ac) and the coefficient of variability (c.v.) of the test was very good (7.75%). It is a measure of how much variability there is in yields that is not caused by the varieties. Varieties must differ in this test by at least 676 kg/ha to be truly different at the 5% error level (LSD 0.05%). The test weights were also good, averaging 78.6 kg/hl (61.6lb/bu).

We included one spring wheat in the test to see if it would survive the winter. There has been some speculation that it might, and this is the subject the graduate work of one University of Guelph Ph.D. candidate.

Winter wheat yields are normally great-

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er that those of spring wheat. This is not surprising since the winter wheat varieties in this test matured 316 days on average after planting whereas spring

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Variety	Yield (kg/ha)	1000 Seed Weight (g)	Test Wt. (kg/hl)	Lodging (1-9)	Height (cm)	Heading Date	Mature Date	Yield Index	% Survival	Vigor (1-9)
25R47	7006	40.6	78.1	2.0	63	8-Jun-07	27-Jul-07	114	88	8
Harvard	6773	45.9	77.8	1.3	73	12-Jun-07	29-Jul-07	110	75	8
AC Zorro	6559	50.6	79.5	2.0	93	15-Jun-07	29-Jul-07	107	80	7
Warthhog	6474	43.1	79.3	1.0	75	12-Jun-07	26-Jul-07	105	75	7
CDC Raptor	6360	36.8	79.7	1.3	72	14-Jun-07	28-Jul-07	103	70	5
IL0113,830	6345	40.4	80.6	2.0	75	16-Jun-07	29-Jul-07	103	73	7
CM708	6275	40.8	76.2	1.0	69	23-Jun-07	30-Jul-07	102	60	4
VA03W409	6204	40.8	75.2	1.5	57	13-Jun-07	29-Jul-07	101	38	3
CDC Falcon	6191	37.3	79.6	2.0	59	12-Jun-07	27-Jul-07	101	63	4
Emmit	6145	42.5	79.0	2.0	69	14-Jun-07	27-Jul-07	100	73	7
IL001665	6145	40.7	78.9	2.0	60	12-Jun-07	26-Jul-07	100	68	6
IL972422	6128	37.7	77.6	2.0	68	14-Jun-07	31-Jul-07	100	65	6
Platinum	6022	46.9	79.7	2.0	86	14-Jun-07	30-Jul-07	98	75	7
95-056-187	5977	47.7	77.8	1.8	86	13-Jun-07	28-Jul-07	97	83	8
CDC Buteo	5827	39.6	80.5	2.8	80	16-Jun-07	1-Aug-07	95	78	7
95-094-197	5690	42.9	78.5	2.0	85	14-Jun-07	31-Jul-07	93	73	8
FT Wonder	5348	44.5	78.8	2.0	71	12-Jun-07	29-Jul-07	87	65	7
Huntley	5170	43.8	78.6	2.5	69	12-Jun-07	26-Jul-07	84	58	4
Average	6147	42.4	78.6	1.8	73	14-Jun-07	28-Jul-07			
LSD (0.05)	676.1									
C.V.	7.75%									

# Verner Research Test Site Features Fertilizer BMP Trials

John Rowsell of the NLARS described the various research projects at the Verner site to more than 60 participants during the Northeastern Ontario Summer Tour in West Nipissing. Two of the major projects are part of the OSCIA fertilizer BMP trials. One deals with sulphur requirements for canola.

There has been speculation that decreasing atmospheric deposition of sulphur, due to pollution mitigation, has led to a need to apply S fertilizer to canola. This project will test this thesis with controlled replicated samples. The other project deals with the maximum safe rates of N placed with the seed of canola. Currently most of the nitrogen is surface applied. The thesis is that if the N can be placed in close proximity to the seed it will maximize N use and reduce losses through volatilization of ammonia and surface run off. Other research involves flax and cereal crops.



John Rowsell describes the Verner Test Site plots (located south of Verner on Hwy 64) during the NEOSCIA summer tour.

The tour also visited the farm of Steven Roberge to look at white beans and winter wheat. This is the second year that

Steven has grown white beans and he is pleased with the results. Jean Guy Seguin is the West Nipissing participant in the 'canola production system trials' (see article elsewhere in Breaking Ground). Jean Guy showed the group the plots and outlined his costs. The final stop on the tour was at the farm of Gerald Beaudry where Bill Hagborg of the Lake Nipissing Stewardship Council talked about river bank stabilization and the proposed tree planting program for West Nipissing. Bill pointed out the difference from the one side of the river to the other. The one had been grazed right to the river while the other side was not. Natural groundcover and brush protected the riverbank on the one side while the other was barren.... a stark contrast. Gerald Beaudry, a Seed Grower, showed the group his field of red clover which he is harvesting for seed. A local dairy farmer took off the first cut and the second cut is being left to set seed for harvest in October.



Bill Hagborg of the Lake Nipissing Stewardship Council discusses how to control erosion of riverbanks.



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## Winter Wheat Test at New Liskeard Agricultural Research Station

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wheat normally matures in less than 120 days from planting.

There was very little disease in the test. The conditions at anthesis were near optimal for the onset of fusarium; however, only a few infected heads were noted in each plot.

For more information on winter wheat varieties, including the names of the distributors of these varieties, please visit the new web site for the Ontario Cereal Crops Committee [www.gocereals.ca](http://www.gocereals.ca) (John Rowsell is the secretary of OCCC).





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# Manitoulin Report

By Birgit Martin, CCA

On August 23<sup>rd</sup>, I had the pleasure of meeting with Algoma's Soil and Crop members at a corn roast and a tour of a corn silage plot at Brason Farms on St. Joseph's Island. Brasons, with the assistance of Dave Trivers, the local ag rep, had put together a plot of Roundup Ready corn hybrids ranging in maturity from 2175 to 2650 corn heat units. On tour night, Dave reviewed the season's rainfall; the plant population; and demonstrated how to determine fresh weight yield by cutting and weighing the plants in a specific length of row, as outlined in OMAFRA's Field Pocket Guide page 90.

I spoke to the group about corn crop management to maximize energy yield per acre. This is a summary of the main points of that discussion:

Maximizing energy yield with corn silage is a function of maximizing both yield and quality. You can impact yield and quality by covering well the basics like seed bed preparation, fertility, planting accuracy and weed control; and then fine tuning

the details like hybrid selection, planting date and harvest timing.

Firstly, choose a hybrid appropriate for silage in your area. That means using a hybrid that has a rating of 100-200 CHU more than what your area is rated for. This is because hybrids are rated for their CHU requirement to reach physiological maturity (black layer) for grain corn production. Obviously, silage corn is not meant to reach maturity, so a 'later' corn can be planted. As a rule, 'later' hybrids are higher yielding than shorter season varieties. Targeting your CHU rating accurately also affects quality. A too low CHU hybrid will be too mature at harvest with more lignin (higher NDF) in its stalk and hence lower digestibility. It will also be drier than optimum which causes poor ensiling. (Optimum moisture is 65-70% moisture for bunk silos and silo bags and 60-70% for upright silos.) A too high CHU hybrid will still be too immature at harvest and have lower grain corn content and hence less energy. It will also

be wetter than ideal which again hinders ensiling. Beyond heat unit rating, choose a hybrid that will produce excellent grain yield since grain means starch which translates into energy. Silage specific hybrids are also available which are bred to be more digestible (lower lignin and NDF). This lower lignin content may compromise stalk strength and consequently stand ability if the crop has a corn borer infestation; if harvest is delayed; or if strong winds are an issue, but it may be a worthwhile compromise if these conditions won't be an issue.

Next, planting date. Corn is a warm season crop, so to maximize yields we need to plant as early as possible to capture the full season. Corn will not germinate until the soil temperature reaches 10°C but it is quite resilient in its early stages, so plant as soon as the ground is fit. A corn plant's growing point remains below the soil surface until about the 6 leaf stage and so is 'protected' from frost. Even if the top were to freeze off, the plant would regrow from that growing point. Although this would delay the crop, the crop is still further ahead than if had just been planted then. Also, use a starter fer-

*Continued on page 9*

## RESOURCES • E-Bulletin

hiring a consultant to assist eligible producer with succession planning. Eligible producers can receive up to 50% refund, to a maximum of \$8,000. For more information visit: [http://www.agr.gc.ca/ren/index\\_e.cfm?s1=cfbas-sceac&s2=sbps-sspe&page=intro](http://www.agr.gc.ca/ren/index_e.cfm?s1=cfbas-sceac&s2=sbps-sspe&page=intro)

### 9. Ontario Small Waterworks Assistance Program (OSWAP)

The government announces a new \$40 million five year funding program to provide capital and operating assistance to municipalities and Local Services Boards (LSBs) with public drinking water systems serving small populations. There are two distinct initiatives within this program. First, the \$8 million Ontario Small Waterworks Assistance Program (OSWAP) will make available operating grants to municipalities and LSBs with public drinking water systems serving 1,000 or fewer residents. OSWAP is an entitlement grant

initiative. The remaining \$32 million will be provided through a merit-based capital and operating initiative for municipalities and LSBs that provide water services to small populations. This initiative will start in the municipal fiscal year 2009. Program details will be developed in discussion with municipalities before the program is launched. Further details will be provided at a later date. Expressions of interest for OSWAP funding will be accepted until 5 pm Eastern Standard Time on October 31, 2007. Visit: <http://www.pir.gov.on.ca/english/infrastructure/oswap.htm>

### 10. Environmental Farm Plan - Deadline Fast Approaching

Are you one of the 17,600 producers who completed an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) and had it deemed appropriate from 1993 to 2004? If so, we urge you to act now to take advantage of project cost-share opportunities. EFPs that were

deemed appropriate through peer review during this period may satisfy the eligibility requirements under the current federal environmental cost-share programs. Projects initiated in 2004 and 2005 may be eligible. Older EFP action plans will only be honoured until MARCH 31, 2006. After that, all applications to the cost-share programs will require a Third Edition EFP deemed appropriate. The deadline for completion of approved projects is November 30, 2007.

Call your local OSCIA Program Representative, Claire Venne at 705 594-9194.

### 11. Renewable Energy

Visit our Web site for more information on Renewable Energy at: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/engineer/index.html>

Visit the Ontario Federation of Agriculture website for suggestions to consumers on Wind Energy at: <http://www.ofa.on.ca/site/home.asp>. Click on "Policy & Issues" – "Factsheets"

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# Manitoulin Report

*Continued from page 8*

tilizer. Even if manure has been applied or if your soil is 'high' in phosphorus, corn tends to respond to planter applications of phosphorus, which gives it that quick emergence or 'pop-up' effect.

Finally, harvest timing. Corn silage should be harvested when the milk line has progressed about 1/2 to 2/3 of its way from the base of the kernel to the tip (cob end). At this point, the whole plant moisture is usually between 62 % and 70% - ideal for both upright and horizontal silos. 1/2 to 2/3 milk line also coincides with grain content in the whole plant approaching 40% which makes silage of better feeding

value and of higher tonnage than that from corn that is not as mature.

By covering the basics and then fine tuning your corn management, you can maximize yield while optimizing starch levels and fibre digestibility to produce a crop that offers high energy yields per acre. Corn silage can produce yields like no other crop can, with yields easily being double even the best managed alfalfa. Furthermore, corn silage complements alfalfa well nutritionally, with your alfalfa acting as a protein source and the corn silage as an energy source.



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## FIELD RESEARCH IN ALGOMA

### Canola Production System Trials - Which system nets more money?

*by Terry Phillips CCA, Temiskaming Ag-Center*

The objective of this demonstration project is to compare the cost of three advanced production systems for canola: non GNO canola using a Pursuit program for weed control, Liberty tolerant canola using Liberty as the herbicide, and Round-up ready canola, using Round-up for weed control. This project is being run in Algoma, Nipissing and Temiskaming; however, they are not replicated at each site.

Paul Oikari of Thessalon is the co-operator from Algoma and his results are complete. His plots ranged in size from 6 to 9 acres in a field with good fertility (organic mat-

ter 5.5, P 17M, K171H, ph5.9). In 2005 the field was a poor stand of red clover/ timothy and was ploughed down. In 2006, the field was in barley yielding about 1 tonne per acre. For the canola crop in 2007, 96 lbs per acre of 18-18-18 and 96 lbs per acre of 46-0-0 was applied. The canola was planted on May 5, swathed on August 16, and combined on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

The chart below summarizes the cost of seed and herbicide for each system, yields and comparative net return considering herbicide and seed only. The Liberty plot required a second herbicide

treatment to control wild oats. If wild oats had not been a problem the liberty herbicide program cost would have been reduced by \$10.90. The price of canola used in the calculation is \$377 (\$422-\$45 basis). Thanks go out to the following for making this project possible: Paul Oikari, Sean Cochrane (Monsanta), Marieke Van Dorp (Bayer Crop Science), and Ian Page (BASF). Watch for more results in future issues of Breaking Ground.

### Canola\Production System Trial - Algoma

Seed type	Seed Cost 5lbs/acre	Herbicide used	Herbicide Cost	Yields	Net Return
Clearfield Dekalb 70-20	\$36/acre	Pursuit Ag Surf Uan (28-0-0)	\$32.47/acre	1.165mt/ac	\$370.74
Liberty Invigor 50-30	\$35.90/acre	Liberty Second tmt due to wild oats Poast Ultra Merge	\$28.42/acre	1.124mt/ac	\$370.33
Round-up Dekalb 71-45	\$41/acre	Round-up Weathermax TUA	\$19.94/acre	1.194mt/ac	\$389.20

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