

August 2006

# NORTHWEST LINK

Thunder Bay \* Rainy River \* Kenora Districts

## *Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association*

### MCGUINTY GOVERNMENT HELPS NURTURE THE NEXT GENERATION OF RURAL LEADERS

The Ontario government is continuing its strong support for learning opportunities for the next generation of agricultural leaders, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Leona Dombrowsky announced recently.

"The McGuinty government is proud to continue its support for the Centre for Rural Leadership and the important rural leadership programs it offers," said Dombrowsky. "Today's announcement will help support training and learning opportunities for the future leaders of Ontario's rural and agricultural associations, businesses and communities."

The government is investing \$152,000 over two years to support the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program (AALP), one of the longest-running, most successful agricultural leadership development programs in the world. Today's announcement of \$76,000 is the second installment under a two-year Memorandum of Understanding signed by the province and the Centre for Rural Leadership, which runs the program.

Through a series of seminars, study tours, self-directed learning and distance education over a 19-month period, 30 AALP participants develop leadership skills, an increased knowledge of the agri-food system, and perspectives on critical issues in the industry and rural community. Participants also expand their networks across the agri-food and rural sectors in North America and internationally. Other initiatives to support rural families and their communities include:

Investing over \$22 million in rural communities through the Rural Economic Development Program.

Contributing up to \$298 million to the Canada-Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (COMRIF) over five years to improve and renew public infrastructure.

"This program has been highly successful in helping shape some of the finest leaders in the agri-food sector," says Dombrowsky. "By developing critical leadership skills and instilling confidence in people, the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program is helping to shape a strong future for the agriculture and food sector, and rural communities across Ontario."

**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](mailto:lindat@tbaytel.net)**



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This newsletter is published monthly except for the months of April and December. Articles should be submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Nutrient Management Training Courses

Northwestern courses and dates are as follows:

“How to prepare an NMS/P using NMAN”  
November 21 & 22, 2006 – Thunder Bay  
Regulation and Protocols, November 28 & 29, 2006  
- Emo  
Fundamentals of Nutrient Management, December  
6 & 7, 2006 - Emo

People interested in registering for the courses should call the Northern Regional Office or the Agricultural Information Contact Centre to register. They will be given specific location information at the time of registration.

### Nutrient Units

Nutrient units are calculated based on the number of livestock housed on a farm unit.

Nutrient units vary for each type of livestock. For example, 1 beef cow and calf is equal to 1 nutrient unit. For farms with other livestock species or mixed livestock operations, call the toll free Nutrient Management Information Line at 1 866-242-4460 or consult on-line at:

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/nutrient/nutrient.html>



## EARS Report

Hello! Hope you're all doing well. How about this weather? Have you ever been finished haying this early? I realize we need the rain but it sure has been a nice summer. I am finding this heat wave just amazing, I really don't think I can remember when it has lasted this long!

### Weather Update:

The CHU until the end of June: 1163.

Rain in June: 40 mm

Rain to date (July 17): 179.8 mm or 7.2 in. (Isn't that funny – 7.2 in. is what we normally got in one rainfall these past few years!)

### Crop Update:

Our performance trials are looking pretty good. We likely will have a few barley varieties ripen this week. The sunflowers, which are on the second range in from the highway, are very uneven. First we had problems with the seed going through the drill and then there was very poor germination. We now have some blooming and germinating at the same time. The soybeans look quite good as well as the flax but just like everything else, they are thirsty! We do have some second cut alfalfa growing, but like many fields I see across the district, it may only get a few inches high and start to bloom.

Hope everyone can make the Open House. At least you shouldn't have haying as an excuse, but since you're done so early you'll likely be gone on a vacation!

Stop in anytime.

Kim Jo  
Emo Agricultural Research Station  
[kbliss@uoguelph.ca](mailto:kbliss@uoguelph.ca)  
807-482-2354

## Upcoming Events in August

August 10, 2006  
Semen Order  
Call Kim Jo – 482-2863 to place order

August 14, 2006  
4-H Clean-Up – Fairgrounds – Food Booth  
10:00 a.m.

August 16, 2006  
Barn Set-Up – Fairgrounds  
7:00 p.m.

Emo Fall Fair  
August 17, 18, 19 & 20

August 21, 2006  
Fairgrounds Clean-Up  
7:00 p.m.

Dryden Fair  
August 24, 25 & 26

September 5, 2006  
RRFA Directors Meeting  
7:30 p.m.

September 9, 2006  
Cattle Sale, Stratton Sales Barn  
Contact Russell Richards or Clayton Teeple for  
more info.

Week ending July 08, 2006  
Average Hot Weight 660.83 lbs  
Average Price 80.48¢/lb  
Average Settlement \$531.82

Week ending July 15, 2006  
Average Hot Weight 663.23 lbs  
Average Price 83.36¢/lb  
Average Settlement \$552.84



Week ending July 22, 2006  
Average Hot Weight 654.40 lbs  
Average Price 83.08¢/lb  
Average Settlement \$543.71

Grid range for cows has been 50.6¢ to 91.8¢ per  
pound

The most recent grid range for bulls has been 90.0¢  
to 97.0¢ per pound.

The range for steers and heiferettes has been 68.8¢  
to 96.9¢ per pound.

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### Health and Safety Workshop

A workshop to address the regulatory requirements  
under the recently implemented changes to the  
Ontario Health and Safety Act is tentatively planned  
for late November in Thunder Bay.

Watch for details next issue!

### Risk Management, Hedging Seminars

Hosted by the Ontario Cattlemen's Association and presented by Perry Iverson, Commodity Ingredient Hedging, Chicago, IL.. Learn about "Adding Value to your Beef Margin Decisions!"

Goals for Producers:  
Identify your forward profit margin  
Assess your margin situation  
Make effective contracting decisions

A session is planned for Thunder Bay November 2, 2006

A \$50.00 fee is due on registration which includes a Prime Rib lunch, a leather portfolio and a calculator.

Minimum of 10 participants, Maximum of 30 participants

To register, or for more information please contact:  
Ontario Cattlemen's Association Ph: (519) 824-0334 Fax: (519) 824-9101 or email: sandy@cattle.guelph.on.ca

## SCHOLARSHIP

Are you a student who completed high school and is going on to college or university? The Thunder Bay Federation of Agriculture is offering a bursary. Your parent or guardian must be a member of a general farm organization (OFA, CFFO, NFU). Please contact Trudy Reid at 935-3224 for application forms. Deadline is September 15, 2006.

## Moving?

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

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## FARMING'S FUTURE

"Farming for the Future" workshop organized by the Canadian Biogas Association and hosted by the Trent University Food and Agriculture group in Peterborough, Ontario from Friday September 15th to Sunday September 17th

Currently looking for abstracts, papers, presenters, contributors, moderators, in the following areas:

History and "Evolution" of Digesters & Biogas Technologies

Digester Designs - "Resource Development vs. Waste Management"

Digester Calibration - Performance Indices  
Methodologies to assess digestion efficiencies, carbon conversion, pathogen and odour reduction/elimination, digestate value as fertilizer and/or soil amendment, assessing technology impacts on the environment, etc.

### Digester Microbiology

Differences in substrates and associated microbiologies, effects of chemicals (antibiotics, disinfectants, POPs, etc.).

### Energy Farming:

Standing offer electricity contracts; agricultural crops as [biogas, bioethanol, biofuels] energy resource; GHG credits; maximizing revenues; making anaerobic digester & agri-energy projects bankable.

### Canadian Farm Biogas & Agri-Energy Projects:

Community Development and Sustainability  
Contributions to communities - rural and urban - caused by farm income stabilization and "predictable" decentralized renewable energy generation - the rural ability to feed, fuel and power communities.

### Canadian Network[ing]

Creating a Canadian "Biogas" Awareness, Consensus & Strategy  
"No society is safe in the hands of so few clever people"- Lancelot Hogben, 1963

All submissions received will be published as part of the conference proceedings.

Registration and opening plenary will take place Friday afternoon, followed by an informal networking event. Saturday, September 16, will consist of presentations and "breakout" groups to address the above issues in detail and Sunday morning will bring breakfast with closing remarks.

For additional information regarding registration fees, agenda, lodging, volunteering, etc., please contact: Gordon Toby Wells, 613-845-0329 email: gtwells@biogas.ca

## 2006 Ontario Young Farmers Forum

Sunday November 19<sup>th</sup> – Monday  
November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006

## Doubletree International Plaza Hotel

The OYFF gives participants the opportunity to:

- Network with other people in the agriculture industry
- Gain exposure to the work of OFA, JFAO and CYFF
- Learn about relevant issues affecting young people in agriculture like innovation, energy, management and change

Open to ALL young people ages 18-40!

To register contact the Junior Farmer Association of Ontario (JFAO) :  
450 Speedvale Ave. W. Suite 101  
Guelph, On N1H 7Y6  
Ph 519-780-5326

[www.ontarioyoungfarmersforum.ca](http://www.ontarioyoungfarmersforum.ca)  
website coming soon

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## Ontario Institute of Agrologists

Response has been encouraging from prospective participants interested in joining the Internationally Educated Professional Agrologists (IEPA) bridge training program provided by the Ontario Institute of Agrologists.

The program was unveiled in early June. By July 7, IEPA had drawn more than 70 enquiries, resulting in 30 program applications.

"The response to the IEPA program has been fantastic," says Dr. Doug Yungblut, OIA president.

"We suspected there'd be pent up demand, but we didn't know it would be at this level. It underlines the wisdom of the province's decision to proceed with a special program for new professionals coming to Ontario."

Through IEPA, up to 300 new agrologists from abroad will be registered in Ontario as Professional Agrologists over the next three years, adding to the province's critical mass of highly trained, educated and qualified agri-food and life sciences professionals.

"The Ontario government is investing \$1.125 million into the IEPA program to help the internationally trained within the agricultural sector work in their field sooner," says Ontario Citizenship and Immigration Minister Mike Colle. "Since 2003, our government has invested over \$34 million in bridge training programs to provide opportunities for more than 6,000 newcomers. These investments are part of our government's plan to break down barriers for newcomers and help our province compete in the global economy."

In June, the province introduced Bill 124, "Fair Access to Regulated Professions Act, 2006" to help immigrants to Ontario by ensuring Ontario's 34 regulated professions adopt registration practices that are fair, transparent and expeditious. Agrology will be impacted by the proposed legislation. "We welcome this initiative," says Yungblut.

Accountability is paramount for agrologists, and we support any measures instituted by Minister Colle that target unfair barriers to employment against either established Ontarians, or new ones."

Ontario, home of Canada's most diverse and productive agri-food sector, has a track record of attracting talented and ambitious immigrants. Over 125,000 immigrants arrive in Ontario each year; during the past two years, more than half were university graduates.

Unfortunately, these newcomers have been frustrated and stymied by the bureaucratic process, as they try to gain recognition for credentials gained abroad. Studies have shown that six out of 10 skilled immigrants end up not working in their professions because they have so much trouble getting their credentials recognized.

The Ontario Institute of Agrologists is one of the progressive regulatory professions already moving towards highly accountable practices.

Professional Agrologists (P.Ag.) participate in the Consortium of Ontario's Self-Regulated Professions, as well as the Ontario Regulators for Access Consortium, a smaller group of 23 self-regulating organizations that engage internationally educated professionals. The OIA is a self-regulated organization of professionals in the agri-food industry and agri-life sciences. Individuals registered with the P.Ag. designation are obligated under legislation to protect public interest and to maintain the highest of professional and ethical standards.

Professional Agrologists provide science-based analysis and advice and work in lending institutions, on farms, in advertising, public relations and marketing agencies, farm equipment dealerships, food processing plants, farm organizations, media and corporate boardrooms.

For more information, contact: OIA, Carol L. Tyler, P.Ag. Registrar/Executive Director  
1-519-826-4226 Email: PAg@oia.on.ca



## Energy and Cash from Manure

Ontario's support of renewable energy production and its Standing Offer Program, expected to commence this fall, provides an excellent framework for farm producers to exploit the energy naturally contained in manure and other organic agricultural materials.

Anaerobic digestion is a proven technology used worldwide to produce methane by bacterial decomposition of organic mater in the absence of

oxygen. In simple terms, organic waste inoculated with suitable bacteria, and held in concrete or metal tanks would produce methane that is used to fuel a motor generator set. It would be connected to the grid and receive the favourable renewable energy price from the Ontario Power Authority through a 20 year contract.

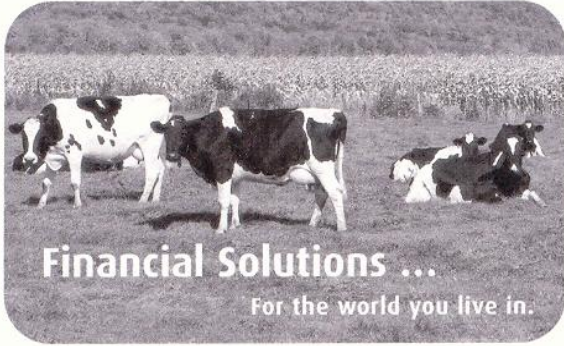
Significant other benefits would be gained, as well:

- . An in house source of electricity would provide protection against rising costs
- . A source of methane would provide protection against rising prices for oil, propane or natural gas that might be needed
- . Electricity sold to the grid at 11 -12 cents/kWh would provide a significant new revenue source (the energy value contained in agricultural wastes produced on a farm significantly exceeds the power needed on the farm)
- . The digestion process results in the complete sterilization and pathogen kill of the manure
- . The compost/nutrients produced are more easily taken up by plants than either chemical fertilizers or manure resulting in better growth and less run-off loss
- . Digestion of manure would eliminate odours
- . Weed seeds are completely destroyed leading to reduced need for herbicides

In addition to manure, any organic material would produce methane if digested in this way. Corn silage in particular is one of the greatest methane generators. The value of electricity produced from per acre with a yield of 20 tons per acre would be approximately \$1,000.

You can contact Don Dautovich for a free assessment of the potential for conversion of the organic materials on your farm and the sale of power to the grid.

Prepared on July 10, 2006 by Don Dautovich  
President Don-Esh Ltd 519 270 4514  
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## Canadian Agricultural Skills Service (CASS)

Effective July 4, 2006 the Canadian Agricultural Skills Service (CASS) program will be delivered in Ontario by the Colleges of Ontario Network for Education and Training (CON\*NECT), in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA).

The Canadian Agricultural Skills Service (CASS) program provides farmers and their spouses with opportunities to access specialized training with the goal of improving their farm profitability and net family income.

CASS gives farmers and their spouses an opportunity to examine their goals and develop a learning plan to achieve them. It provides farmers with financial assistance to take training that will help them improve their current farm practices, take advantage of new business opportunities in the industry, or obtain off farm employment. It may include formal training, such as college courses, or more informal training, such as workshops and seminars.

For more information call the CON\*NECT CASS Centre at (416) 340-0200 or toll free at 1-877-830-0200 or visit the website at [www.ontario.ca/cass](http://www.ontario.ca/cass) or [www.ontario.ca/scdca](http://www.ontario.ca/scdca) (french)

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## Agricultural Management Institute (AMI) Providing Project Funding

The Agricultural Management Institute (AMI) program is receiving, reviewing and approving projects designed to develop business management tools, products, information, resources and training for farm families, farm managers and farm business advisors in Ontario.

AMI is jointly funded by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), as part of the Renewal Pillar of the Agricultural Policy Framework.

A recent news release which describes six AMI approved projects can be found at [http://www.adaptcouncil.org/news\\_releases/2006/060605.asp](http://www.adaptcouncil.org/news_releases/2006/060605.asp)

Funding for the AMI program is being administered through the Agricultural Adaptation Council (AAC). For further information about funding available under AMI, please see the AMI section of Agricultural Adoption Council's website at [http://www.adaptcouncil.org/current\\_programs/ami.asp](http://www.adaptcouncil.org/current_programs/ami.asp) or call Ted Young at the AAC office (519) 822 7554.



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The Canadian Farm Business Management Council has just launched a new national data base which brings together some 1,500 agricultural enterprise budgeting tools and financial data from across Canada, including OMAFRA's Ontario Enterprise Budgets. Producer and business advisors can use this data base to find pertinent information for use in analyzing new alternatives for their business or to further evaluate their current costs of production.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.farmcentre.com/english/farmbudget/index.htm>

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## Horse News and Views

Good fertility, clipping of pasture a few times a year, aeration of compacted soils and rotational grazing will prevent or solve most of the pasture problems seen on horse farms. When pastures are well managed, only a few noxious weeds will be present. These can be removed by digging them up or selective use of herbicides when the horses are not on the pasture for a few weeks.

The acute toxins that kill horses in 24 - 36 hours include;

- Botulism (*Clostridia botulinum*) – usually associated with feeding haylage;
- Ionophore toxicity (Monensin, Rumensin) – associated with horses eating chicken or cattle feed, or mineral, containing or contaminated with ionophores;
- Yew (taxine) toxicity – associated with horses eating clippings from this common ornamental shrub;
- Poison-hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) – found in swampy areas;

• Red maple (*Acer rubrum*) leaf poisoning – seen when horses eat wilted leaves in paddocks or leaves that are disposed of into manure piles adjacent to paddocks. Fallen leaves remain toxic for a few weeks or more. Make every effort to ensure these toxins are not present on your horse farm !

, Anthrax is caused by spore-forming bacteria that can spread among animals through contaminated feed, soil or pasture during grazing. Particular environmental conditions, such as a flood or drought, can bring out and expose animals to the spores in the soil. Twenty-four cattle and one horse died of anthrax on farms in Manitoba. More than 200 animals died on 47 quarantined farms in Saskatchewan. Forty-two of these tested positive for anthrax.

For further information, contact Dr. Bob Wright (519) 846-3412 or visit our website:  
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock>

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## Ontario's Occupational Health and Safety Act

On June 30, 2006, Ontario's Occupational Health and Safety Act began to apply, with some limitations and conditions, to all farming operations that have paid workers under the Act.

Farming operations had previously been exempt from the requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety Act. Employers, supervisors and workers on farming operations should be aware that new duties and responsibilities are now in effect as of June 30, 2006.

Information on the Act can be found on the Ministry of Labour website at:  
Farming Operations index page:  
<http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/farming/index.html>

Guide to the Occupational Health and Safety Act for Farming Operations:  
[http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/farming/ohsa\\_0.html](http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/farming/ohsa_0.html)

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## Fall Seeding Options in Northwestern Ontario

-Dr. Tarlok Singh Sahota

Fall seeding, especially that of wheat and canola, is a common and age old practice in southern Ontario. However, the practice didn't pick up with the growers of northwestern Ontario, more so with the Thunder Bay growers. This is due largely to lack of research and extension efforts in this part of the world. Field experiments, initiated during fall 2004, at Thunder Bay Agricultural Research Station (TBARS), Thunder Bay, indicated that winter wheat, barley and canola seeded at optimum time during the fall could produce significantly higher yield (up to 3 tonnes/ha in winter wheat and ~800kg/ha in winter canola) as compared to their seeding in early spring. Winter wheat could be seeded during mid-August to mid-September; though the optimum time of seeding seems to be early part of August 25 to September 5. Winter barley (cultivar McGregor) performs the best when seeded on/around September 5. Californium canola

yielded better when seeded on August 15 than that on August 25, whereas the reverse was true for Kronos Canola. For winter wheat varieties, refer to the Annual Reports of TBARS/and [http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/w/perf\\_05.htm](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/w/perf_05.htm). Apart from higher yield, fall seeding has the following major advantages over spring seeding:

- Fall seeded crops act as cover crops, utilize residual nutrients, particularly N, from the preceding crops, and thereby minimize loss of nutrients to the environment.
- Fall seeded crops are very competitive to weeds and result in savings in expenses on weed control (herbicides, fuel, time, wear and tear of machinery) provided adequate plant stand is ensured. Targeted plant populations are 350-450 plants/m<sup>2</sup> for winter wheat, and 300-400 plants/m<sup>2</sup> for winter barley. Seeding rate for winter canola could be 5kg/ha. A burn down application of Round Up would however be required after perennial forage crops/or if there are perennial weeds in the fields.
- Spreading of labour peaks/and field operations (seeding and harvesting of fall seeded crops are at different times as compared to spring seeding).
- Diversification of the agricultural industry, and proper utilization of the fields vacated by forage legumes and grasses after second cut at the end of their cropping cycle.

P and K, at seeding, to fall seeded crops, should be applied as per soil test reports. Application of N will depend upon the target yield, produce price and the cost of N. For details, please refer to <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/pub811/p811toc.html> (Agronomy Guide for Field Crops). In winter wheat, N application is recommended @10kg N/ha in the fall and the rest in the early spring. However, we have successfully applied 30-40kg N/ha to winter wheat, barley and canola at TBARS. In our ongoing experiments, we are evaluating single application of N in fall, through urea and polymer coated urea (also known as ESN i.e. Environmentally Smart Nitrogen) vis-à-vis split application of N in fall and spring (10 to 40kg N/ha

in the fall and 70 to 100kg N/ha in the spring) as well as a single application of N in spring to work out the optimum partitioning for N application to winter wheat in fall/and spring. John Rowsell and I are initiating field experiments this fall, at New Liskeard and Thunder Bay, to work out the most economic rate of N application for winter wheat in northwestern Ontario from urea and ESN.

Considering the yield advantages recorded with fall seeding of winter wheat and canola in 2004 over spring seeding of these crops in 2005 and seeing clear cut better growth of 2005 fall seeded wheat, barley and canola as compared to 2006 spring seeded crops at TBARS, I encourage our growers to try their hand at fall seeding (winter) wheat, barley and canola (especially winter wheat) during the fall of 2006. In fact, motivated by the success of fall 2004 seeded plots at TBARS, a couple of growers in Thunder Bay have already initiated cultivation of winter wheat during the last fall. Readers may feel free to contact me at 807 475 1373 for any questions that they may have on fall seeded crops.

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The Ontario Cattlemen's Association Presents:

A Regional Marketing Workshop

September 28th, 2006

Travelodge Airline in Thunder Bay

Interested beef producers, processors and other supply chain representatives are encouraged to attend the Ontario Cattlemen's Association's 5th Marketing Workshop which will be facilitated by the consulting team at Mallot Creek Strategies Inc. The workshop aims to guide interested producer

groups through a strategic business process that is geared to a local/regional brand initiative. A workshop workbook is used to provide attendees with a solid marketing foundation to move forward with their individual marketing programs. Critical success factors are outlined and discussed including supply chain support and regional marketing opportunities.

What should I expect?

The deliverables of the workshop include:

Regional Marketing Process  
Regional Opportunities and Barriers to Marketing  
Partnership Identification  
Critical Success Factors  
Project Planning and Task Identification  
It is the goal of the meeting that each participant leave with a clear understanding of what will be helpful to move their regional marketing initiative forward.

We look forward to your participation in this dynamic marketing workshop!

Please contact April regarding workshop registration at (807) 274-6444, or by email at [aszpara@xplornet.com](mailto:aszpara@xplornet.com). To contact the staff at Mallot Creek Strategies for further details, please call (519) 787-7830 and ask for Jana or e-mail [jorange@mallotcreek.com](mailto:jorange@mallotcreek.com).

