

December 2007/January 2008

NORTHWEST LINK

Thunder Bay * Rainy River * Kenora Districts

Northwestern Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Associations

Successful Young Farmer Nominations

We're searching for outstanding young farmers in Ontario and want your help. We're sure you know some successful farmers - people who contribute to the community, who seek new opportunities, and who generally are assets to Ontario's agri-food industry.

Please tell us about them by completing the attached form. We want you to nominate them for the title of the 2008 Ontario Outstanding Young Farmer. This award will be presented at the Regional Conference to be held next March in London, Ontario. Anyone can nominate a young farmer/farm couple for the award. You can even nominate yourself. The eligibility requirements are simply:

- Must be between the ages of 18 and 39
- Must operate a farm
- Must derive a minimum of 2/3 of their income from farming

The process is simple.

1. Nominations are submitted to the Ontario OYF nomination committee (contact info below) by December 31, 2007.
2. The committee reviews the nominations and contacts the top candidates. Their decision is based upon items such as the nominees progress in their agricultural career; adoption of soil, water, and energy conservation practices; financial and management practices and contribution to the well-being of the community, province, and nation.
3. The top candidates will be asked to participate in an interview and presentation process at the

regional event to be held in March 2008 in London. The winner will be announced at the final banquet.

4. The provincial winner will then compete in the National competition which is designed to recognize young farmers that exemplify excellence in their profession. The National competition for 2008 will be held in Calgary in December 2008.

If you know an outstanding young farmer, please nominate them! It is time to recognize their outstanding contribution to the agricultural industry. Simply fill in the attached application form and send by email, fax or regular mail to:

Karen Daynard, OYF Coordinator
6904 Paisley Road West, R.R. #7,
Guelph, ON, N1H 6J4
Phone: (519) 836-2583 Fax: (519) 836-1733
Email: kdaynard@sympatico.ca

If you have questions about the nomination process, please contact John and Eadie Steele at john.steele@sympatico.ca or (705) 696-1491. More information about OYF can be found on the website <http://www.oyfcanada.com>.

Circumpolar Conference Coverage

If you click on <http://www.foodsecurityresearch.ca/> you will find a short article by Jeff Burke and then if you click on the underscored Sixth Circumpolar Conference you will find Jeff Burke's report. Also at the end of the article, if you click on 'give a presentation' you will find the Powerpoint, Jeff and Christina delivered together.

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.

Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage

Mandate: To support for local arts and heritage festivals, events and activities that engage Canadians in their local communities

Key words are local and support for arts, culture, heritage type activities

Two programs:

- Local Arts and Heritage Festival
- Community Historical Anniversaries Programming

Who can apply?

- local incorporated, non-profit organizations
- local, unincorporated groups
- Band councils, Tribal Councils etc.

What is covered?

- costs associated to volunteers
- fees and expenses of local artists, artisans, and heritage activities
- local promotion
- production expenses

Local level is emphasized...must have support of most local level of government

Funding

- Will ramp up over next 3 years so that by 2009-10 it will be a permanent program allocated \$13M annually
- Allocated per capita by province

Funding deadlines – January 14, 2008 for projects taking place from June 1-Dec 31, 2008

Information can be found at

http://www.pch.gc.ca/progs/dcap-bcah/index_e.cfm
or contact the Canada Heritage office toll free at 1-800-749-7061

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



Message from the Good Food Box
We are currently looking to connect with additional vegetable and fruit producers in the Thunder Bay region to plan to make some items available for the Good Food Box program to purchase for our 300 to 400 monthly box customers. We are interested in purchasing any type of fruit or vegetable that may become available in 2008. Some examples could be; carrots, apples, corn, berries, peas, cabbage, rutabaga, lettuce, beets, spinach, radishes, tomatoes, squash, cucumber, zucchini, leeks, and beans. If you are interested in finding out more about the Good Food Box and the benefits of selling your produce to the program please email goodfodbox@tbaytel.net or call 628-5768.



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before you move so you will not miss a
single issue of Northwest Link.**

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NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Nutrient Management Regulations Amended to Include Mixed Anaerobic Digesters and Vegetative Filter Strip Systems

On July 26, 2007 the Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs and the Ministry of the Environment amended the Nutrient Management Regulations (NMA) to facilitate the use of Anaerobic Digestion (AD) and Vegetative Filter Strip Systems (VFSS).

The new regulation under NMA replaces the requirement for a Certificate of Approval (C of A) under the Environmental Protection Act for AD systems that accept off farm materials and meet the criteria of the NMA. The new regulation also replaces the requirements for a C of A under the Ontario Water Resources Act for Vegetative Filter Strip Systems that can be used to treat runoff from farm yards, manure storages, outdoor confinement areas and storage for off farm AD materials.

These regulation changes will make it easier for farmers to invest in new technologies such as AD and VFSS with clearer rules and a process of approval under the Nutrient Management Act. For more information call the Nutrient Management line at 1-866-242-4460.



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Do you suspect stray voltage?

Hydro One is the first point of contact for farmers who suspect that stray voltage is impacting their farm. For information visit their new webpage on stray voltage at:

<http://www.hydroonenetworks.com/en/customers/farm/strayvoltage/default.asp> and call for an appointment to have Hydro one staff measure the level of stray voltage by calling 1-888-664-9376.

The initial consultation is free and consists of installing a stray voltage recorder for 72 hrs. If no action or need a second opinion, contact the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) at 1-800-372-7233 or Ontario Federation of Agriculture. ESA is a financially self-sustaining not-for-profit corporation so some service fee may apply.

The cause of stray voltage may come from on or off the farm sources. There is no one solution to all stray voltage problems. Each farm that experience stray voltage must be investigated with a process of elimination to find the source. Once the source is identified, then a specific solution can be applied.

Interim CAIS payments 2007

Agricorp is accepting applications for interim CAIS payments for 2007 financial year. In order to qualify for a payment they following steps must be completed:

Participants in CAIS must have their year 2006 completed. That may mean calling CAIS and asking them about status of their 2006 program year, requesting to speak to a reviewer if necessary. Their year 2006 may or may not generate a payment. If producers feel they are under financial pressure (mortgage or FCC payments due, over committed on a line of credit, etc.) they should inform the CAIS staff.

A three page interim assistance application form (not really onerous) must be completed. Based on the producer's projected expenses and income for 2007, they may be eligible for 50% of the 2007 program year CAIS payment, in the form of an interim payment. As long as they remain in the CAIS program, adjustments of their interim payment will be integrated or reconciled based on outcome of their entire 2007 program year.

Deadline to apply for an interim payment is December 31, 2007.

Cattlemen's Corner

Thunder Bay Cattlemen's Association Annual Meeting

8:00pm Thursday January 17, 2008
Founders Museum Hwy 61

Jim Martin, Northern Ontario Director to Ontario Cattlemen's Association will give an update on OCA activities

Barry Potter, OMAFRA Livestock Specialist –
Spring vs. Winter Calving Revisited

- Update on local beef marketing project
- Other topics of interest to cattle producers
- Election of directors and advisory councilor

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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

Quality Starts Here

Producers who have attended a workshop are eligible for cost share funding of 50% up to \$750 for:

- A) Hand held FRID 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 and sharps

Minimum refund \$200.00, send requests to Dan Ferguson for Ontario Cattlemen's Association. Deadline for application for refund in March 31, 2008.

Industry In Crisis

The Ontario beef industry is in grave distress, never having fully recovered from the effects on the BSE crisis. The industry is caught in a real margin squeeze. The three main reasons why margins have eroded are:

- Introductions of the enhanced feed ban regulations which are not in harmony with our major trading partner
- The rising value of the Canadian dollar
- Surging grain and oilseed prices due to government policy, driven establishment of the biofuel industry in Ontario, Canada and the United States


These are all events beyond the control of the industry and are in fact tied directly to government policies, regulations or programs.

Feed Lot producers are losing more than \$350 on every animal they finish, replacement cattle prices are dropping everyday.

What Can Producers Do?

Contact your MP and MPP by phone, write or visit, Politely tell them the problem.

-Thunder Bay Cattlemen



Alta Genetics Inc.

Willem Vellinga
Alta Dairy Representative

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

TBARA Meeting

Thunder Bay Agricultural Research Association
Presentation of 2007 research results

Feb 12, 2008, Murillo Hall

Lunch at 12:00 – Compliments of TBARA

1-3pm – Presentation of results by Dr. Tarlok Singh Sahota

OFA Convention Online

You can watch the OFA convention proceedings on Webcast at:
<http://www.webcastcanada.ca/ofa/convention07/index.php>

Woodlot Guide Available

Woodlot Management BMP is now available to order from the warehouse. Woodlot Management is the latest book in the award winning Best Management Practices Series . It addresses the management of existing woodlands ,including established plantations. Single copies are available from OMAFRA

(www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/products/best.html) free of charge to farmers and rural landowners in Ontario.



Electrical Generation

Farm operators thinking about on farm electrical generation projects may want to take a look at a new web site recently posted on the internet.

<http://www.farmenergyonline.com> has a number of tools to assist farm producers and processors in understanding their financial assessment needs and investment opportunities in renewable and alternative energy systems. The site is funded by OMAFRA, the Agricultural Management Institute and the Alternative Renewable Fuels Fund.

Grateful Gleaners

A Big THANK YOU to Belluz, Mountain Fresh, Breukelman's and Gammondale Farms for supporting the Gleaning Program during the 2007 growing season. Your generosity was very much appreciated by everyone involved. Families and individuals who are connected with social services agencies, and wouldn't normally be able to pick their own produce, were able to pick for free after your main harvest. The 200 gleaners who participated were able to feed themselves and more than 1000 others with fresh local produce. This program has been running for 7 years and is funded by Take Heart Thunder Bay and organized by staff from the Thunder Bay District Health Unit and Neighbourhood Capacity Building Project. We are always looking for more farms to participate. Please call Catherine at 625-5956 for more information or to get involved.

Learn What's New in Nutrient Management

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Environmental Management Branch has a new monthly communication newsletter for consultants, certified producers and stakeholders with an interest in Nutrient Management. The first issue will be released in December.

The Environmental Management Branch staff wants to use this quick update format to help Nutrient Management Strategy and Plan preparers keep abreast of policy, review and regulation changes and to keep stakeholders up to date on Nutrient Management issues. Another key benefit to this update is for farmers and consultants to share questions they have and to have answers printed in the newsletter so everyone can learn.

The December newsletter features sections on What's New in Nutrient Management, Tips from Approvals, Training Update, Dates to Remember and Consultant Question Corner.

The letter is targeted to Nutrient Management Consultants and Certified Producers however all

producers and agricultural industry staff are welcome to subscribe to the newsletter.

The branch plans to send the newsletter by e-mail to our current list of Consultants and Certified Producers who have supplied the Ministry with an e-mail through the Certification Process. If you would like to subscribe, your e-mail address has changed or you have a question for the Consultants Corner, please contact Phyllis MacMaster at phyllis.macmaster@ontario.ca or at 613-258-8297. You may also contact Rudy or Gary and ask them to forward your request. We just need your name and e-mail address.

TCRL Workshops

Workshops and seminars are being offered by, or coordinated through, *The Centre for Rural Leadership* over the coming months. Included is training on productivity & time management; introductory and advanced succession planning; GridWorks (improving your personal leadership and relationship skills); Insights Discovery (personal effectiveness); Board Governance; Board and Organization Leadership; and The Leadership Challenge.

These workshops are being offered in partnership with, and through the support of, a number of funding agencies, organizations and businesses and are directed at individuals, organizations, stakeholders and rural residents across Ontario.

Our current mission is to develop and support exceptional agricultural and rural leaders by creating life-long learning opportunities and delivering premier educational programs. Along with our flagship program, the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program, we hope this latest selection of workshops assists individuals and organizations across Ontario's agriculture, agri-food and rural sectors to move forward and grow.

Rainy River Soil & Crop Annual Meeting

Monday December 10, 2007
7:00 p.m. @ the Emo Legion
Everyone Welcome - bring a friend!
The agenda looks great...

Upcoming Dates

December 19, 2007
RRCA Directors Meeting
Stratton

January 5, 2008
RREDC - Emo Legion
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

January 26, 2008
Rainy River 4-H Leaders Meeting - Annual Meeting
Please call Kim Jo to confirm attendance
Emo Inn

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John (807) 483-5893

or

Amos (807) 483-7717

Greeting from EARS

It is December 3 today and, yes, I am supposed to be finished at the Station. I should have things wrapped up in the next day or two. I still have a bunch of copies to make and I am dragging my butt because that is a long, slow, boring job.

This is the end of my twentieth research year. I cannot believe it – especially when I think I am only 29 years old.

This was a decent year. We started off pretty wet and I know that still upsets my friends in the west end because they were a bit dry earlier on. We had

troubles getting stuff in the ground both due to the excess moisture and seed arriving late. It did get dry later in the year and then ended up with plenty of moisture as I was finishing up ploughing. We were able to take second cut on a few more trials this year, but some of them were lacking the moisture by the end of August. Yields were far from outstanding. You can let me know if you would like a copy of the research data – I will again leave some at Emo Feed.

Thanks again to my girls, Noreen Hartlin and Kerry Hyatt. Summer Students play a big role and I appreciate this immensely. Michelle Denys, the Rainy River Soil & Crop Intern, has now returned to Southern Ontario and we are looking forward to her return in the spring.

Have a great winter – looking forward to working with everyone again in the spring!

Kim Jo Bliss
kbliss@uoguelph.ca

ATTENTION BEEF PRODUCERS

Do you have calves that are at least 50% Angus? If yes, you can easily put a few more dollars in your pocket. Kerr Farm Sales is in need of more cattle. There a few simple rules:
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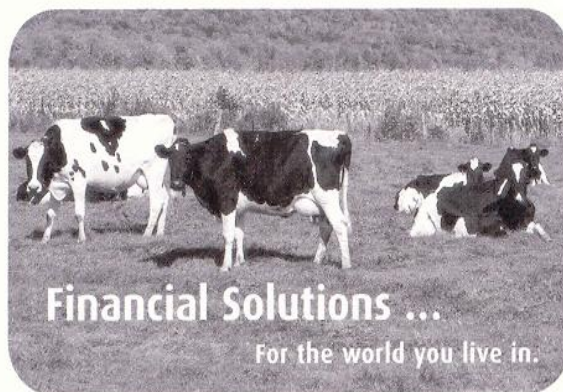
There are many options available, you can sell as calves, you can retain ownership, etc. Please give Amos a call at 483-7717 to discuss this further or drop him a line at pineriverranch@tbaytel.net



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Attention All Young Farmers

Are you getting cabin fever? January 9, 8 p.m. we are inviting any young farmer aged 19 to 30 - something to come out to the Stanley Tavern for a night out of the house and, if you're not too shy, some socializing. Any questions feel free to contact me (Jeff Burke) at 933-4352. See you there.

Farm Safety Day

The Thunder Bay Soil and Crop Improvement Association Farm Safety Day Committee is looking for volunteers who might want to share their experiences of a farm - related accident. We would like to invite you to give a presentation to children at a Farm Safety Day held in the future here in Thunder Bay. For any information please contact Wilma Mol at 473 5105.

Please mark your calendars: The next Farm Safety Day will be held April 26, 2008. Again the event will be held at "The Dell" in Murillo. There will be 6 topics we will focus on, and they will be different from what we taught in 2007. More information will follow in upcoming newsletters.

Lakehead University Soils Lab Tour

It's been a little while but the soils lab is almost up and running. Everyone is invited on January 7 at 10 a.m. for a tour of the soils lab in Braun Building BB1071 at Lakehead University. You will get a chance to see some of the soil - testing equipment, instruments, and even some demonstrations, as well as a chance to ask questions. The LU FoReST soils lab will offer a wide range of agricultural soil tests at competitive affordable prices to promote soil testing and crop productivity in Northwestern Ontario. For more information contact:
Joel Symonds – Lab Manager/Analyst
Forest Resources and Soils Testing Laboratory (FoReST Lab)
Office: BB1005D 343-8639 Lab: BB1069 343-8026
soilslab@lakeheadu.ca

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Updates on Flour Mill and Beef Marketing

I have been getting quite a few questions lately about both the status of the wheat mill and the beef marketing research, so I hope this answers a few of those questions.

The flour is milled and the mill put away for the winter. Currently we are collecting consumer survey results on their opinion of the flour and a marketing Masters student will compile these results into a report. This report along with a previous market study report can then be used as guidelines for the viability of starting a flour mill in Thunder Bay.

On November 28th students from a fourth year marketing class at Lakehead University presented their term projects on marketing channels for local

beef in the Thunder Bay area. The objective of this course was to give the students a practical problem (which was discussed ahead of time with some members of the Cattlemen's), and they would then report their findings back to the community. There was a reasonable turnout of local producers, and in my opinion the students had quite a few good ideas. Next term a fourth year marketing class will be looking at the beef market in Thunder Bay and will report on it in a similar fashion.

If anyone has any questions or comments please feel free to email me jjburke@lakeheadu.ca or give me a call 933-4352. Also, if you would like a copy of the presentations that the students did, I would be more than happy to give you one.

Jeff Burke H.B.E.Sc



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Free-Stall Housing Design Seminar

To register by phone call the Agricultural Information Contact Centre at 1-877-424-1300

To register by other means please return the following information to:

Fax: 519-539-5351

Mail: OMAFRA, 401 Lakeview Drive,
Woodstock N4T 1W2

Email: ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca

January 29, Woodstock Tie Stall

Jan. 30, 31, Woodstock Free Stall

February 5, Listowel Tie Stall

February 6, 7 Listowel Free Stall

February 26, Kemptville Tie Stall

Feb. 27, 28 Kemptville Free Stall

- The cost of the Free Stall course is \$180
- The cost of the Tie Stall course is \$90
- To attend all three days you need to register for both courses.

Courses include a CD of written information. A paper manual is available at a cost of \$30 and may be purchased now or at the time of the course.

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Office 807 344-8400
Fax 807 345-0949

Contact: Wendy Cooke

Dairy Expansion Interest Remains Strong

Interest in new dairy barn construction and herd expansion is stronger than it has been in recent years, according to Jack Rodenburg, OMAFRA Dairy Production Systems Program Lead. Declining quota prices, extra quota days and open borders are all reasons for optimism. But according to Rodenburg, it is not only the dairy economy that is strong and with a tight job market and high labour costs, dairy producers need to continue to seek ways to increase their productivity and labour efficiency. New facilities that eliminate bottle necks, improve cow health through better comfort, and allow for implementation of new labour saving technology are all factors driving the many expansion and renovation projects planned for next summer. OMAFRA staff Jack Rodenburg, Harold House and Dr. Neil Anderson have organized freestall design seminars around the province each winter for the last 14 years and enrolments are expected to be high across the province for this years courses. Freestall seminars are planned for Woodstock January 30 and 31, Listowel February 6 and 7 and Kemptville

February 27 and 28. Single day tiestall seminars will be held at the same locations the day prior to the start of the freestall programs. The courses are intended for dairy producers with plans to do major construction or renovation projects in the next 2 or 3 years and also for the contractors, engineers and equipment suppliers who work with them. For more information or to register for one of these programs, call 1-877-424-1300.

NEW Online Regulation and Protocols Course

The online course will allow participants to learn at their own pace and when it is convenient for them

The Nutrient Management Regulation and Protocols Course is a self-paced online course. It gives you an overview of the Nutrient Management Act, including key definitions and requirements of the Act, Regulation and Protocols. You are also given tools to create your own nutrient management strategy (NMS) and/or nutrient management plan (NMP). This online course is equivalent to the in-class Regulation and Protocols Course. The course is divided into seven sections and will take about eight hours to complete. After you complete the course, you will have unlimited access to the course to use as a resource. To view this course, we recommend you have a 56K internet connection (at minimum). Once you are connected, the course is viewable through a web browser such as Microsoft Internet Explorer, Netscape Navigator or Firefox. You should also have access to a printer. It will be available beginning in January 2008. Contact the Nutrient Management Information Line at 1-866-242-4460 for registration information.

Cost

\$95 per producer (\$70 for additional people from the same operation)

\$180 per non-producer (\$130 for additional people from the same organization)

Recent Winnipeg Cattle Prices

Volume of cattle sold has been fairly steady though dropping somewhat in the past month. Prices have also been fairly steady. Here are the price ranges for steers for the past month at Winnipeg Livestock Sales to December 7.

Over 1000 lbs.	\$	NA	
900 – 1000 lbs.	\$	65.00 -	90.00
800 – 900 lbs.	\$	70.00 –	92.50
700 – 800 lbs.	\$	80.00 –	95.50
600 – 700 lbs.	\$	80.00 –	107.00
500 – 600 lbs.	\$	90.00 –	111.00
400 – 500 lbs.	\$	90.00 -	115.00
under 400 lbs.	\$	95.00 -	120.00

Slaughter cow prices fell again in the past month. Here are the price ranges for cows and bulls to December 7.

Choice Strs. & Hfrs.	\$	NA	
Select Strs. & Hfrs.	\$	NA	
Cows Dry Fed	\$	24.00 –	30.25
Good Fleshed	\$	23.00 –	26.00
Lean	\$	15.00 –	23.00
Good Bulls	\$	22.00 –	40.00

MCGUINTY GOVERNMENT HELPS COMMUNITIES PROTECT THEIR DRINKING WATER SOURCES

Funding for drinking water stewardship enshrined in legislation

The McGuinty government is providing \$7 million to help farmers, property owners and businesses take steps now to protect local drinking water sources, Environment Minister John Gerretsen and Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Minister Leona Dombrowsky announced today.

“We have a shared responsibility for protecting drinking water. Our government is making it easier for people who live and work in rural communities

to do their part and make early changes that help safeguard local drinking water sources now and into the future,” said Gerretsen.

Ontario’s Clean Water Act, which was passed to protect drinking water sources, is the first such legislation to include a special assistance program for rural communities. Of this initial \$7 million:

- \$4 million is helping with the costs of measures taken in areas around municipal wells and water intakes such as upgrading wells and septic systems, installing runoff and erosion controls and reviews aimed at improving how businesses store, handle and dispose of materials.
- \$2 million is for promoting awareness of what individuals and businesses can do and the funding available to them.
- \$1 million is going to special projects to protect municipal drinking water sources including those that demonstrate a new or innovative approach.

“We listened when farmers told us that they need financial assistance to implement source water protection,” said Dombrowsky. “We have also committed an additional \$21 million over the next three years to support water protection efforts in rural Ontario.”

An advisory panel including agricultural, municipal and conservation authority representatives provided advice to guide the development and ongoing operation of the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program including the types of activities that should be funded.

“As a member of the Minister’s Advisory Panel that provided advice on this program, I am extremely pleased to see this investment in protecting our drinking water supplies. On behalf of Ontario’s Conservation Authorities I’d also like to say we appreciate the opportunity to partner with the Ministry in the local delivery of these funds,” said Don Pearson, General Manager of Conservation Ontario.

USEFUL CONTACT INFO

NORTHERN ONTARIO REGIONAL OFFICE
Caldwell Township Hall Building
Hwy 64, Box 521, Verner POH 2M0
Telephone: 1-800-461-6132 Fax: 705-594-9675
Mary Ellen Norry Car, Regional Manager, North
Email: maryellen.norrycar@ontario.ca

EMO OFFICE
P. O. Box 210, Highway 11, Emo P0W 1E0
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Gary Sliworsky, Agricultural Representative
Email: gary.sliworsky@ontario.ca

THUNDER BAY OFFICE
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Rudy Buitenhuis, Agricultural Representative
Email: rudy.buitenhuis@ontario.ca

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

Summary of TBARS Research Results 2007 – Variety Evaluation

Spring Cereals:

Specialty Wheat:

- Two hard red spring wheat varieties (*Superb and Sable*) were compared with 4 durum wheat varieties, one old wheat (*Kamut*) and one soft white spring wheat (*AC Andrew*).
- *Hallmark* (Ontario durum-4,179 kg/ha), *Sable* (4,056 kg/ha) and *AC Avonlea* (Western Canada durum-3,794 kg/ha) were statistically at par with each other in grain yield.
- *AC Avonlea* had the highest straw yield (6,784 kg/ha) and had an edge in biomass yield (10,578 kg/ha) over *Hallmark* (10,242 kg/ha) and *Sable* (10,103 kg/ha).
- Grain yield of *Kamut* was only about 55% of grain yield from *Hallmark*/or *Sable*.
- *Kyle*, a low grain yielding durum wheat (3,036 kg/ha), had the highest (15.2%) and *AC Avonlea* (11.6%) the lowest grain protein content.

Organic wheat (with alfalfa green manuring and application of solid dairy manure):

- *Hallmark* produced the highest (4,187 kg/ha) and Red Fife the lowest (563 kg/ha) grain yield. *Kamut* grain yield (865 kg/ha) was only ~30% of that under conventional farming.
- *Superb* (3,396 kg/ha) could be better suited to organic farming than *Sable* (2,042 kg/ha).
- Highest biomass yield (10,556 kg/ha) was obtained with *AC Avonlea*.

Wheat Performance:

- *Megantic*, formerly *BS00-078*, produced the highest grain yield (4,398 kg/ha), amongst the 18 wheat entries, and was followed closely by *Sable* (4,216 kg/ha) and *Quantum* (4,022 kg/ha).
- *Megantic* recorded the highest biomass (11,010 kg/ha) and straw (6,612 kg/ha) yield.
- In this experiment, *Hallmark* lagged behind *Sable* in grain yield by 369 kg/ha.
- *Sable* and *Quantum* had similar (15.1/15.3%), but higher grain protein contents than *Hallmark* (13.6%) and *Megantic* (12.2%).

Barley Performance:

- Twenty six barley varieties/lines were evaluated.
- *OAC Chesley* (5,600 kg/ha), *OS02-611* (5,474 kg/ha), *Synasolis* (5,374 kg/ha), *Brucefield* (5,314 kg/ha), *Chapais* (5,283 kg/ha) and *Cyane* (5,224 kg/ha) topped in the grain yield.
- Straw yield from *Cyane* was ~2,000 kg/ha and 1,426 kg/ha higher than that from *Brucefield* and *Chapais*, respectively.
- *OAC Chesley* produced higher biomass (10,652 kg/ha) than *Chapais* (10,192 kg/ha). However, these two varieties had similar straw yield (~5,000 kg/ha).
- Grain protein content was in the order of *Cyane* (13.6%) > *Brucefield* (11.9%) = *OAC Chesley* (11.8%) > *Chapais* (10.9%) > *Synasolis* (9.8%).

Oats Performance:

- Twenty varieties/biotypes of oats were compared.
- Amongst known varieties, highest grain yields were obtained with *Lois* (4,590 kg/ha), *Alcyon* (4,447 kg/ha), and *Manotick* (4,434 kg/ha); *AC Rigodon* was close by at 4,383 kg/ha.
- *P9741A41-4-6-7* that didn't do better than known varieties last year, topped in grain yield (4,888 kg/ha) this year.
- Highest biomass yield was recorded with *OAI063-8* (10,617 kg/ha) followed by *Alcyon* (10,244 kg/ha) and *AC Rigodon* (10,064 kg/ha).
- *OAI063-8* topped in straw yield (6,160 kg/ha) and was followed by *Alcyon* (5,797 kg/ha).

Manitoba Forage Barley and Oats:

- *Binscarth* (6,628 kg/ha) and *Stockford* (5,033 kg/ha) in barley and *AC Furlong* (5,287 kg/ha) and *Pinnacle* (4,604 kg/ha) in oats were the top ranking varieties for forage/silage.

Soybean:

Varieties and population:

- In the soybean varieties trial, there was no significant difference in grain yield between the 8 varieties tested, though *OAC Prudence* (2,638 kg/ha) and *90M01* (2,436 kg/ha) were the top two high yielding varieties.

Corn for silage: Liquid manure was applied to the plots during fall 2006.

Maizex/Pioneer silage corn varieties:

- *Pioneer 39T67* (a check) produced the highest (11,995 kg/ha) and *LF755BT* the lowest dry matter yield (7,274 kg/ha). Yield from the other two Maizex varieties, *LF755BTRR* and *LF753*, was 9,719 kg/ha and 9,584 kg/ha, respectively.

Alfalfa:

- In *OFCC 2006 trial, 4.2* (a new variety from *Power Seeds*) gave as good yield (4,733 kg/ha) from two cuts as *Magnum IV* (4,780 kg/ha). These two varieties had an edge over *Oneida VR* (4,569 kg/ha) and *OAC Superior* (4,299 kg/ha) in the total yield from two cuts.
- In *Western Forage Trial*, in a comparison between 10 entries, a couple of Western varieties, *Rangelander* (6,557 kg/ha) and *AC Blue J* (6,122 kg/ha), yielded much better than the other varieties from West/and Ontario's *Forecast* (5,339 kg/ha) or a mix of 4 varieties (*Forecast, Stealth, 8925 MF and Guardsman*) from Ontario (5,527 kg/ha).
- In another set of alfalfa variety experiments,
- *Macon* (6,736 kg/ha from two cuts) gave 3, 11 and 33% higher yield than *Guardsman, Stealth* and *2065 MF*. Protein content, averaged over two cuts, was more or less the same in all the 4 varieties (16.4-16.8%).
- *2065 MF* (5,046 kg/ha from two cuts) produced 11, 19 and 40% higher yield than *Forecast 1001, 134* and *Geneva*. Protein content, averaged over two cuts didn't vary much with the varieties and ranged from 16.5 % in *Forecast 1001* to 17.1% in *2065 MF*.
- *8925 MF* (7,198 kg/ha from two cuts) gave 11, 18 and 23% higher yield than *OAC Superior, NK 711 MF* and *2065 MF*.
- Protein content was in the order of *8925 MF > NK 711 MF > 2065 MF > OAC Superior* in the first cut and *2065 MF > 8925 MF > NK 711 MF > OAC Superior* in the second cut.
- Considering a yield index of *2065 MF* as 100, the yield indices of other varieties were *Macon: 133, Guardsman: 130, 8925 MF: 123, Stealth: 120, OAC Superior: 110, NK 711 MF: 104, Forecast 1001: 90, 134: 84 and Geneva: 72*.

Note: For forage grasses varieties, readers may refer to TBARS Annual Report 2006

For complete summary of the research results 2007, readers may visit www.tbars.net

Dr. Tarlok Singh Sahota CCA

Traction: Skills to Grow Workshop

For information on the two - day Traction: Skills to Grow workshop (focuses on helping farm families) look at Details about Traction on their web site at www.tractionskills.ca

Information on the CASS Program is available on the website at www.ontario.ca/cass

My \$150 OFA Membership?

OFA members frequently ask about the benefits received from their farm organization. Fair question!

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture is *farmers working for farmers*. The OFA exists to provide services to farmers and must be accountable to farmers.

Over the years the OFA has delivered. The OFA is involved in every aspect of farm business and rural life. Some of the successes directly attributable to the work of the OFA and its commodity partners that put money into farmers' wallets each year include:

Retail Sales Tax: Savings to farmers = \$20 million

- OFA lobbied to get many farm inputs exempt from Retail Sales Tax.
- OFA's efforts have enabled the membership card to be used for the exemption at point of sale. Easier transactions save \$1 million.

Land Transfer Tax: Savings to starting farmers = \$5 million

- OFA lobbied to eliminate the tax on farms sold within families.

Energy: Total savings for farmers = \$26 million

- OFA saved farmers 1.5% on electricity distribution costs.
- OFA won access to government hydro rate for all farmers – saving 8% on power bills.
- Eligibility for government rate extended till May 2008 – saving 4% for small volume users.
- OFA partnered with AgEnergy to get savings of 4% on hydro bills.

Property Taxes: Tax savings to farmers = \$386 million

- OFA monitors and lobbies for the maintenance of the farm property tax system including ensuring valid farm assessments.

Permits to Take Water: Savings to farmers = \$1.35 million

- OFA and commodity partners worked to gain an exemption for farmers from fees for Permits to Take Water for irrigation and frost protection for agricultural purposes.

Environmental Farm Plans: Value each year for farmers = \$12 million

- OFA works with the Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) to deliver EFP programs in Ontario, providing funds for farmers for training and to implement Best Management Practices.
- The new EFP program provides \$57 million for training and BMP projects.

Safety Nets: Estimated average value to farmers = \$585 million

- OFA's focus is always the financial well being of Ontario farms and Ontario farmers.
- OFA works closely with commodity organizations and sector representatives to help develop and lobby for safety net programs and, if necessary, for disaster funding.

Outlet Drains: Savings to farmers = \$6 million

- OFA worked with commodities and municipal organizations to get the Municipal Outlet Drainage program reinstated, providing support for rural drainage programs.

Member Services: Value to farmers - priceless!

- OFA employs 21 highly skilled Member Service Representatives, located across the province to assist farmers with any issue affecting their farm business.
- MSR's help to co-ordinate activities within your community including lobbies, meetings, access to government information and programs and OFA's extensive communications efforts.

These savings are only part of the activities of the OFA on behalf of farmers. The values shown above add up to over **\$1 billion in value to farmers** in Ontario - **\$20,419 for each farmer** in Ontario.

That is a good return for an investment of \$150.

But your investment isn't all that is needed. OFA is farmers working for farmers. Members also need to invest some time to help us work with governments to secure the policies farmers need.

Agriculture in Newfoundland? A view of the Circumpolar Agricultural Conference in Happy Valley/Goose Bay, Nfld.

The 6th Circumpolar Agricultural Conference in Happy Valley/Goose Bay, Newfoundland and Labrador: *Northern Agriculture - Evolving with a Changing World*. When I first heard those words, pictures came to mind of people talking about farming at the North Pole. Do they even have farms in Newfoundland and Labrador? Could I consider Thunder Bay, Ontario to be that far north? Would the issues even relate to farming in Northwestern Ontario? What I found was a group of agricultural producers, academics, organizations and government that were extremely dedicated to using the resources around them in northern climates to produce agricultural products to grow healthy communities. Northern growers have similar issues on all sides of the globe, as seen in presentations from Norway, Sweden, Canada and the USA. The conference took place from September 28 to October 3, 2007. The first three days included a tour of the West Coast of Newfoundland with 44 other attendees. Participants had a chance to see Rideout's Vegetable Farm (a farm run by descendants of WWII veterans who were provided government assistance to establish farms), Headline Holstein (a 360 milking, 60 dry and 330 heifer cow farm on approximately 915 acres of land, including some newly cleared land), Dark Tickle (a wild berry processing facility), Gros Morne National Park and L'Anse Aux Meadows (two UNESCO World Heritage Sites). Upon arrival in Happy Valley/Goose Bay by charter plane, we were greeted at the airport by the President of the local Chamber of Commerce, who organized our luggage and transportation to the conference hotel. Presentations were made over the next three days.

base with Gwynne Dyer speaking on climate change and international relations. Many lessons were learned through networking, tours and speakers. Corn production in northern climates, community gardens, sheep and dairy production, and biofuels were just some of the topics covered in the seminars given at the conference. Marketing of local resources such as wild berries and game (caribou) to create businesses was also a great inspiration. Learning the history of Newfoundland and Labrador from the agricultural perspective gave participants an understanding of why and how the industry has developed since the first Norse settlements in the 1700s. Using local vegetables for school fundraisers teaches a healthy lesson to children. Many other ideas, connections and lessons could be learning from talking with local participants, like Norwegian dairy farmers, Newfoundlander greenhouse producers and Alaskan entomologists.

My thanks to the Northern Ontario Agri-Food Education & Marketing Inc for choosing me to represent Northern Ontario at this conference. 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. If you would like to know more about the conference, or would like me to speak at one of your organizations meetings, feel free to contact me at christinamol@hotmail.com or call me at 475-5193.



FedNor Youth Internship

Food Security Research Network - Lakehead University

Who is eligible?

Unemployed or underemployed youth (under the age of 30) who have graduated with a degree or diploma from a post secondary institution within the last three years, are legally entitled to work in Canada, and have not been previously employed under a FedNor Youth Internship funding Agreement, or other Federal or Provincial Internship with pay for a period of six (6) months or more. Candidates must have reliable transportation.

Salary:

This is a one year appointment starting February 4, 2008 and is partially funded by FedNor's Youth Internship Program.

Successful candidates responsibilities will include, but not be limited to:

- Assist with the design of surveys and in-depth interview material to be utilized;
- Administer in-depth interviews, a market survey and market analysis of those who tested the samples of locally grown and milled wheat for future demands of organic, non-organic, specialty, and stone-ground wheat;
- Carry out market survey and market analysis of the regional potential consumer population by distributing 1000 surveys at local agricultural fairs to define consumption demand, trends, and preferences for locally milled wheat;
- Assess logo and brand image effectiveness of the new type of flour;
- Assist with the development of a sustainable distribution system for locally grown wheat products based on the results of the market research; and,
- Prepare report and presentations of results, identifying local opportunities to market and add value to wheat/flour production in Northwestern Ontario.

Qualifications: The ideal candidate will have familiarity with survey and market/marketing research, proven skills in advanced SPSS analysis, an interest in building a stronger local food system, and excellent interview and written communication skills.


Application Deadline: January 4, 2007

Please email (1) a cover letter stating your interest in this Youth Internship and what qualifications you bring to the position and (2) a copy of your resume to fsrn@lakeheadu.ca

For further information about this Youth Internship, please contact:

Dr, Mehdi Zahaf mzahaf@lakeheadu.ca or Dr. Connie Nelson cnelson@lakeheadu.ca

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Recent Gencor Cow Prices

Week ending November 10, 2007

Average Hot Weight 642.84 lbs Average
Price 53.90¢/lb Average Settlement
\$347.02

Week ending November 17, 2007

Average Hot Weight 653.53 lbs Average
Price 54.10¢/lb Average Settlement
\$353.79

Week ending November 24, 2007

Average Hot Weight 646.38 lbs Average
Price 56.20¢/lb Average Settlement
\$363.14

Week ending December 01, 2007

Average Hot Weight 659.18 lbs Average
Price 58.60¢/lb Average Settlement
\$386.08

Grid range for cows has been 24.6¢ to 67.8¢ per
pound

The most recent grid range for bulls has been 63.0¢
to 70.0¢ per pound.

Grid range for steers and heiferettes has been 60.6¢
to 72.1¢ per pound.



This message first appeared in a newsletter called
“Top Management”:

Seeds of Encouragement

Here are a few more thoughts when considering the
family farm jewels:

(vi). Doing the right thing can be very tricky. Ask
yourself, “why do I want to give this to this child?”
Don’t do it if it is because you feel guilty or want to
correct a wrong or fix something that happened in
the past.

(vii) Once you think you’ve got it figured out, tell
your children what you are considering. The
feedback you get will give you valuable direction in
“tweaking” the final draft.

(viii) Don’t keep it a secret. Once you know what
you are giving the children, to charity and to your
retirement...tell the kids while you are still alive to
explain- why you did it the way you did. It could
save a lot of heartache, unanswered questions and
hard feelings after you are gone. Keeping wills
secret is not a good thing. In today’s culture, the
families who communicate their intent openly will
be leaving a greater legacy of understanding with
their family.

(ix) If you are giving away heirloom items, or any
items, make sure the family history goes along with
it. It will mean more to the new owner and help in
still a sense of belonging.

(x). Finally Ask other farm family business owners
what they think they owe their children. Listen to
their rationale. Read. Consult outside advisors to
ask the difficult questions to move the parents and
the children along. Farm family facilitation can be a
great investment in keeping the family meeting safe
and productive.

The Chinese have a saying that “talk does not cook
rice”. Talking is a good place to start, but ultimately
we have to act on our intentions. Also keep in mind
that relationships are the real family jewels.

Sowing seeds of encouragement, I’m Elaine Froese.

Weather Summary - Emo Agricultural Research Station

Crop Heat Units

	May	June	July	August	September	October	TOTAL	Beginning Date	Ending Date
2000	352	466	693	658	188	0	2357	Apr-27	Sep-15
2001	366	577	681	656	195	0	2475	Apr-28	Sep-14
2002	41	503	706	638	289	0	2177	May-30	Sep-15
2003	299	588	687	747	301	0	2622	May-09	Sep-15
2004	0	437	671	530	312	0	1950	Jun-03	Sep-15
2005	243	655	763	649	505	0	2815	May-09	Sep-15
2006	408	606	780	686	163	0	2643	Apr-16	Sep-08
2007	464	658	717	656	185	0	2680	Apr-22	Sep-11

Rainfall

	May	June	July	August	September	October	TOTAL
2000	55	108	56	97	48.5	54.2	418.7
2001	134	83.5	122.5	137	42.5	110.6	630.1
2002	63	301.5	97	99	42	16.6	619.1
2003	32.5	133.5	83	57.5	59	25.6	391.1
2004	185.7	52.9	114.1	83.7	138.5	112.1	687
2005	127.6	224.5	98	107.3	67	77.2	701.6
2006	79.6	40	57.3	37.6	35.4	26.8	276.7
2007	113.5	170.4	72	27.25	76.5	116	575.65
Normals from Environment Canada - (rainfall amounts)	67.3	113.8	99	84	79.4	50.4	493.9