

November 2007

# NORTHWEST LINK

Thunder Bay \* Rainy River \* Kenora Districts

## *Northwestern Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Associations*

The Thunder Bay Federation of  
Agriculture

Presents

Stray Voltage and Your Farm

A consultation workshop designed to help  
identify and evaluate stray voltage issues  
affecting Ontario Farms.

Thursday November 1, 2007

8:00 p.m.

Slate River Hall, Founders' Museum

Presented in part by:

Ontario Energy Board and Ontario  
Federation of Agriculture

## The Environmental Stewardship Award

The Ontario Cattlemen's Association and the Royal Bank of Canada are seeking nominations for the environmental stewardship award, which recognizes the outstanding environmental stewardship of an Ontario cattleman. Special consideration is given to producers who have taken innovative approaches to environmentally sustainable cattle production. Any producer, association, and conservation and environmental group may nominate a beef producer in their area who meets the criteria for the competition. The winner chosen by a selection committee will be announced at the annual meeting of the Ontario Cattlemen's Association to be held in February 2008, and will go on to represent Ontario at the national level of the competition. The Ontario winner also receives \$500.00 to be put towards a farm gate sign or a painting of their choice.

A great way to promote agriculture and demonstrate our concern for the environment. Deadline for nominations is November 30, 2007. For more information contact your Ontario Cattlemen's Advisory Councilor or: Lianne Y Appleby, Communications Manager Ontario Cattleman's Association. Tel: 519-824-0334 Ext 230  
Fax: 519-824-9101

## The Ontario Pasture Award

The Ontario Cattlemen's Association is pleased to partner with Maple Seed and the Ontario Forage Council in sponsoring the "Maple Seed Pasture Award 2007" This is an excellent opportunity to recognize individual producers who are doing an outstanding job of pasture management strategies that maximize production per acre.

Maple Sees contributes a cash award of \$750 to the winner, \$250 to cover their accommodation, plus a 25kg bag of their choice of a Maple Seed forage mix. There will also be two honorary prize winners, each winning \$250 and a 25kg bag of forage mix. The winners will be announced at the OCA annual meeting which will take place in February 2008.

To submit a nomination for this award contact your OCA advisory councilor for an application form. Pictures and diagrams are great. Deadline for nominations is November 17, 2007

### OCA Advisory Councilors

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

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.



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## Friday Deadline

US border is scheduled to open for animals over 30 months of age if born after March 1, 1999 and also to breeding stock. To enter the United States they must be age verified with Canadian Cattle Identification Agency. Must have an RFID Tag

Market Access Program will reimburse producers three dollars per calf born and age verified since Jan 1, 2006, Dairy and Beef heifers, bulls and steers if the following criteria are met: Calves Age Verified  
Vet approved vaccination program  
Have or will attend a 2 hour Quality starts here verified beef production workshop which will be held

Application deadline for Market Access Program is **November 2, 2007**

The Canadian Meat Processing companies can not get enough age verified slaughter cattle to fill the market in Japan.

The focuses of these programs are from the Ontario Government.

If we do not use them as producers Beef and Dairy are sending the following messages to the Government:

- A) We do not need the money
- B) We do not wish to co-operate in developing new markets for our beef and are satisfied with the prices we receive for our calves, cows and bulls

The feed lot operations are paying more Age Verified properly vaccinated pre conditions calves because they know they will not get discounted because of SRM removal for calves over 30 months of age when finished and sent to the packing plant. Please think this over and act now!

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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**Ben Bilker**  
Area Representative


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Home/Fax: 613-475-2346  
email: [bbilker@reach.net](mailto:bbilker@reach.net)

## New Board Members for TBFA

Thunder Bay Federation of Agriculture's annual general meeting, held October 18 at Murillo Hall, resulted in the following election results:  
Regional Director – Peter Aalbers  
Delegate to Convention – Erik Johansson  
New Executive Members – Luke Farmer, Allan Maki, Trudy Reid

An excellent dinner of beef on a bun was catered by This Old Barn, and entertainment by George Davis and Company kept the crowd tapping their toes to the music. Thanks to all who attended, to those who agreed to serve as executive members, and to those who organized an enjoyable evening.



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### Moving?

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

## Recent Gencor Cow Prices

Week ending September 29, 2007

Average Hot Weight 628.93 lbs  
Average Price 67.80¢/lb  
Average Settlement \$426.17

Week ending October 06, 2007

Average Hot Weight 662.16 lbs  
Average Price 69.40¢/lb  
Average Settlement \$459.28

Week ending October 13, 2007

Average Hot Weight 663.69 lbs  
Average Price 68.00¢/lb  
Average Settlement \$451.36

Week ending October 20, 2007

Average Hot Weight 657.69 lbs  
Average Price 63.32¢/lb  
Average Settlement \$416.62

Grid range for cows has been 27.6¢ to 73.8¢ per pound

The most recent grid range for bulls has been 64.0¢ to 76.0¢ per pound.

No range for steers and heiferettes has been set.

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## CAIS is Changing

Recent issues of the Northwest Link have featured news releases of announcements made by governments on changes that are planned to the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) program.

As a result of these announcements the former CAIS program will be split into 2 components. One will be known as AgriInvest which will look and operate much like the former Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA). The second will be known as AgriStability and continue on the principles of CAIS all be it with some changes in calculations and terminology.

*Please note that agreement in principle has been reached between the federal and provincial governments but formal implementation agreements have yet to be signed. When signatures are in place funds will begin to flow.*

Contributions to AgriInvest will be based on what will be known as Allowable Net Sales (ANS). This change is of particular importance to operators of farms that have a combination of supply managed sales and non supply managed sales.

Where the former Eligible Net Sales (ENS) calculation deducted all qualifying seed and feed purchases from qualifying sales frequently leaving supply managed operations with negative ENS the new methodology will prorate qualifying purchases against qualifying sales at the same rate as the qualifying sales to the supply managed sales of the farm. For example if 75% of a farm's sales are supply managed (non qualifying) only 25% of the qualifying feed and seed purchases would be deducted from the qualifying sales to calculate ANS.

The contribution rate for AgriInvest will be set at 1.5% of ANS for 2007 with contributions matched by government to maximums. There will be no deemed deposits. Upon withdrawal, government dollars come out first and will be considered investment income for tax purposes. Contribution limits will be calculated on the annual T1163 farm income statement filed for income tax purposes but it is anticipated that there will be some modifications to the forms to facilitate ease of calculating ANS.

AgriStability will have a fee of 0.45% of 85% of the fee reference margin for 2007. Current participants in CAIS should have received an invoice at this

time. The fee payment is due December 31, 2007. After that time a late penalty will be applied. Only one coverage level is available, 85% of the reference margin.

Producers not currently enrolled in CAIS or who did not receive a federal COP payment will want to contact AgriCorp to participate in AgriInvest and AgriStability.



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### Ontario Risk Management Program

Many producers recently received an application package from AgriCorp for the Ontario Risk Management Program.

This is a 3 year pilot program developed in consultation with OFA and representatives of the grains and oilseeds sector. It is funded entirely by the province.

Coverage starts with the 2007 crop and will continue for an additional 2 years. To participate producers will be enrolled in CAIS / AgriStability, purchase Production Insurance and grow at least one of the eligible crops. There will be a premium charged based on the coverage level chosen.


For 2007 only, the requirements for Production Insurance and the premium will be waived. As a result there is only one level of coverage, 100% of the cost of production for the crop grown as calculated from 2003, 2004 and 2005 data as reported to Canadian Revenue Agency and adjusted to 2007 using the Eastern Canada Farm Input Price Index.

It is important to note that an RMP payment will be considered an advance on the province's share of


any CAIS payment for that program year. However if the RMP is more than a CAIS payment there will no claw back on the RMP payment.

Additional program details can be found at:  
<http://www.agricorp.com/en-ca/programs/rmp/>

Deadline to apply is November 15, 2007



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In the Stratton area, call Bob Leblanc, 807 487-2671

### *“End of Season Corn Stalk Testing For Nitrogen”*

It is generally acknowledged that a high percentage of corn fields receive more fertilizer N than is economically feasible and/ or environmentally acceptable. This realization, coupled with recent advances in nitrogen costs, has accelerated the trend towards reduced nitrogen rates whether based producer experience and strip trials or use of modeling tools such as the N Calculator. Regardless of how the nitrogen rate was determined, we are often left wondering at the end of the season “did I apply the optimum amount of N relative to the yield I harvested?”

One method of evaluating and validating nitrogen management is use of the “end of season cornstalk test.” Research has confirmed that the nitrogen status of a corn crop can be assessed by measuring nitrate concentrations in the lower portion of the cornstalks at the end of the growing season. The basis for this tissue test is that corn plants suffering from inadequate N availability remove N from the lower cornstalks and leaves during the grain filling period. Conversely, corn plants that have more N

than needed to attain maximum yields accumulate nitrates in their lower stalks at the end of the season.

The end-of-season cornstalk test was calibrated by establishing relationships between yield and stalk nitrate concentrations. These concentrations can be divided into four categories; low (less than 250 ppm N – likely that N was deficient and limited yield), marginal (250 to 750 ppm – possible that N was deficient and limited yield, optimal (700 to 2000 ppm N – yield was not limited by deficient N) and excessive (greater than 2000 ppm N – nitrogen supply was probably excessive). The low category indicates high probability that greater availability of N would have resulted in higher yields. The optimal range indicates high probability that N availability was within the range needed to maximize yields for the producer while the excess category indicates high probability that N availability was greater than if fertilizer N had been applied at rates to maximize profits for the producer.

The concentration of nitrates in the stalk at the end of the season reflects all factors that influenced N availability and N needs. For this reason, weather conditions that occurred during the growing season need to be considered when interpreting results. Lower than desired concentrations should be expected in years of unusually large amounts of rainfall that result in unusually large N losses and (or) high yield potential. Higher than desired concentrations should be expected in years when unusually low rainfall limits N losses and (or) yield potential. The test itself does not directly indicate how much N rates should be increased or decreased, but continued use of the test for several years enables producers to make adjustments towards optimal rates.

The time for sampling is between one and three weeks after black layers have formed on 80% of the kernels of most ears. The portion of each plant sampled is the eight inch segment found between 6 and 14 inches above the soil. Fifteen eight inch segments should be collected to form a single sample submission. Areas differing in soil types or management histories should be sampled separately.

The underlying reason for over fertilization is that corn plants show no visual symptoms that enable producers to recognize when above-optimal rates of N have been applied. Thus, all corn growers should consider using the test on a few fields each year.

Those who confirm that they generally apply too much or too little N will find it profitable to adjust rates of application. Particularly, growers who grow corn on manured soils or after alfalfa should use the stalk test as it is common to underestimate the amount of N supplied by these sources.

This note is reproduced from A & L Laboratories Inc London Fall 2007 Newsletter, Page 5. In silage corn, stalk samples can be taken at harvest time. For further information on End of Season Stalk Testing, readers may contact A & L Laboratories Inc London (Tel: 519-457-2575).

*Dr. Tarlok Singh Sahota, TBARS, Thunder Bay.*

## Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)

You need to act now!

The deadline for completion of approved projects is November 30, 2007

- If your approved project is completed and the bills have been paid, call the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) immediately to get the claim process started.
- If you have final approval to proceed from OSCIA, get going on the projects if you have not already.
- There are still opportunities to apply for cost share, if you can meet the November 30, 2007 completion deadline.

There will be no payments for partial completion of projects.

Call your local OSCIA Program Representative or the OSCIA at 1-800-265-9751 for more information.

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## Upcoming Dates

REDC Meeting  
(Rainy River Future Development Corporation)  
November 1, 2007  
6:00 p.m. - Emo Curling Club

RRFA Directors Meeting  
November 6, 2007  
7:30 p.m. - Stratton

Agri-Food Symposium  
November 7, 2007  
10:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Stratton

Dr. Stacey Angus will be in the area  
November 8, 9 & 10th  
Call 204-326-3955 to book appointment's or to order

RRCA Directors Meeting  
November 21, 2007  
7:30 p.m. - Stratton

OCA Advisory Council Meeting  
November 27 & 28, 2007  
Coburg Ontario

Semen Order  
December 10  
Call Kim Jo 482-2863 to place order

Dr. Stacey Angus will be in our area  
November 13, 14 & 15  
Call 204-326-3955 to book appointments or to order  
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RRCA Directors Meeting  
December 19, 2007  
7:30 p.m. - Stratton

## EARS Report

Hello! Rain, rain go away! Yes, I think we have had plenty enough rain. Of course I have only a few hours left to plough and this weather it not cooperating. It didn't help that I had a few breakdowns. It was ploughing very nicely though I could run into trouble now if it gets too wet. I lack 4 WD.

Thanks to Bruce Forrest; he returned the threshing machine right here on October 2, as he was attending the OCA Vision meeting. That was such a nice gesture and saved a trip to Quetico. I still have to thresh and clean the flax – it is on the list!

I am still working on the Research Summaries so most days I spend the day on the computer. It's nice when you stop in for a visit – it gives me something else to look and think about!


Michelle (Soil & Crop Intern) will be retuning to Southern Ontario next week so I will be alone (me and the mice). Michelle has worked very hard and has been a real asset to our district.

### Weather Update:

To Date (October 18, 2007) – 541.25 mm of rain – 21.65” (and more coming as I write)  
CHU 2774 (ending on September 11, 2007)

I should have the summaries all finished up by the next issue of the North West Link so feel free to drop in and pick one up.

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



Alta Genetics Inc.

Willem Vellinga  
Alta Dairy Representative

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

It's not too late!

I have had a few people let me know that they could not make the Quality Starts Here Workshop / Age Verification earlier this month. Please call me and let me know if you are interested and if I get enough (minimum 12ish people) - I can try and organize another one. Call ASAP though - as deadlines are approaching.

Thanks

Kim Jo 482-2863 [kjb@nwonet.net](mailto:kjb@nwonet.net)

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## Some suggestions for the 2008 crop season

It is perhaps time to review the past season, learn from the past mistakes, if any, and plan for the next crop season. Here are some of my thoughts that might be of help.

*Soil Sampling/testing:* It may be a good idea to take soil samples from your fields, if you haven't done that already or if you haven't tested your soils during the past 2-3 years. Best temperature for soil sampling is 5-7°C, because at this temperature there is hardly any nutrient transformation. For details of soil sampling readers may refer to Soil Fertility

Handbook or Agronomy Guide for Field Crops. Soil samples can be sent to any of the accredited labs in Ontario. However, if the farmers can collectively send the soil samples to A & L Lab London (<http://www.alcanada.com/main.html>), they may get 20% discount.

*Fertilizer application:* It is advisable to go by soil tests and OMAFRA recommendation tables in the Agronomy Guide for Field Crops. Soil labs often recommend fertilizer application even to soils that are high to excessive in P and K, which isn't really necessary, more so if such fields get manure application. Get the manure tested for its nutrients content and make adjustments in the fertilizer application program, if necessary. Since Thunder Bay District soils have shown deficiency of sulphur (S), it may be better to use a blend of urea and ammonium sulphate (80:20 on N basis) than urea alone to meet N as well as S requirements of all field crops. If such a blend has to supply 100kg N, it will require blending 174kg urea and 98kg ammonium sulphate. For surface application of N, through urea, broadcast urea when the air temperatures are below 15°C to minimize volatilization losses of N. Application of urea a day prior to rain/or frost too will help in minimizing N losses from urea. Use high analysis fertilizers for P and K such as 11-52-0, 0-46-0 and 0-0-62 to lower cost per unit of nutrients. Take care to apply micronutrients, such as boron (B) @1kg/ha and zinc (Zn) @14kg/ha, if the soil tests are low for these nutrients. Procuring fertilizers in the fall may be cheaper than procurement in the spring.

*Crop Rotation:* Rotating crops has several advantages including improvement in the soil quality and control of insect pests, diseases and weeds. Cereals after cereals or corn after corn (particularly after two years of continuous corn) or soybean after soybean should be discouraged. Corn/or cereals could follow soybean and vice versa. Grasses/or cereals or corn could follow alfalfa and vice versa. Avoid alfalfa or soybean after canola. Herbicides applied to canola can have an adverse residual effect on legumes. Try to limit the hay (grasses or alfalfa) cycle to 3-4 years only. Rip off the old weedy hay fields for rotation with other crops. Try to get more from fewer acres by reducing the hay cycle rather than having less from

more acres with longer periods under hay. This will reduce cost per acre and wastage of time and other resources such as machinery. Grain demand is likely to be high. Go for cash crops; money earned can be used to buy hay, if need be.

*Crop Diversification:* Growers can add new crops such as chickpeas, winter wheat and canola or even durum wheat that have been tested and found to be high yielding at Thunder Bay Agricultural Research Station. Winter wheat has the ability to escape the likely dry weather during July-August, which adversely affects grain development in spring cereals. This might require buying a new combine header/or making adjustment in the combine headers. However, it may be worth it! Don't rely too much on a single seed company/or a single variety. Growers have wisely added new varieties of barley, such as AC Klinck and Cyane, to their cropping systems. AC Klinck and Cyane may have the same or higher grain yield, but definitely higher straw yield than Chapais/or Brucefield. Take care to treat the seed before seeding if it wasn't already treated. Buy small quantities of certified seeds every year to replace old seeds on farm. It doesn't really pay to use more than the recommended seed rates except in wild oats infested fields and under organic farming systems. For corn, prefer varieties with thick stem and discard varieties with thin stems. It is desirable to grow more than one variety of a single crop to reduce the risk of disease epidemics (if there is one) and crop failure in the entire area. This is applicable to all crops. Grow at least two varieties from two different companies, but don't grow too many varieties at the same time. Those who have been growing Pioneer corn varieties may like to add DeKalb varieties and those who have been growing DeKalb corn could add Pioneer corn (39T66 or 39T67, which have been tested at TBARS/or by Peter Aalbers). Short stature, broad leaved, Pickseed corn varieties with thick cobs didn't do well during dry summer of 2007 particularly in sandy soils.

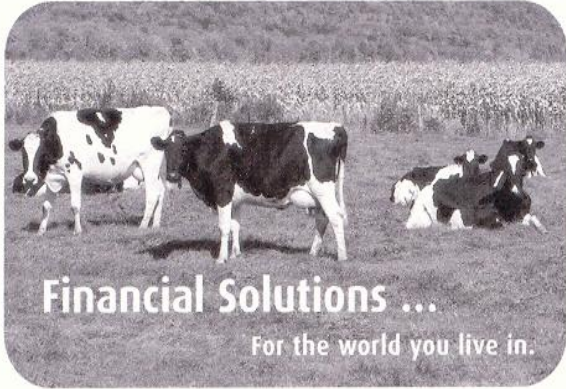
*Control of wild oats:* Wild oats have been showing their ugly heads time and again. Integrated wild oats control measures relying more on the management practices than the herbicide usage is the key. Two years of harvesting barley for silage at an early stage (heads fully emerged) could reduce wild oat

densities to levels similar to wild oat herbicide applications. Fall Rye, followed closely by winter wheat, is most competitive to wild oats. Wild oats infested fields could be allocated to hay crops, soybean, canola and corn. In the latter crops, these are easily visible and easier to control especially if RR varieties are grown. Spraying Venture L @ 1-2 l/ha in alfalfa and traditional soybean varieties can effectively control wild oats, quack grass and volunteer cereals. In the hay crops, frequent cuttings will not allow wild oats to seed. However, wild oats seeds can be dormant for several years, if they are buried deep. Therefore avoid deep ploughing wild oats infested fields. Wild oats infested fields could also be brought under pastures for grazing. Critical period for control of wild oats in spring wheat/cereals is between 2 to 4 weeks after emergence. Increasing seeding rates 20-30% above normal can increase the competitive ability of a crop. Work in USA, indicated that increasing crop plants density, from 50 to 100/m<sup>2</sup>, reduced the average wild oat seed production by ~60 % in wheat and by 67% in barley. Achieve/and Puma Super are recommended for control of wild oats in spring wheat and barley (see product labels before use). Product cost for both the herbicides is ~\$18.00-18.50/acre. Other suggestions to control wild oats are:

- Resort to minimum tillage in wild oat infested fields; harrowing should be preferred to ploughing that could turn the seeds deep down to come up in future.
- Clean the implements before moving from wild oat infested fields to other fields.
- Narrow row spacing and optimum seeding depth will enable a crop to compete well with the wild oats and other weeds.
- While importing seed from other provinces, especially from Western Canada, and other countries, care should be taken to remove wild oats seeds, if any, from the crop seeds before seeding. *Remember such contamination of wild oat seeds could be from the herbicide resistant biotypes of the weed, which may be extremely difficult to control with herbicides!*

Best of Luck for the New Crop Season!

*Dr. Tarlok Singh Sahota CCA*



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## FactSheet

**07-035: Assessing the Potential for Ground Water Contamination on Your Farm**, Agdex 751; replaces 97-017.

**07-045: Manure Storages for Small- to Medium-Size Horse Farms**, Agdex 743/460; NEW.



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## Recent Winnipeg Cattle Prices

Volume of cattle sold has been steadily increasing in the past month and there has been a downward trend in prices. Here are the price ranges for steers at Winnipeg Livestock Sales to October 23.

Over 1000 lbs.	\$	70.00 -	84.00
900 – 1000 lbs.	\$	75.00 -	93.75
800 – 900 lbs.	\$	80.00 –	99.25
700 – 800 lbs.	\$	85.00 –	106.00
600 – 700 lbs.	\$	85.00 –	106.00
500 – 600 lbs.	\$	90.00 –	113.00
400 – 500 lbs.	\$	95.00 -	121.50
under 400 lbs.	\$	100.00 -	124.00

Slaughter cow prices are down quite a bit this month as well. Here are the price ranges for cows and bulls to October 23.

Choice Strs. & Hfrs.	\$	NA
Select Strs. & Hfrs.	\$	NA
Cows Dry Fed	\$	25.00 – 35.00
Good Fleshed	\$	23.00 – 32.25
Lean	\$	15.00 – 29.50

Good Bulls                   \$ 20.00 – 39.75

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## Agriwebinar

Brought to you by the Canadian Farm Business Management Council, this online series offers you access to the world's leading agricultural decision-makers from the comfort of your desktop. And it's all translated in French and English. There's no cost to you – it's completely, 100% free.

### MONDAYS JUST GOT BETTER

Starting in November 2007 and wrapping up in March 2008, there are 18 Agriwebinars. Each session happens on a Monday at noon EST. There are 20 minutes allocated for questions following the 40 minute presentation. Topics include 2008 global outlook, implications for grain marketing and bio-fuels, the future of agritourism, farm viability issues and much, much more.

### WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Go to [www.farmcentre.com](http://www.farmcentre.com) for a complete listing of dates, topics and speakers.



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## Boise Wood Ash

Boise Cascade of International Falls is looking to bring wood ash from its paper mill into the Rainy River District. The ash is a good source of lime and potash fertilizer. This ash program has been going on in Northern Minnesota for the last 8 years providing lime and fertilizer to more than 10,000 acres in a 70 mile radius of International Falls.

This spring and summer ash was spread on approximately 400 acres in the Rainy River District.

In order to receive wood ash the farm site must have a need for lime and/or fertilizer and meet Ministry of Environment criteria. Generally this means doing a soil test which shows the soil is acidic (pH < 6.1) or is low in potassium.

If you are interested in this program please contact Gary Sliworsky at the Emo OMAFRA office.

## GROWERS ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT SOYBEAN SAMPLES

As the end of the Ontario soybean harvest draws to a close, growers are reminded to submit their harvest samples for quality testing to the Ontario Soybean Growers (OSG). Results gathered from harvest samples illustrate Canada's ability to consistently produce and supply superior quality soybeans to international markets.

The Harvest Survey is an independent assessment of crop quality conducted by the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC). The information gathered from the samples can identify specific quality traits that buyers may prefer as well as any potential problems. The Harvest Survey assesses each sample for grade, oil and protein content. A comparison is conducted to the previous year's quality data. The harvest survey is also a tool to ensure that moisture charts are representative of the varieties currently grown.

"The information collected in the Harvest Survey is utilized for soybean quality assurance and testing," says Leo Guilbeault, Chair, Ontario Soybean Growers. "By supporting this initiative growers are helping illustrate that Canada is a producer and supplier of safe, high quality soybeans."

International soybean buyers utilize these sample results when making purchasing decisions. Once collected and tested the samples are collated into the Canadian Grain Commission Harvest Summary ([www.grainscanada.gc.ca](http://www.grainscanada.gc.ca)), providing data on current and previous Canadian soybean crops.

OSG is co-ordinating the collection of samples again this year, arrangements for sample collection and submission can be made by contacting Adriana Perron at [aperron@soybean.on.ca](mailto:aperron@soybean.on.ca) or 519-767-4131.

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## Fall Pasture Management Following a Dry Summer

The summer of 2007 has been one of the driest on record in many parts of Ontario and pastures are showing the impact! There are a number of steps to consider this fall and next spring to bring pastures back into top form.

### Reduce Tramping

Allowing pasture re-growth this fall will result in a more vigorous stand next spring. Sacrifice a small pasture and feed in this area rather than letting the livestock roam across the entire pasture. Once moisture levels return, and the grass starts to re-grow, give pastures a chance to develop before allowing livestock to graze. The plants need time to grow new root and leaf material and re-build root reserves, to replace what was damaged during the dry weather.

If feeding green-chopped forage, be aware that nitrate levels may be high in drought-stressed corn or sorghum, that could be deadly to livestock. Refer to "Drought Damaged Corn Silage" on the OMAFRA Website at [www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/drought.htm](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/drought.htm).

### Stubble Fields

Don't under-estimate the amount of forage available in a grain stubble field. As well as the stubble and chaff left behind, grain that went out the back of the combine, missed grain heads and grass weeds will all provide feed. There will be between a few days to a few weeks of feed in these cereal fields. Soybean stubble fields are another option. This emergency feed can be supplemented with hay or other feed to complete the ration.

### Annual Forage

If sufficient growing season remains and soil moisture is adequate, consider an annual forage. Fall rye grows well into the fall, and greens up early in the spring. Depending on the length of growing season remaining, oats, rape or stubble turnips might be considered. These crops are best sown in early- to mid-August.

### Fertilizer

Nitrogen fertilizer applied to a grass-based pasture during the early fall will encourage growth and help to rejuvenate the grass. 50 to 70 pounds of actual nitrogen should be applied. Expect 20 to 30 pounds of dry matter production from each pound of nitrogen

applied. Fall application will increase the sugar levels in the grasses, and enable more vigor next spring.

To establish new legumes in a pasture, the best method may be to apply phosphorous and potash this fall, and then frost seed late in the winter or early next spring with trefoil or clover. The legume seedlings will need a reasonable level of fertility to get properly established, and the weakened grasses will be less competitive.

After A Drought" on the OMAFRA Forage Website at [www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/field/forages.html](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/field/forages.html).

- Jack Kyle, Grazier Specialist, OMAFRA



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Thunder Bay Soil and Crop Annual Meeting

Thursday December 6  
10:00 a.m.  
Murillo Hall

Lunch courtesy of Soil and Crop

### Thunder Bay Federation of Agriculture Website and Display Committee

Your TBFA has been busy working for you, our local farmers. Plans continue on the development of a website promoting local producers and supporting rural businesses, and two display units, promoting local agriculture and produce and employment opportunities in agriculture.

Our proposal for funding from the Agriculture Adaptation Council's CanAdvance Program is nearing completion, with our submission date target being the end of November. With this date in mind, official notification, regarding if our proposal has been accepted, will be received early in the new year.

We have received much encouragement for our promotions proposal from the community, through verbal and financial support. We would especially like to thank our premier sponsors thus far, Farm Credit Canada, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Food Security Research Network, and the local Federation. Together with many other contributors, we have raised over \$4000 toward our project.

If you are interested in assisting us financially, you can still contact Brenda Burke at 933-4352 or mail to Brenda at RR1, Kakabeka Falls, P0T 1W0.

Donations of any amount are appreciated. And if you would like to be involved in the website or display units, let us know. We are always interested in your ideas for this and any TBFA project. Our committee is Erik Johansson, Peter Aalbers, Linda Turk, Brenda Burke, and Peggy Brekveld.

Thunder Bay farmers have a lot to offer. We look forward to sharing that with the area and beyond.

*Peggy Brekveld, chair*


## Grazing Mentorship Program

- Jack Kyle, Grazier Specialist, OMAFRA

The Sustainable Grazing Mentorship Program is a consulting/mentoring program being delivered through Ontario Cattlemen's Association and funded by Greencover Canada. The Grazing Mentor program is open to beef producers in Ontario. The program helps connect experienced graziers (mentors) with novice producers to assist the less experienced in implementing Beneficial Management Practices in their grazing operation. A Grazing Mentor is a respected producer peer with extensive grazing management experience and knowledge. The Mentor can suggest grazing management options to help you improve your profits, your forage productivity and your land and water resources.

A Grazing Mentor from your area will come to your farm to discuss your grazing resources, opportunities and challenges. The Mentor can make suggestions about fencing, watering systems, grazing systems, plant growth, forage species, winter grazing options, or just about anything you have questions about!

The cost to the novice grazier is \$100. The Mentor comes to the farm and assists the novice grazier with creating grazing plans, developing systems, and performing economic analysis of their enterprises. The mentor puts in approximately 16 hours (2 days) with the novice producer. To find out more, or to request a Mentor contact Paul Stiles, Ontario Cattlemen's Association 519-824-0334 or 1-866-370-2333.



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University of Guelph Beef Cattle  
Transportation Study:  
Assistance of Beef Producers  
Requested

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is currently assessing how cattle are transported in Canada with intentions of changing the laws and regulations that govern the industry. Changes proposed by CFIA may increase trucking costs for beef producers. In an effort to better understand current transportation conditions for the movement of cattle in Canada, the Ontario Cattlemen's Association is funding a University of Guelph research study to examine how current transportation conditions (space/loading densities and travel time) impact animal welfare, health, and performance for weaned calves and yearlings (500-900 lbs). The objectives of this research are to determine if current procedures for transporting cattle ensure animal welfare and how they impact health and performance after arrival. The ultimate goal of this work is to ensure animal welfare while increasing the demand for Ontario grown beef.

The help of beef producers is needed in this study to collect data on cattle loads that are received at feedlots and to follow their health for approximately 8 weeks after arrival. Surveys have been constructed to collect data from producers and truckers on the same loads of cattle during transit and following arrival. The more information that can be collected on how cattle are transported in Canada will provide CFIA with industry data that will support current trucking regulations without the need for the proposed costly changes. Please consider participating in this research study to provide valuable information on the Ontario Beef industry. If you would like to participate in this benchmark study or desire more information, please contact one of the University of Guelph researchers involved in this study by telephone or e-mail: *Matt Thrower* (519- 827-1346 or e-mail [mthrower@uoguelph.ca](mailto:mthrower@uoguelph.ca)); *Ken Bateman* (519-824-4120, Ext 5-4006; [kbateman@ovc.uoguelph.ca](mailto:kbateman@ovc.uoguelph.ca)), *Ira Mandell* (519-824-4120, Ext 5-3337; [imandell@uoguelph.ca](mailto:imandell@uoguelph.ca)), *Tina Widowski* (519-824-4120, Ext 5-2408; [twidowsk@uoguelph.ca](mailto:twidowsk@uoguelph.ca)

## USEFUL CONTACT INFO

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### CROP RESEARCH STATIONS

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

Thunder Bay Agricultural Research Association  
807-475-8404 (telephone & fax)  
Email: [tbars1@tbaytel.net](mailto:tbars1@tbaytel.net)

Visit OMAFRA on the internet at  
[www.ontario.ca/omafra](http://www.ontario.ca/omafra)

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

Roughage Benefits Rumen Development in Milk-fed Calves

Neil Anderson, Animal Health and Welfare, OMAFRA

In Ontario, it is common advice to feed grain and withhold roughage to stimulate rumen development in milk-fed, dairy replacement calves. Some producers follow the advice while others ignore it and provide dry hay. Recently, researchers in the Netherlands used veal calves in a study that showed advantages of dried grass and other roughages in the diet.

Table 1 (below) is taken from the Dutch research paper. Bull calves (64) received milk replacer plus one of eight dietary treatments. Concentrate was in pellet form and roughages were chopped. They restricted six of the diets to 750g dry matter per day and two were ad libitum. At 10 weeks, they euthanized and examined the calves.

Data in the table show advantages of grass hay in development of healthy rumen mucosa and minimizing plaque formation on the lining. (Plaque = rumen mucosa containing focal or multifocal patches with coalescing and adhering papillae covered by a sticky mass of feed, hair and cell debris.) For example, Table 1 shows 38% of veal calves fed only concentrate (C100 dietary treatment) with their milk replacer had poor development of rumen mucosa. In comparison, all calves fed 70% concentrate plus 30% dry-grass hay (C70-G30 treatment) had normal rumen development. Although not shown here, the researchers found 'that in veal calves, the addition of roughage to concentrate diets did not affect growth performance'.

Although this research pertains to bull calves, one should expect comparable rumen development in heifer calves on similar diets. Ontario contrarians who feed hay appear to be making a good choice for their calves. They should expect normal development of rumen mucosa in all their calves. Producers who feed only grain, grain plus corn silage or grain plus free-access straw bedding should expect normal development in 62-75% of their 10-week-old calves. With this research in hand, producers should question the dogma about feeding only grain to milk-fed calves. Grain is essential to rumen development, but some dry hay assures healthy rumen growth.

Suarez BJ, Van Reenen CG, Stockhofe N, Dijkstra J, Gerrits WJJ. Effect of roughage source and roughage to concentrate ratio on animal performance and rumen development in veal calves. *J. Dairy Sci.* 2007; 90(5):2390- 2403.

Abstract: <http://jds.fass.org/cgi/content/abstract/90/5/2390>

Table 1. Effect of dietary treatments on the incidence of poorly developed rumen mucosa and the incidence of plaque formation (macroscopic)								
Variable	Dietary treatment <sup>1</sup>							
	C100	C40-CS60	C70-S30	C70-G30	C70-CS30	C70-G15-S15	C70-CS30-AL	C70-G15-S15-AL
Plaque, % of calves	100 <sup>a</sup>	63 <sup>a</sup>	13 <sup>b</sup>	13 <sup>b</sup>	88 <sup>a</sup>	50 <sup>ab</sup>	0 <sup>b</sup>	0 <sup>b</sup>
Poor development of mucosa, % of calves	38	25	25	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>a, b</sup>Means in the same row with different superscript differ significantly (P<0.05; nonparametric analysis; Fisher's exact test).  
<sup>1</sup>Treatments:  
 C100=concentrate only;  
 C40-CS60=concentrate (40%) with corn silage (60%);  
 C70-S30=concentrate (70%) with straw (30%);  
 C70-G30=concentrate (70%) with dried grass (30%);  
 C70-CS30=concentrate (70%) with corn silage (30%);  
 C70-G15-S15=concentrate (70%) with dried grass (15%) and straw (15%);  
 C70-CS30-AL=concentrate (70%) with corn silage (30%) fed ad libitum; and  
 C70-G15-S15-AL=concentrate (70%) with dried grass (15%) and straw (15%) fed ad libitum.