

THAMES VALLEY REGIONAL SOIL & CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Oxford

Middlesex

Elgin

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COMING EVENTS....

DECEMBER

3 FORAGE FOCUS 2008 9:30 am to 3 pm, Shakespeare Optimist Club . <http://www.ontarioforagecouncil.com>
 4-5 SKILLS TO GROW WORKSHOP, St Catherine's www.tractionskills.ca

JANUARY

6-7 SOUTHWEST AG CONFERENCE, Ridgetown 1-866-222-9682 <http://www.southwestagconference.ca>
 13 OXFORD SCIA annual meeting
 15 ELGIN SCIA annual meeting
 17 FARMSMART AG CONFERENCE, University of Guelph, <http://www.uoguelph.ca/farmsmart/>
 22 ONTARIO CANOLA GROWERS ANNUAL MEETING, Alliston www.ontariocanolagrowers.ca
 22-23 SKILLS TO GROW WORKSHOP, London www.tractionskills.ca

FEBRUARY

3-4 OSCIA ANNUAL MEETING, Sheraton Fallsview Hotel, Niagara Falls <http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/>
 6-7 SKILLS TO GROW WORKSHOP, Guelph www.tractionskills.ca

Brought to you in part by
 OMAFRA Resource Staff – Woodstock
 Your local Soil & Crop Associations
 OMAFRA Field Staff

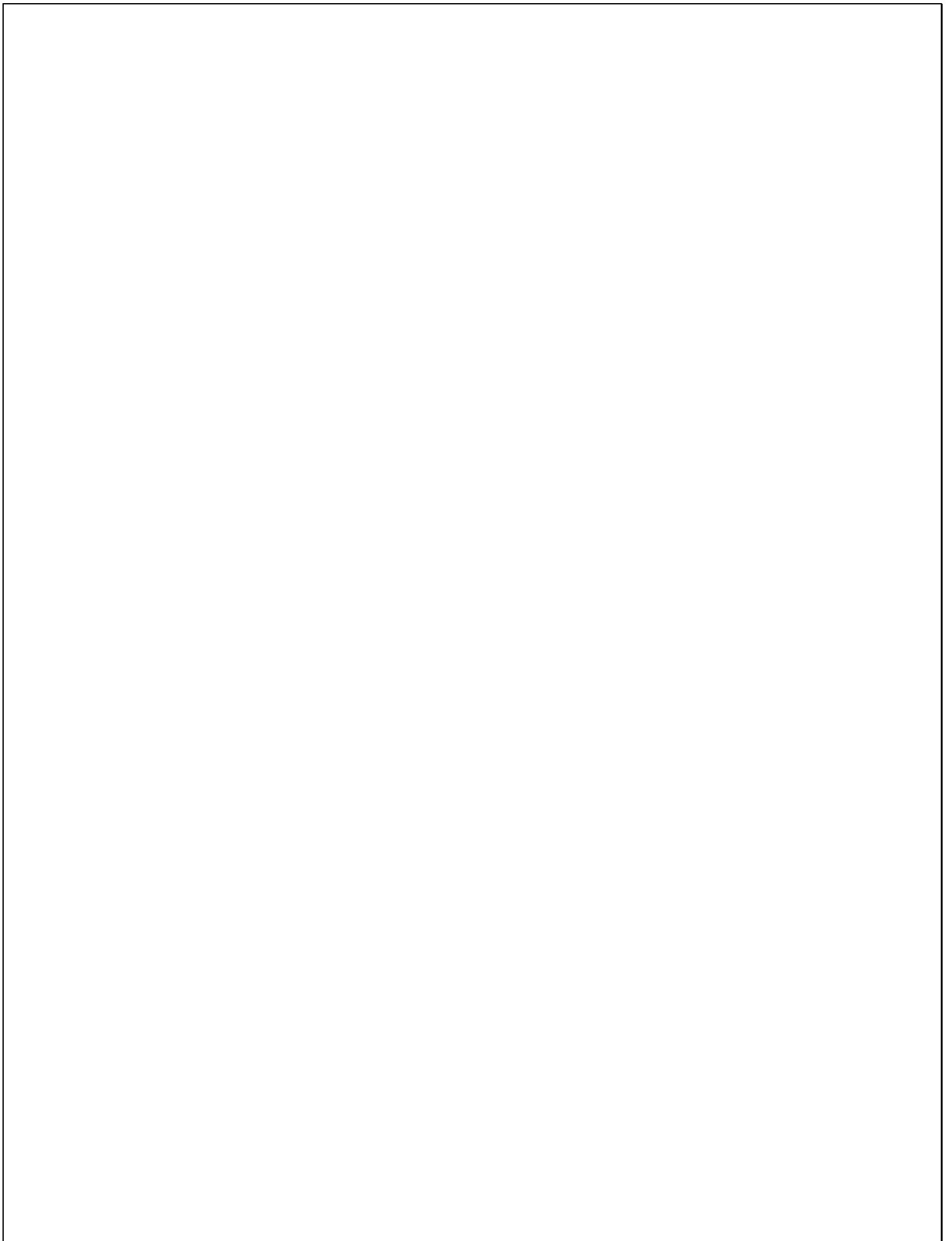
Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association



Huron Commodities Inc.



John Miller's son Mike took this photo on his adventures with the Klatts' harvest crew this summer. This particular event led to a very dangerous incident when a cable attached to the combine severed, smashing through both windows of the tractor and inflicting serious damage to the driver's arm.



MIDDLESEX RAINFALL SUMMARY 2008

NAME	ADDRESS	TOTAL	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT
N. Stokman	R. 7, Strathroy	407.4	34.4	81.8	122.2	92.4	76.6	0.0	0.0
H. Aukema	R. 6, Strathroy	694.0	31.0	84.0	159.0	109.0	65.5	157.5	88.0
L. Whiting	R. 5, Mt. Brydges	495.0	26.0	83.0	86.0	97.0	34.0	118.0	51.0
J. Robinson	R. 5, Mt. Brydges	479.9	31.1	85.2	62.5	94.2	89.2	117.7	0.0
G. Richards	6879 Longwoods Rd.	495.0	27.0	53.0	53.0	122.0	95.0	97.0	48.0
G Cornelis	R. 1, Ailsa Craig	414.0	22.5	47.4	67.0	54.9	55.2	91.0	76.0
E. Fox	R. 5, Parkhill	660.5	14.0	110.0	103.0	122.0	106.3	131.0	58.0
W. Mollard	R. 4, Parkhill	762.1	26.9	98.4	134.1	147.6	117.0	135.3	102.8
M. Robb	R. 1, Ilderton	526.0	21.0	73.0	78.0	70.0	78.0	120.0	86.0
R. Heard	Fanshawe Rd., London	526.0	37.5	91.5	79.0	70.0	49.0	115.0	84.0
G. Duynisveld	R. 3, Ilderton	552.5	33.0	102.5	67.0	54.0	84.0	126.0	86.0
D. Denys	R. 8, Parkhill	779.0	18.0	63.5	142.2	127.0	126.5	177.0	124.5
F. Vanneste	R. 2, Lucan	542.4	40.0	77.0	125.4	93.5	63.0	143.5	0.0
H. MacKellar	R. 2, Glencoe	490.0	25.0	55.0	110.0	89.0	93.0	118.0	0.0
C. McVicar	R. 1, Newbury	509.5	34.5	64.0	108.0	80.0	74.0	114.0	35.0
B. Grieve	R. 2, Dorchester	522.5	43.0	98.5	77.5	58.0	76.0	104.5	65.0
A. Brown	R. 2, Belmont	369.5	32.0	72.5	56.0	51.5	73.0	84.5	0.0
A. White	R22, London	541.0	41.0	77.0	80.0	106.0	74.0	114.0	49.0
D. Murray	4598 Murray Rd, London	338.0	35.0	75.0	59.0	68.0	101.0	0.0	0.0
R. Willemse	R. 4, Parkhill	641.6	20.1	62.0	131.5	133.0	150.0	145.0	0.0
Average Rainfall 2008		531.8	29.7	77.7	95.0	92.0	84.0		

10 YEAR SUMMARY OF MIDDLESSEX RAINFALL

Year	TOTAL	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT
2007	346.8	59.2	46.2	34.2	27.5	91.4	44.3	44.0
2006	683.1	52.4	72.8	53.0	152.2	81.4	115.0	156.3
2005	423.6	71.4	33.7	56.8	73.0	71.9	98.1	18.7
2004	492.6	34.0	164.1	68.9	82.2	60.5	18.6	64.3
2003	562.6	49.7	135.0	69.6	57.5	58.4	109.0	83.4
2002	413.0	84.4	88.6	52.9	62.2	10.8	70.3	43.8
2001	553.2	49.6	74.0	71.7	28.6	48.7	119.9	160.7
2000	669.0	60.3	43.0	181.6	130.1	82.4	119.6	52.0
1999	450.0	57.9	42.2	90.0	59.0	62.8	66.3	71.8
1998	377.4	46.4	39.6	42.5	81.4	94.1	35.9	37.5
Average	497.1	56.5	73.9	72.1	75.4	66.2	79.7	73.3

SUMMARY OF MIDDLESEX CROP HEAT UNIT STATIONS 2008

	TOTAL	MAY		JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.
		Before May 10	After May 10					
N. Stokman	2474.0	112.0	220.0	714.0	807.0	733.0	0.0	0.0
H. Aukema	3407.0	123.0	231.0	742.0	828.0	750.0	648.0	208.0
J. Robinson	3129.0	120.0	218.0	715.0	817.0	742.0	637.0	0.0
G Cornelis	3277.0	126.0	215.0	709.0	808.0	727.0	613.0	205.0
E. Fox	3406.0	103.0	220.0	771.0	830.0	754.0	631.0	200.0
R. Heard	3202.0	112.0	210.0	691.0	806.0	707.0	585.0	203.0
G. Duynisveld	3265.0	125.0	273.0	748.0	819.0	738.0	636.0	51.0
D. Denys	3224.0	122.0	206.0	706.0	814.0	729.0	585.0	184.0
F. Vanneste	3196.0	102.0	228.0	737.0	839.0	744.0	648.0	0.0
H. Dodge	3264.0	106.0	248.0	738.0	827.0	761.0	660.0	30.0
H. MacKellar	3264.0	120.0	218.0	725.0	879.0	782.0	660.0	0.0
C. McVicar	2983.0	126.0	238.0	725.0	749.0	682.0	574.0	15.0
A. Brown	3087.0	115.0	246.0	718.0	801.0	724.0	598.0	0.0
B. Grieve	3318.0	112.0	243.0	720.0	822.0	735.0	601.0	197.0
R. Willemse	3334.0	145.0	281.0	780.0	855.0	767.0	651.0	0.0
AVERAGE	3188.7	116.0	233.0	729.3	820.1	738.3		

10 YEAR SUMMARY OF MIDDLESEX CROP HEAT UNIT STATIONS

Average	TOTAL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT
2007	3672	361	718	709	776	645	464
2006	3303	310	669	850	775	534	165
2005	3705	262	794	855	816	678	300
2004	3322	377	629	776	711	632	197
2003	3032	244	620	782	788	571	27
2002	3435	212	699	838	795	682	209
2001	3367	501	667	766	793	545	96
2000	3292	307	691	731	736	547	281
1999	3239	333	727	848	733	557	41
1998	3606	429	673	791	803	654	256
10 Year Ave	3397	334	689	795	773	605	204

Elgin News

ESCIA Annual is January 15 at the Keystone Complex in Shedden. Mark your calendars.

Oxford News

Congratulations to this year's Oxford Soil & Crop Bursary winners ~ Cindy McKay of WCI, and Wim Van Lith of St Mary's High School.

Oxford's Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday Jan 13 in Woodstock. The directors are planning another great meeting, so mark next year's calendar now!

My apologies to Ashley Mosburger for incorrectly thanking him for sponsoring the September meeting refreshments - Ashley is now working for Pickseed and Agrospray!

OXFORD COUNTY FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, November 27th, 2008

Elmhurst Inn, Ingersoll, Social Hour: 6:00 p.m. Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

Our Guest speaker this year is Mike and Cindy Gerber from Ayr, ON. They will be talking about their farm operation and how they have done some value added products. www.oakridgeacres.ca Also, at the banquet we will be recognizing our directors that are retiring from the Board. One of those individuals is Ruth Skillings. Ruth was the 1st female President of OCFA in 1977. If you wish tickets (\$20 each) for the Banquet please contact an OCFA director or June Nussey at 519-485-2442. Deadline for ordering tickets is November 13.

2008 OXFORD RAINFALL SUMMARY				(recorded in mm)							May-Oct	To Oct
NAME	RR	ADDRESS	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Total'08	2007	
David	Arthur	4 St Mary's	54	63	55	54	97	48		317	573	
Jeff	Dibble	2 Drumbo		86	49	27	64	42		267	399	
Gord	Haley	1 Otterville		25	20	44	56		47	192	543	
Peter	Johnson	Ingersoll										
John	Landsell	2 Thamesford		61	73	58	74	40	39	345	551	
RM	Matheson	3 Embro		89	62	74	134	40		400	573	
Bill	Orth	2 Burgessville		45	22	52	73	57	31	280	587	
Roger	Orth	1 Burgessville		35	23	55	60	68	33	241	236	
Barry	Smith	Burgessville	36	34	26	45	71	54	27	256	436	
Henry	Van Dorp	1 Woodstock	132	67	34	32	80	52		264	528	
Ross	Wilson	1 Salford	84	54	39	52	87	41		273	517	
HEAT UNITS												
	Dibble			393	697	780	702	512		3084	3318	
	Haley			378	707	759	783			2627	3257	
	Matheson			352	638	690	700	555		2935	2992	

Attention Soybean Growers

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We Want to Hear From YOU!!

OSCIA is currently conducting a membership survey to get some ideas and suggestions from our members. Copies of the survey are available on www.ontariosoilcrop.org, from your local provincial director, will be available at your local county/district annual meetings, or contact Cathy for a copy.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey and help shape the future of your organization!!

Woodstock family in 2009 Faces of Farming calendar Farmers from across Ontario came together in late October to unveil the fourth annual *Faces of Farming* Calendar, produced annually by the Ontario Farm Animal Council (OFAC). The calendar celebrates the hard work, dedication and values of Ontario's farming community. The unveiling introduced the public to 19 farmers who were chosen to represent each month. Three of the participants come from Oxford County. The three generational mother-daughter-grand daughter combination of Sharon Hart, Valerie and Julia Hobbs of Blythe Brae Farms were chosen to represent the month of November and Ontario soybean farmers. The family was recommended for the project by the page's sponsor, the Ontario Soybean Growers. Both ladies hope that Julia (Valerie's daughter) will have the opportunity to live on the farm and carry on this dynamic business." *The 2009 FACES of FARMING* calendar shows the diverse nature of Ontario agriculture. This year's farmers represent all sectors of agriculture - from beef to bees, and from kidney beans to poultry. Most of them come from many generations of proud, hardworking Ontario farmers. Participants also come from all corners of Ontario. Calendars are mailed annually to more than 4,000 Ontario grocery stores, politicians and media outlets and are sold at a cost of \$10 through the OFAC office or online at www.ofac.org OFAC is the voice for animal agriculture, representing 40,000 livestock and poultry farmers, associations and businesses on issues such as animal care, food safety, biotechnology and the environment. ~ Kelly Daynard, OFAC

At \$10.00 each, these calendars make excellent Christmas gifts, and there is always a familiar face or two.... Oxford SCIA director Scott Matheson was featured in the 208 calendar. ~ Cathy



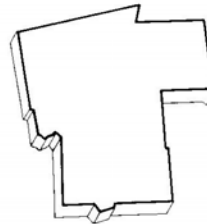
2009 November

**OXFORD CORN VARIETY TRIALS TO DATE
SOUTH PLOTS**

YIELDS	RIVERS		DOAN		WILSON		MAYBERRY		ORTH	
Hybrid	Yld	Mois	Yld	Mois	Yld	Mois%	Yld	Mois%	Yld	Mois%
DEKALB DKC50-20			196.5	30.0	214.6	26.0	260.8	27.7	203.1	21.9
PIONEER 37Y14			204.7	28.2	208.9	25.2	195.6	26.5	207.7	22.3
DEKALB DKC50-44			204.6	30.2	216.4	25.6	226.0	28.9	210.8	22.2
MYCOGEN 2P531			192.6	28.0			190.0	28.9	197.5	21.3
NK N45A-GT			192.6	28.0	215.9	27.0	216.3	30.5	210.5	24.1
DEKALB DKC50-20			200.4	31.0	214.5	25.4	219.4	28.0	215.4	21.3
MAIZEX MZ 3969BR			169.1	30.8	212.5	23.0	211.1	27.3	210.6	21.2
PICKSEED 5686Bt			202.3	32.2			211.3	32.6		
CROPLAN 421VTE			182.2	33.4	210.5	27.2	206.3	30.8	218.4	22.5
PRIDE A6622G3			166.9	26.4	194.9	21.6	196.7	26.4	195.9	20.5
COUNTRYFARM C55EV3			175.1	31.8	224.3	24.4	213.2	29.0	210.6	21.2
DEKALB DKC50-20			176.9	21.6	209.0	25.8	243.4	27.2	212.1	21.7
HYLAND HL B38R			188.8	31.0	209.4	22.6	190.4	30.5	205.0	21.7

TEST WEIGHTS	RIVERS	DOAN	WILSON	MAYBERRY	ORTH
DEKALB DKC50-20		54.7	56	53.0	52.4
PIONEER 37Y14		53.8	56	52.0	51.8
DEKALB DKC50-44		53.8	56	51.0	51.7
MYCOGEN 2P531		54.7		50.5	52.3
NK N45A-GT		54.2	56	50.0	50.8
DEKALB DKC50-20		54.7	56	50.5	52.2
MAIZEX MZ 396BR		53.8	56	51.5	52.2
PICKSEED 5686Bt		54.7		50.5	
CROPLAN 421VTE		51.5	56	50.5	50.4
PRIDE A6622G3		54.7	56	50.5	52.3
COUNTRYFARM C55EV3		54.7	56	52.0	52.3
DEKALB DKC50-20		54.2	56	51.0	50.4
HYLAND HL B38R		55.3	56	50.5	52.2

MANAGEMENT	RIVERS	DOAN	WILSON	MAYBERRY	ORTH
Date Planted		MAY 17	MAY 11		Apr 30
Harvest Date		OCT 30	OCT 28	Nov 5	Nov 5
Previous Crop					Corn
Row Width		30	30	30	30
Seed Rate					
Soil Type		Clay Loam	CLAY LOAM		Clay loam
Tillage		Conventional	Conventional		Conventional



Notice to members: There will be a meeting of the Thames Valley Regional Soil & Crop Improvement Association at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, November 28, 2008 in Room C of the Westmount Branch Library, 3200 Wonderland Rd. S, London (just north of Wharncliffe). We will be holding an election for the position of Provincial Director, and it is hoped there will be one nominee from each county. If you are at all interested in this position, please contact Cathy Dibble at 463-6374. All members are welcome.

In honour of Ontario Soil & Crop's 70th Anniversary in 2009, the provincial Board of Directors has issued a lapel pin for every member of OSCIA. You will receive your pin in the new year, either when you renew your membership, or if you are on a three year membership, your local secretary will get it to you. Also, the provincial association is looking for the longest standing OSCIA member – do you know of someone who has been around “forever”? Find out how long they have been a member and let your local secretary know no later than December 31, 2008. We'll pass this information to the Guelph office.

Message from our President, John Miller:

Hi All, I'm hearing about some really exciting yields out there and also some not so exciting. If you were one of the unlucky ones who got whacked by hail or drought or another of Mother Nature's dirty deeds, you have my sympathy!

We are currently seeking a Soil and Crop member from the counties of Elgin, Middlesex or Oxford to represent TVRSCA as its provincial director. If you are so inclined, we need to know by November 28 (see meeting notice above). I understand it involves a dozen or so meetings, mainly in the winter months, and I believe there are some perks that come with the job!

We are also looking for suggestions from the membership for major project ideas so mull it over as you drive your combine, tractor, pick-up or ATV, and let us know. All suggestions will be considered so tell us what you'd like to see ~ John



The Farm Line Support Service

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www.thefarmline.ca

Moving Forward at The Farm Line

In January 2008 OMAFRA announced a one-time grant to The Farm Line Support Service as part of a package to assist the agriculture community with the crises affecting the pork, beef, and tobacco and horticulture sectors.

As set out by the OMAFRA criteria, the Board of Directors has embarked on a significant exercise in strategic planning, board restructuring, and developing an improved communications plan. As part of this process the board has hired a new general manager and moved the office to Perth, Ontario.

The Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Shirley Munro as our new Manager. Shirley has been employed with us over the past two years and clearly demonstrated her commitment to the goals of The Farm Line. She brings with her a strong agricultural background and a broad knowledge of the industry, as well as extensive experience in office administration.

The next step, a strategic planning meeting, which will be a round table discussion among agricultural representatives, related service providers and representatives of the Ontario Farm Women's Network, the organization who originally founded the Farm Line almost 10 years ago will be held in Toronto later this month.

Comments or questions are welcome. You can call the new office at 1-613-264-8175 or email us at manager@thefarmline.ca
10 Sunset Blvd., Perth, ON K7H 2Y2

Tel: 613-264-8175 Fax: 613-264-8175

**NEW NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT COURSE
CALENDAR IS POSTED ONLINE!**

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/nm/cert/courses.htm>.

Additional courses and locations (including French language courses) will be added to the schedule based on demand. Anyone wanting to request an additional course or suggest a more convenient location should contact their local Environmental Specialist or the Nutrient Management Information Line at 1-855-242-4460.

Dates to Remember: Nutrient Management Consultant Update Meetings:

February 12, 2009 NM Consultant Meeting Guelph

February 19, 2009 NM Consultant Meeting London

February 26, 2009 NM Consultants Meeting Kemptonville

All update meetings are from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. A detailed agenda will be shared with you through this newsletter.

**DAIRY & VEAL CALF HEALTH CONFERENCE
"BUILDING THE FOUNDATION"**

The 2008 Healthy Calf Conference has brought together some of North America's foremost experts in the field of calf management and rearing. No matter the calf problem, one of these experts will be able to answer your questions. Build your foundation by registering today! This Dairy and Veal Health Calf Conference "Building the Foundation 2008" will be held on Thursday, Dec 4, 2008 at the London Convention Centre, 300 York Street, London, Ontario (www.londoncc.com) from 8:30 am to 3 pm Dairy Calf Outlook: Research, trends and future developments; Weaning Calves: Why are there so many challenges? Mycoplasma bovis: Take control! Managing group housing for calves and CSI-Guelph: Lessons to be learned from post mortem investigations. Advance Registration (before Nov 15) - \$60/person; Regular Rate (after Nov 15) - \$75/person; At the Door \$85/person. Registration includes all seminars, tradeshow, luncheon and conference proceedings. Space is limited and registration will be accepted on a first-come first-serve basis. All cancellations after November 28 and no-shows will not be refunded. For further information, please call the Ontario Veal Association office at 519-824-2942 or email: info@ontarioveal.on.ca.

**3RD ANNUAL GROWING THE MARGINS
CONFERENCE** March 10-13, 2009 - London Convention Centre, London in conjunction with the 1st annual Canadian Farm and Food Biogas Conference and Exhibition www.gtmconference.ca or www.biogasconference.ca

FORAGE FOCUS 2008 December 3rd, 2008

9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Shakespeare Optimist Club
Keynote speaker: Limin Kung, University of Delaware, Making Forages the Foundation of your Future Also: Ian MacDonald, OMAFRA and Fritz Trauttmansdorff Pre-registration required by November 28th. Cost \$35 includes hot beef dinner and proceedings Contact: 1-877-892-8663 or 519-986-1484. <http://www.ontarioforagecouncil.com>

UNWANTED CALLS -

**GET TELEMARETERS OFF YOUR PHONE LINE
AND ENJOY DINNERTIME UNINTERRUPTED BY
REGISTERING YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER ON
CANADA'S NATIONAL DO-NOT-CALL LIST.**

Being called incessantly by anyone is annoying. On Sept. 30, the Canadian and Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) launched its national Do Not Call List (DNCL), which promises to reduce the telemarketing calls you get. If your number is on the list, telemarketers aren't allowed to contact you. The service is free and available for any personal Canadian phone (landline and cellular) or fax numbers. This doesn't mean you'll be shielded from every unsolicited call -- some organizations are exempt from the list. How to put your number on the do-not-call list You can add your number to the DNCL either online at www.LNNTTE-DNCL.gc.ca or by calling 1-866-580-DNCL (3625). The only personal info you need to provide is your telephone number. As operator of the list, Bell Canada can view your digits, as may the CRTC. After three years, numbers are automatically deleted from the list without sending you notice, and it's up to you to re-register. Since the list only contains numbers and doesn't include your name, you also have to sign up again if your telephone number changes. You can stop some -- but not all -- unsolicited calls. It can take about a month before the pestering subsides, as telemarketers are given a 31-day grace period (from the time you register) to get the most updated version of the national DNCL, according to the CRTC. You may still receive unsolicited calls from the likes of companies you've done business with during the past 18 months, charities, political parties, newspapers (selling subscriptions) and pollsters, because they're exempt from the list. Wondering why? Part of the rationale is that, in many cases, these exempt parties and their calls are deemed beneficial to society. And as we live in a free and democratic society, we have elections and they're partially paid for by donations from citizens." Newspapers contribute to free speech and help keep the public in the know.

BIOGAS HEATS UP GREEN INNOVATION IN ONTARIO

Ontario producers are responding very positively to the Ontario Biogas Financial Assistance Program, with 46 feasibility projects approved in the past year, as well as the construction of 12 biogas projects. Mark Donnan of Donnandale Farms near Stirling was one of the first applicants to the program. His project will use organic materials produced on and off the farm and is scheduled to be completed in September 2009. The Biogas Financial Assistance Program helps farmers and rural businesses study feasibility of installing biogas systems. It will also cover part of construction and implementation costs. Applicants can receive up to \$400,000. Biogas is the result of turning organic waste such as manure, crop residues and food processing waste into fuel. Like natural gas, it can be used as a fuel in electrical generators, engines, boilers and burners.

QUICK FACTS

- The Ontario government committed \$11.2 million in funding for the Biogas Financial Assistance Program, demonstrating its ongoing commitment to growing the green energy sector
- The Donnan's anaerobic digester, once fully functional, is expected to generate about 500 kilowatts of power, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. That's enough energy to supply roughly 400 households.
- Not only does anaerobic digestion produce energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, it also treats manure and other organic materials to make them more environmentally friendly.

Learn more about [green energy opportunities in farming](#). Want to know what [anaerobic digestion](#) really means?

BIOGAS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Ontario Biogas Systems Financial Assistance Program will help farmers and rural businesses carry out feasibility studies for the installation of biogas systems as well as cover a proportion of construction and implementation costs. There are two phases to the program: Phase 1 funding covers up to 70 per cent of the eligible costs of carrying out a feasibility study, to a maximum of \$35,000. Phase 2 funding covers up to 40 per cent of eligible construction and implementation costs. The maximum total feasibility and construction cost funding is \$400,000 for each anaerobic digester system.

Producers have responded very positively to the program: 46 feasibility projects have been approved, as well as the construction of 12 biogas projects. More construction projects will be approved in the coming months. Biogas systems use anaerobic digestion to produce methane. Methane can be used in a boiler to produce heat or in an engine connected to a generator to produce electricity.

- Anaerobic digestion treats manure and other organic materials that reduces pathogens and odours.
- The Nutrient Management Act has been amended to facilitate the use of off-farm organic materials in biogas systems.
- Biogas systems can produce clean, renewable energy that reduces greenhouse gas emissions.
- Biogas systems produce a new revenue stream for farm and food processing operations.

What is a biogas system? A biogas system consists of:

- an anaerobic digestion tank or vessel
- a biogas collection or management system, often a storage bubble
- a biogas utilization system, such as a generator, and
- a digestate management and storage system, often a storage tank for liquids. Digestate is the material left after the biogas has been produced.

What is anaerobic digestion? Anaerobic digestion is a biological process in which micro-organisms break down organic matter like manure, crops, crop residues and food processing waste. This process occurs in the absence of oxygen and results in the release of biogas.

What is biogas? Biogas is a combination of methane and carbon dioxide. Biogas can be used like natural gas as a fuel in electrical generators, engines, boilers and burners.

What's left in the tank once the process is complete? Digestate is what's left once the organic material has been "digested". Once carbon has been converted to methane or carbon dioxide, the organic material becomes more liquid in nature. This liquid digestate contains all of the agricultural nutrients (such as nitrogen and phosphorus) that were present in the original organic material.

Do all the biogas systems operate in the same way? While the basic operating principle remains the same, there are different types of anaerobic digester technologies based on the type of material handled, the operating temperature and the end use of the biogas.

For questions about program details and updates, please contact the Agricultural Information Contact Centre at 1-877-424-1300 or ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca For more information, contact:

Sherry Persaud, Minister's Office, 416-326-6439

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MEMBERSHIPS

Memberships are \$20.00/yr or 3 for \$50.00; contact your local county secretary/treasurer

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CROPPEST <http://www.omafra.on.ca/croppest>

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CATHY'S COMMENTS

I hope this year's harvest is treating you well, and that most of you were lucky enough to enjoy some bin-buster yields. There are a few areas in the region that did suffer from lack of rain or hail damage, but overall the results coming in are mind boggling. Between a major snowfall in some areas in October to spring like weather in early November, it has been an interesting fall so far.

Many groups are now in the process of planning winter meetings, including your local SCIA's, so if you have any great ideas for speakers or topics, please let us know. It is always a challenge coming up with crowd pleasers!

There will be plenty of EFP workshops held throughout the winter as well, so make sure yours is up to date, as we are optimistic that there will be new funding programs in place next year. Believe it or not, there are a few people out there who have never done an EFP, and some still have never heard of it!. There are still some funds available, and you have until December 15 to apply and complete your projects. Call your local rep for details. And for those of you who have been kept in suspense about our soybean yield from the last newsletter, here in Drumbo we were very fortunate to get 64.5 bu/acre. Now if the price would come back up a bit, I'd be tickled pink!

Next regional newsletter is scheduled for March 2009, have a good winter, and we'll see you again in the New Year.