



OSCIA News...

November 2005

A NEWSLETTER TO UPDATE OSCIA MEMBERS,
PRESIDENTS, SECRETARIES, TREASURERS, DIRECTORS,
AND OMAF CROP TECHNOLOGY CONTACTS —

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OSCIA 2006 ANNUAL MEETING

Date: February 7 & 8, 2006

Place: Sheraton Fallsview Hotel
Niagara Falls

Message from the President

As farmers, the one subject we can always talk about is *the weather*. In previous newsletters, I described the weather south and east of Ottawa as good since we had a hot summer but with adequate rainfall to produce good crops. However, the month of October has brought a great change: only two days of sunshine between October 7th and 26th!



Kevin Ferguson

A good crop of soybeans and corn exists but it is becoming increasingly difficult to accomplish the harvesting due to the wetness. I hope that conditions are better elsewhere in Ontario.

On September 23rd, the OSCIA Executive and a member of the Muskoka SCIA, had a brief meeting with Federal Agricultural Minister Andy Mitchell at his constituency office in Gravenhurst. We gave him a brief overview of OSCIA and provided an update of the Environmental Farm Plan progress and the associated cost-share. We also discussed the need to maintain well-trained staff during the transition from one part of a program to the next program version or stage. The well-trained staff is needed to deliver the new program to farmers. Without them, farmers can be left in a state of uncertainty. Minister Mitchell was sympathetic but shared with us some of the challenges that he faces. For example, he must provide evidence to the Treasury Board that all allocated funds for a program have been exhausted before a new program may be approved. We also shared with him the current crisis facing many sectors of agriculture and how each one of us is affected and struggling to keep the farm viable.

In September, OSCIA held a two-day Environmental Farm Plan training workshop for OSCIA field staff, Regional Communication Coordinators and Provincial Directors. This training helped all of us to be better prepared for the many EFP workshops being planned for this fall and winter season. If you have not signed up yet, please look for the next workshop in your area. I am confident that you will find it worthwhile, and that you

and your farm will benefit by participating in the current EFP.

Many of our county annual meetings take place in December and January, so why not invite a neighbour to come with you to your county annual meeting to hear what is happening in your local area? I am planning to attend a number of these meetings and hope to have the opportunity to meet and talk with you.

The OSCIA annual meeting is scheduled for February 7-8, 2006 in Niagara Falls. We are in the process of finalizing the program and are anticipating some outstanding guest speakers. As well, reports will be made on the many good projects that we have had this year. If you have never attended the OSCIA annual meeting, why not plan to come? I am sure that you will not be disappointed. For those of you who regularly attend, I look forward to seeing you again. ♦

Program Announcements at IPM



OSCIA President, Kevin Ferguson (left), recently shared the podium with the provincial Agriculture Minister, Leona Dombrowsky, and the federal Agriculture Minister, Andy Mitchell, at the IPM in Perth County where the announcements for Greencover Canada (GC) and the Canada-Ontario Water Supply Expansion Program (COWSEP) were made. GC and Tier 1 of COWSEP will be delivered by OSCIA as part of the suite of federal programs associated with EFP.

Pesticide Collection Days

The Ontario Waste Agricultural Pesticides Collection Program is under way.

From Tuesday, November 22 to 23, 2005, farmers can take unwanted or old pesticides free of charge to 13 select farm supply dealers across Ontario.

The program provides free safe disposal of de-registered, outdated or unwanted agricultural and commercial pesticides. Anyone with agricultural and/or commercial pesticides in Ontario may participate.

The program is funded by CropLife Canada, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, and Environment Canada. Funding for the project has also been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Agricultural Adaptation Council's CanAdvance Program. The program is also supported by AGCare, the Ontario Agri Business Association and its network of participating agricultural dealers, and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

For a free information kit, including a list of collection sites and details on how to safely transport your pesticides, ask your farm supply dealer, call 1-877-424-1300 (toll free), or visit www.croplife.ca.

OSCIA Annual Meeting

The 2006 OSCIA Annual Meeting is being held February 7 & 8 at the Sheraton Fallsview Hotel in Niagara Falls. Details on the hotel can be viewed by clicking onto their website at www.fallsview.com. Activities in the Niagara area can be found on the www.tourismniagara.com website.

Guest speakers and topics on the program include:

Bill Horan, Past President of the Iowa Corn Producers' Association will relate his experiences with growing value-added specialty crops for five pharmaceutical companies.

Dr. Alex Jadad, a medical doctor speaking on 'Agriculture, Consumers and Health: A Needed Partnership for the Information Age'.

Registration for the meeting begins on Tuesday, February 7th at 12 noon in the Oakes Foyer of the hotel.

ASSOCIATION GRANT DEADLINE NOVEMBER 30

All local and regional associations are reminded to submit appropriate grant claims to Guelph by November 30.

Nutrient Management Financial Assistance Program Receives Additional Funding

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) recently announced additional funding for the Nutrient Management Financial Assistance Program which now makes available up to \$23.7 million to assist large livestock operations.

A large number of applications were received by OSCIA just prior to the September 1, 2005 deadline. These applications can now be processed.

OSCIA Launches New Website

OSCIA has launched their new and improved website to better serve its members and all other farmers across the province.

It provides our members with updated and reorganized information about the various crop production activities, investigations, demonstration projects, and other opportunities that OSCIA presents. All producers will be able to easily navigate to a superior program section which features the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Workshop calendar schedule, and detailed information associated with current environmental cost-share opportunities. Much of the information is available in English and French.

Check it out at www.ontariosoilcrop.org.

Syngenta Seed Fair Grants

OSCIA is pleased to announce that Syngenta Crop Protection is sponsoring pedigreed seed fairs/shows during the fall and winter of 2005/2006.



Syngenta was formed from the skills and strengths of industry innovators – Novartis and Zeneca. Syngenta is the world's leading agri-business company operating across all major areas of crop protection and seeds. With representation worldwide, Syngenta is uniquely capable of finding ways to help the world grow crops better.

Syngenta is providing up to \$300 each to ten local association pedigreed seed fairs/shows. The grant will promote the growing of certified seed as a preferred farm management practice. Grants for the 2004/2005 season were quickly utilized, assisting in opening the seed fairs to over 20,000 visitors province-wide.

Local associations must pre-apply to OSCIA before the event using a Form G-1 obtained from the OSCIA provincial office. OSCIA will forward the Syngenta logo and promotional material to be used to indicate the support Syngenta is providing to the seed fair/show. Form G-2 will also be forwarded at this time to apply to OSCIA for the grant once the fair/show is over.

Complete guidelines are being forwarded to local associations.

Record Number of On-Farm Projects in 2005

OSCIA, along with funding partners and support of OMAFRA Crop Technology field staff, supported a **record number of on-farm projects in 2005**. The overall goal of these projects is to work with production

methods to improve the bottom line in crop production. At a time when it is becoming more difficult to acquire funding for traditional production agriculture, project grants to local associations have been made available to assist local/regional associations in new technology and improved management of available inputs.

Regional Partner projects, in part sponsored by OMAFRA, include work with herbicides in soyas, red clover establishment, reduced tillage, seed treatment, and nitrogen rates on hard red winter wheat, canola options in the north and more.

Major Grant projects to local associations are also sponsored by OMAFRA and include benefits of EZ Steer technology, Nitrogen and micro-nutrient trials, white mold control in edible beans, soybean rust and aphid control, and reduced tillage trials.

As project results are finalized, highlights will be reported through local and regional communication activities which include workshops, field days, and future editions of *OSCIA News*.

OSCIA Awards

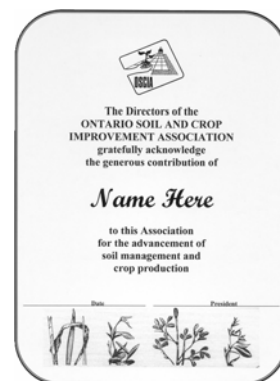
Soil and Water Conservation Farm Award:

The purpose of this award is to recognize, reward, and acknowledge farmers who practice excellent soil and water management on their farms, as well as provide high profile to the basic principles of conservation. This is a resin all-weather sign measuring 16" x 19".



Recognition Certificate:

This certificate is designed to recognize individuals in your community who have contributed to the organization. When requesting the certificate, please indicate the recipient's name and date of presentation. This is a paper certificate, suitable for framing, measuring 8½" x 11".



These awards are ideal for presentation at the annual meetings. Both are available by calling Evelyn Howse at the Provincial Office (1-800-265-9751). Please allow 2 weeks for preparation and shipping time.

OSCIA Membership Display

OSCIA has revamped and revitalized the OSCIA membership display which is available to local associations for upcoming meetings and events.

Please contact Evelyn Howse at the Provincial Office (1-800-265-9751) if you wish to borrow the display.



Ontario Forage Masters Program

The 2005 Ontario Forage Masters program is now complete. This year's program was generously sponsored by NK Brand Seeds, Agri-Food Laboratories, Pickseed Canada, and International Stock Food Company Limited.

Each sponsor assisted the program with financial contributions and provided prizes for the first, second, and third place winners in each of the participating local associations.

Twenty counties/districts participated, with a total of 138 participants. Of these, 23 were 4-H participants. OSCIA congratulates all these participants.

The prizes awarded to the winners this year are:

Pickseed Canada

- 1st prize – 25kg Pickseed seed, Pickseed gloves
- 2nd prize - \$150 certificate for Pickseed seed, gloves
- 3rd prize - \$50 certificate for Pickseed seed, hat

Agri-Food Laboratories

- 1st prize – \$90 gift certificate for lab analysis
- 2nd prize – \$65 gift certificate for lab analysis
- 3rd prize – \$25 gift certificate for lab analysis

International Stock Food

- 1st prize – \$150 certificate for ISF products
- 2nd prize – \$75 certificate for ISF products
- 3rd prize – \$25 certificate for ISF products

NK Brand Seeds provided provincial support and promotion.

On-farm judging and management of stored feed formed the major portion of the final score.

The following table shows a complete listing of winners.

ASSOCIATION	1 ST PLACE	2 ND PLACE	3 RD PLACE
BRANT	Maple Leaf Ag Research	Steve Talsma	Elmbend Holsteins
DUFFERIN	Paul Overgaauw	George Vankempen	Hans Verstegen
DUNDAS	Robert Byvelds	Brugline Farms	Ron Toonders
FRONTENAC	Brandon Orser (4-H)	Jack Broeders	Brian McLean
HALTON	Paul Fisher	Jay Kitching	Adam Parker
LEEDS	Jobo Farms	Roosburg Farms	Gordonvale Jerseys
NIPISSING WEST	Normand Delorme	Jean-Guy Seguin	James Parsons
OXFORD	Mark Kirwin	Ross & Russell Wilson	Rob DeJeu
PEEL	Tim Armstrong	Dwight Matson	Mount Kolb Farm
PERTH	Ralf Dewitt	Doug Johnston	James Coneybearre
PETERBOROUGH	Ian Steele (4-H)	Stephanie Warner (4-H)	David McFadden
RENFREW	Hay Way Farms	Gary Smith	Richard Briscoe
RUSSELL	Louis Raymond	Gilles Guinden	Denis Morris
SIMCOE NORTH	Matt Hutchison	Harold Jelinski	Roy Nahuis
SIMCOE SOUTH	Devin O'Hara (4-H)	Kelly Stephenson (4-H)	Marianne DenHaan (4-H)
STORMONT	Barry Smith	Bill vanLoon	Glaudale Farms
TEMISKAMING	Eric Willard	Ron Blain	Andre Denis
THUNDER BAY	Arie Grootenboer	Marshall Bolt	Fred Breukelman
VICTORIA	Ken Carson	Scott Tamlin	Bill Hawman
WELLINGTON	Charles Fraser	Kurt Allsop (4-H)	Ryan Schill (4-H)

The Ontario Forage Masters program is sponsored by:



Winter Conferences – Mark Your Calendar!

Mark these days on your winter calendar and participate in the conference nearest you. These events have a broad spectrum of ideas that will help in the 2006 season and beyond!

OSCIA is involved in bringing you this great lineup of provincial conferences. Involved in organizing these days are your local OSCIA members, Directors, Regional Communication Coordinators, and Provincial Directors; each play a significant part in helping make these days a success. Come out and enjoy a great program put forward by your Regional Soil and Crop Associations.

Register early to save \$ and to ensure your seat in the workshops/clinics



Register by calling the Agriculture Business Centre at Ridgeway College (529) 674-1596 or (866) 222-9682. Visit the website www.southwestagconference.ca for schedule details. More information on the event will be in the Ontario Farmer November 15th.

Brought to you by the St. Clair and Thames Valley Regional Soil and Crop Improvement Associations, University of Guelph - Ridgeway College, and Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Southwest Agricultural Conference: January 4, 5, 2006, Ridgeway College.



Farm\$mart Agricultural Conference: January 21, 2006, University of Guelph.

Register by calling 1-877-424-1300 or visit www.ontariosoilcrop.org website for links to the Farm\$mart brochure.

Hosted by Golden Horseshoe and Heartland Regional Soil and Crop Improvement Associations, University of Guelph, & the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs



Eastern Ontario Crop Conference: February 23, 2006, Kemptville College

Register by calling 1-613-258-8295 and watch for updates in the Ontario Farmer, AgriCom, AgriNews, and Farmers Forum. Check the OSCIA website www.ontariosoilcrop.org for links to the EOCC agenda.

Presented by the Eastern Valley and Ottawa Rideau Regional Soil and Crop Improvement Associations, University of Guelph – Kemptville College, and Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.