



OSCIA News...

June 2007

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

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OSCIA 2008 ANNUAL MEETING

Date: February 5 & 6, 2008

Place: Sheraton Fallsview
Niagara Falls

Message from the President

As I am writing this report, it is a very dark and rainy day. Some early cut hay that was either wrapped wet or silaged went in as very good quality feed. Each day the grasses do mature, but it is very difficult to make dry hay with the weather we are experiencing now. Corn and small grains look great here in the East Central area of Ontario. Soybeans are advancing well too, with some concern about the talk of a drop in temperature tonight (June 5) to very close to freezing, I hope the forecasts are wrong!



Frank Hoftyzer

From the program updates, there are some that will have been completed with final reports being worked on. Others are ongoing, like the "Green Seeker" project to measure actual variability of N requirements in a field. Measurements will be done 4 or 5 times this year. Evaluating cover crops for N holding ability is another project that could prove beneficial to our farming practices. A number of new projects are under way at this time also.

Membership in OSCIA is always on our agenda, and we are eager to hear how county Soil and Crop Associations are meeting the challenge to increase membership. The new member's card that will be distributed shortly will add professionalism to our organization, and we hope that you will use them proudly, and talk to non-members about them.

The EFP program is very successful. As of May 15/07, 10,529 new and returning participants have taken the workshop over the past two years. Thank you to all the field staff for your commitment to the program.

The Ontario Forage Masters program is again being strongly supported. This year, 244 participants, many 4-Hers, have registered from 27 counties. Great! We appreciate the sponsorship of Pickseed Canada Inc. and Agri-Food Laboratories. Thank you to the participants and sponsors for their support of the 20th year of this successful program.

I would like to thank the office staff, those who have been with OSCIA for some time, and others who have just joined us, for your commitment and energy in support of OSCIA.

I wish the best and safety to all who work to provide food and resources to all. ♦

OSCIA Membership Cards

At the recent annual meeting of the OSCIA, the Board of Directors approved a new version of the OSCIA membership cards. The cards have a unique number and a location for the current year's sticker, along with a place for the member's name.

A supply of these cards are being sent to the secretary of each local association to complete and distribute to their paid-up members.

The OSCIA membership card may be used at select events/locations to provide registration fee discounts or any additional creative use provided by the local associations. Meetings are currently taking place with various event organizers to develop this partnership.

The Board trusts that you will find the membership card valuable, and that the members will carry them proudly to local Soil and Crop events. ♦

Ontario Forage Masters Program enters 20th Year!

2007 marks the 20th anniversary of the Ontario Forage Masters program, and is off to a fantastic start. A record 244 participants from 27 counties/districts have registered for the program.

This year's sponsors include Agri-Food Laboratories and Pickseed Canada, in cooperation with the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association. ♦



Farm Safety - Operation of Augers

The following is reprinted from the Canadian Agricultural Safety Week 2007 - a supplement to the Elmira Independent, Fergus-Elora News Express, and Arthur Enterprise News.

Some tips to operate your auger safely:

- Always leave shields in place.
- Keep children away from operating grain augers.
- Start grain augers safely.
- Empty the auger before stopping it.
- Be careful when moving augers.

- Adjust grain auger height carefully.
- Don't try to grab the crank.
- Set up carefully and block the wheels.
- Limit the number of people around the auger when in use. ♦

OSCIA Membership Display

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

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

Peas as a Cover Crop

The Thames Valley Regional Soil and Crop Improvement Association is conducting trials under the Partner Grant program. Following is the interim report on their activities:

Background: Investigations into the opportunities for various cover crops after winter wheat harvest have been ongoing since 2004. From these trials, peas have shown great promise to either replace red clover as a cover crop, or be used to fill in gaps in a clover stand. Of note, trials in 2006 at one location near Lucan showed peas far outperforming either oat or oilseed radish when biomass production was significant, and fall tillage (fall 2005) was difficult due to the volume of cover crop production. Corn yields following peas were significantly higher in this situation than following any other treatment.

However, it is not well established if corn yields significantly improve following peas planted as a cover crop, as initial results have been extremely variable. To further investigate this potential, the Thames Valley Regional Soil and Crop Improvement Association (TVRSCIA) initiated a three year project in the summer of 2006. Strips of peas were planted in fields following winter wheat harvest throughout the region. Corn will be planted in these fields in 2007, along with two replicate tests of nitrogen rates on both the pea strips and the check strips (no peas planted). These plots will be repeated in 2007/2008.

2006 Plots: 23 plots were established across south western Ontario, with wide geographic distribution (from the Niagara peninsula to Lake Huron to Kent county). Pea seed was sourced from either western Canada (dry pea seed), or from by-pass fields that canners in Ontario had been unable to utilize (processing peas). Pea planting dates varied widely, from late July to early September. While most co-operators drilled the pea seed in, several growers broadcast the pea seed and disced it in, to attempt to reduce seeding costs. In one location disced pea seed was compared to drilled seed to determine relative establishment.

2006 Results:

1. Establishment: Pea stand establishment was much less than expected. Seeding rates were targeted at 75 pounds/acre, but stands were thin at most locations. Even growers that bumped seeding rates to 100 pounds/acre had disappointing stands. It is unknown as to the reason for poor establishment. Seed source did not appear to have an impact, nor did baling straw vs spreading straw. There is some suggestion that slugs may have been feeding on and killing pea seed seedlings, but there is no proof of this hypothesis.

2. Seeding Date: Seeding date had a huge impact on the amount of growth achieved by the pea crop. Peas seeded in late July showed excellent growth, with plants flowering and setting seed before freeze-up. In the best fields, peas could have been harvested as fresh table peas just prior to killing frost. However, peas seeded in early September had minimal growth, and in many cases were only 4 inches (10 cm) high when killing frost occurred. This wide differential in growth is partly due to the extremely cool, wet fall conditions experienced, but also indicates that early planting will be essential if peas are to be successful.

3. Seeding method: Broadcast peas followed by discing showed significantly poorer establishment than drilled peas. In fields that were packed following the disc, establishment did improve but still did not equal that of drilled peas. Alternate, cheaper methods of pea establishment still need to be developed, in an effort to make this a more economical endeavour.

4. Grower feedback: Despite disappointing stand establishment, most growers were encouraged by what they saw. In many cases, green pea strips stood in stark contrast to unplanted strips, and the potential for increased corn yields and decreased nitrogen requirements have co-operators intrigued as to the outcome next corn harvest.

2007 Plans: Two replications of nitrogen rates will be imposed on the corn planted into these fields in 2007. Nitrogen rates will include both a zero N treatment, along with a "full rate" nitrogen treatment, and most economical rate of nitrogen (MER-N) will be calculated using the delta yield concept, for both the corn following peas as well as the corn following no cover crop. In fields that allow, 4 nitrogen rates will be replicated (0, 50, 100, 150), and MER-N will be calculated using the quadratic plateau method.

Sites will again be planted to peas following wheat in the summer of 2007. Good co-operators are always welcomed. Anyone interested in this project should contact their local Soil and Crop director, or Peter Johnson (519 271 8180, peter.johnson@ontario.ca).

OSCIA Resolutions

A number of resolutions were passed at the OSCIA Annual Meeting held in February.

These resolutions have been mailed to relevant organizations, and as replies are received, they are posted to the OSCIA website.

Be sure to follow your local association's resolution by looking on the website under Members/Associations.

ONTARIO FORAGE EXPO

The Peterborough County Hay Day and Ontario Forage Expo is being held in Peterborough County on **Wednesday, July 25.**

Demonstrations of the latest forage equipment.

Forage industry trade show exhibits.

Everyone welcome! No admission fee.

Lunch will be available.

Keynote forage speakers:

Jim Glenn - "Marketing Hay"

Joel Bagg - "Baleage Tips"

Sponsored by the Peterborough SCIA and the Ontario Forage Council

For more information, contact:

Ontario Forage Council 1-877-892-8663

ATTENTION SEED GROWERS

Growers' Update - Thursday, June 28

Petrolia

Mandatory for Select Growers on probation

This year an RSVP will be required

Watch for notices arriving soon!

OSCIA WEBSITE
VISIT US AT
www.ontariosoilcrop.org