

October 2008

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THAMES VALLEY REGIONAL SOIL & CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Oxford

Middlesex

Elgin

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COMING EVENTS...

NOVEMBER 2008

7-16 Royal Winter Fair, Toronto, www.royalfair.org

DECEMBER 2008

2 & 3 Forage Focus 2008 Ontario Forage Council, see pg 8

JANUARY 2009

13 Oxford SCIA Annual Meeting

14,15 CCA Conference and Annual Meeting, Holiday Inn, Cambridge. Registration: deadline Dec 12, 2008

15 Elgin SCIA Annual Meeting

17 FarmSmart Agricultural Conference, University of Guelph, organized by Golden Horseshoe and Heartland Regional SCIA's <http://www.uoguelph.ca/farmsmart/>

22-23 Skills to Grow Workshop, London

www.tractionskills.ca

28-30 Managing Excellence in Agriculture conference

<http://www.farmcentre.com/EventsAnnouncements/Events/ManagingExcellence/>

FEBRUARY 2009

3,4 OSCIA Annual Meeting, Sheraton Fallsview Hotel, Niagara Falls <http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/>



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OXFORD NEWS

OXFORD RAINFALL (recorded in mm)

		RR		APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	May-Oct	to Aug '07
David	Arthur	4	St Mary's	55	77	96	83	102			358	269
Jeff	Dibble	2	Drumbo		74	110	77	100			362	226
Gord	Haley	1	Otterville		97	103	169	69			438	145
P	Johnson		Ingersoll		94	119	120				333	
John	Landsell	2	Thamesford		107	99	73	121			380	266
RM	Matheson	3	Embro		91	117	100	61			370	359
Bill	Orth	2	Burgessville	41	103	79	202	155			539	192
Roger	Orth	1	Burgessville		83	97	181	115			476	173
Barry	Smith		Burgessville		100	79	195	138			512	176
Henry	VanDorp	1	Woodstock	32	107	62	170	89			428	213
Ross	Wilson	1	Salford	30	100	218	226	162			706	232
HEAT UNITS												
	Dibble				234	739	772	714			2459	2572
	Haley				243	717	808	735			2503	2627
	Matheson				279	642	760	729			2410	2380

OXFORD OFA BATTERY BLITZ

Once again, we offer the community an opportunity to safely dispose of unwanted used batteries. This is your chance to do something for the environment, with proceeds going towards environmental education.

The following depots are collecting batteries:

- Stratford Farm Equipment, Woodstock
- FS Partners, Norwich
- Ward's Tire, Ostrander
- Knoops Farm Service, Embro
- Tavistock Equipment, Tavistock
- Eastwood Auto Electric, Eastwood

OXFORD JR FARMERS

The Oxford Jr Farmers are available to tend bar at your next function. This service is part of the fundraising efforts the group does to maintain their activities, and serving staff are certified under the SmartServe program. For more info, contact Rachel McKinlay at harcilm@yahoo.com.

OXFORD SCIA ANNUAL MEETING

As always, mark your calendar for the second Tuesday in January ~ Jan 13/09 ~ for Oxford's annual meeting. We hope to have some great speakers, updates, the Feed Fair and Agribusiness exhibitors. Don't forget about the innovator's challenge - I'm sure everyone has something they could bring in! You will get a meeting notice in the mail in late December, as well as a membership renewal notice if applicable.

Join us at our next OCFA Board Meeting....

1st Thursday of the month
8 p.m., OMAFRA, Woodstock

Representatives from farm associations are encouraged to attend.

For more information contact

June Nussey - OCFA Secretary Coordinator

Voice: (519) 485-2442

E-mail: j.k.nussey@sympatico.ca



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MIDDLESEX NEWS

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		
H. Aukema	R. 6, Strathroy	448.5	31.0	84.0	159.0	109.0	65.5		
L. Whiting	R. 5, Mt. Brydges	326.0	26.0	83.0	86.0	97.0	34.0		
J. Robinson	R. 5, Mt. Brydges	362.2	31.1	85.2	62.5	94.2	89.2		
G. Richards	6879 Longwoods Rd.	350.0	27.0	53.0	53.0	122.0	95.0		
G Cornelis	R. 1, Ailsa Craig	247.0	22.5	47.4	67.0	54.9	55.2		
E. Fox	R. 5, Parkhill	455.3	14.0	110.0	103.0	122.0	106.3		
W. Mollard	R. 4, Parkhill	524.0	26.9	98.4	134.1	147.6	117.0		
M. Robb	R. 1, Ilderton	320.0	21.0	73.0	78.0	70.0	78.0		
R. Heard	Fanshawe Rd., London	327.0	37.5	91.5	79.0	70.0	49.0		
G. Duynisveld	R. 3, Ilderton	340.5	33.0	102.5	67.0	54.0	84.0		
D. Denys	R. 8, Parkhill	477.2	18.0	63.5	142.2	127.0	126.5		
F. Vanneste	R. 2, Lucan	398.9	40.0	77.0	125.4	93.5	63.0		
H. MacKellar	R. 2, Glencoe	372.0	25.0	55.0	110.0	89.0	93.0		
C. McVicar	R. 1, Newbury	360.5	34.5	64.0	108.0	80.0	74.0		
B. Grieve	R. 2, Dorchester	353.0	43.0	98.5	77.5	58.0	76.0		
A. Brown	R. 2, Belmont	285.0	32.0	72.5	56.0	51.5	73.0		
A. White	R22, London	378.0	41.0	77.0	80.0	106.0	74.0		
D. Murray	4598 Murray Rd, London	338.0	35.0	75.0	59.0	68.0	101.0		
R. Willemse	R. 4, Parkhill	496.6	20.1	62.0	131.5	133.0	150.0		
Average Rainfall 2008		372.1	29.7	77.7	95.0	92.0	84.0		

TOWNSHIP AVERAGES	TOTAL	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT
ADELAIDE	428.0	32.7	82.9	140.6	100.7	71.1		
Caradoc	346.1	28.0	73.7	67.2	104.4	72.7		
NM/EAST WILLIAMS	408.8	21.1	85.3	101.4	108.2	92.8		
Lobo	320.0	21.0	73.0	78.0	70.0	78.0		
London	333.8	35.3	97.0	73.0	62.0	66.5		
NM - McGillivray	438.0	29.0	70.3	133.8	110.3	94.8		
Metcalfe	372.0	25.0	55.0	110.0	89.0	93.0		
Mosa	360.5	34.5	64.0	108.0	80.0	74.0		
N. Dorchester	319.0	37.5	85.5	66.8	54.8	74.5		
London/Westminster	358.0	38.0	76.0	69.5	87.0	87.5		
NM - West Williams	496.6	20.1	62.0	131.5	133.0	150.0		
County Average 2008	368.4	30.2	76.3	94.8	86.6	80.5		

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	Before May 10	After May 10	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.
N. Stokman	2474.0	112.0	220.0	714.0	807.0	733.0		
H. Aukema	2551.0	123.0	231.0	742.0	828.0	750.0		
J. Robinson	2492.0	120.0	218.0	715.0	817.0	742.0		
G Cornelis	2459.0	126.0	215.0	709.0	808.0	727.0		
E. Fox	2575.0	103.0	220.0	771.0	830.0	754.0		
R. Heard	2414.0	112.0	210.0	691.0	806.0	707.0		
G. Duynisveld	2578.0	125.0	273.0	748.0	819.0	738.0		
D. Denys	2455.0	122.0	206.0	706.0	814.0	729.0		
F. Vanneste	2548.0	102.0	228.0	737.0	839.0	744.0		
H. Dodge	2574.0	106.0	248.0	738.0	827.0	761.0		
H. MacKellar	2604.0	120.0	218.0	725.0	879.0	782.0		
C. McVicar	2394.0	126.0	238.0	725.0	749.0	682.0		
A. Brown	2489.0	115.0	246.0	718.0	801.0	724.0		
B. Grieve	2520.0	112.0	243.0	720.0	822.0	735.0		
R. Willemse	2683.0	145.0	281.0	780.0	855.0	767.0		
AVERAGE	2520.7	116.0	233.0	729.3	820.1	738.3		

TOWNSHIP AVE.	Total	Before May 10	After May 10	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.
Adelaide	2523.0	117.5	225.5	728.0	828.0	741.5		
Caradoc	2492.0	120.0	218.0	715.0	817.0	742.0		
East Williams	2517.0	114.5	217.5	740.0	819.0	740.5		
London	2496.0	118.5	241.5	719.5	812.5	722.5		
McGillivray	2501.5	112.0	217.0	721.5	826.5	736.5		
Metcalfe	2589.0	113.0	233.0	731.5	853.0	771.5		
Mosa	2394.0	126.0	238.0	725.0	749.0	682.0		
N. Dorchester	2504.5	113.5	244.5	719.0	811.5	729.5		
West Williams	2683.0	145.0	281.0	780.0	855.0	767.0		

10 YEAR SUMMARY OF MIDDLESEX CROP HEAT UNIT STATIONS

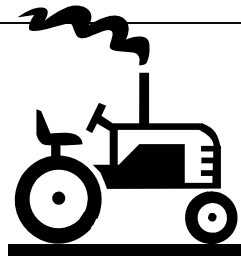
Average	TOTAL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT
2007	3672	361	718	709	776	645	464
2006	3303	310	669	850	775	534	165
2005	3705	262	794	855	816	678	300
2004	3322	377	629	776	711	632	197
2003	3032	244	620	782	788	571	27
2002	3435	212	699	838	795	682	209
2001	3367	501	667	766	793	545	96
2000	3292	307	691	731	736	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

Mark your calendars! Elgin's annual meeting – the date has been set for January 15/09. Please send your plot data to Peter Johnson asap.

ELGIN RAINFALL SUMMARY 2008

NAME	ADDRESS	TOTAL	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT
K. Kelly	R3 RODNEY	297	88	122	47	40			
D. Aldred	R1 WEST LORNE	232	60	90	68	14			
D. Porter	R2 PT STANLEY	243	68	80	63	32			
Oegema Farms	TALBOTVILLE	309	81	89	97	42			
J. Littlejohn	R2 WALLACETOWN	137	60	77					
R. Dykstra	R1 BELMONT	0							



OTHER REGIONAL NEWS

Membership Cards ~ If you haven't yet received your new personalized plastic OSCIA membership card, please contact your local secretary (see back page). With new members joining all the time at various local events, it is sometimes difficult to keep track of this.

Greencover Canada ~ Included in this package is the final report on the Greencover Canada demonstration projects created across the province over the last couple of years. There is a great deal of interesting and informative ideas contained in this booklet and I hope you take a few minutes to look through it.

NABC CONFERENCE - COLUMBUS, OHIO - JUNE 3-5, 2008

John Kinghorn, provincial director OSCIA (Durham, Haliburton, Victoria)

I had the opportunity to attend the National Agriculture Biotechnology Conference and was sponsored by the Durham Region SCIA. The National Agricultural Biotechnology Council is a consortium of 34 leading agricultural research and teaching governmental agencies/institutions/universities in the United States and Canada that provides all stakeholders the opportunity to speak, to listen and to learn about the issues surrounding agricultural biotechnology. The University of Guelph and the University of Saskatchewan are two Canadian Universities that are members. One of their objectives is to promote increased understanding of the scientific, economic, legislative and social issues associated with agricultural biotechnology by compiling and disseminating information to interested people. The president of the NABC is Dr. Ralph Hardy, who was born just west of Lindsay, and still owns and operates the family farm. He was a guest speaker at a summer crop day in Durham County last year and was a key note speaker at the OSCIA Annual Meeting at Niagara Falls last February.

The main message was based around the fact that agriculture is undergoing a positive and challenging transformation as it continues to supply food and feed while expanding its role as a major provider of fuels and chemicals.

In his welcoming remarks to the conference, Dr. Hardy spoke of the "Fantastic Opportunities" in Agriculture today, but also a time of "Fantastic Challenges". He referred to the Food vs Fuel debate and the negative press which is plastered over our daily newspapers and magazines. I can only share with you some of the highlights of the conference, as we had the opportunity to listen to a cross section of experts in most of the key elements of this process. Some of the speakers advise senior administrators of our government, including the president of the United States on the impact of agricultural biotechnology.

There is no question that the U.S. is in a crisis as a result of the higher fuel costs. The result is a weakening currency and impending recession. 60% of U.S. need for crude oil is imported! Currently, the U.S. uses 200 billion gallons of fuel per year! That total is made up of 55 billion gallons of diesel fuel, 140 billion gallons of gasoline fuel and 6 billion gallons of ethanol (25% of corn grown is used to make ethanol). There is no question that oil will remain more expensive than in the past and world hunger will challenge the morality of using agricultural land for food production. It is recognized that a significant number of "Good Technologies" will never see the light of day, because of negative press, based on misinformation! Agriculture is the foundation of the bioeconomy. Biotechnology is being rapidly accepted worldwide for its contribution to crop production. BT corn, roundup ready corn/soybeans, drought resistance bred into corn, are just some of the examples.

We need to make the next step in the production of ethanol to the "Cellulosic Technology" which will allow us to make ethanol out of many forms of biomass from switchgrass, trees, garbage, etc. The newer technologies will reduce the concern about food vs fuel. The Polymer Industry is making great strides to find replacement polymers from agricultural products. Polymers used in paint coatings, rubber, adhesives, plastic have previously come from fossil fuel. In many cases, plant fibres are proving lighter, stronger and cheaper than fossil based products.

There are many breakthroughs coming in the productivity of Biofeedstocks. There are products such as switch grass and miscanthus that are capable of producing 25-30 tonnes per acre. If we needed 25% of agricultural land for corn ethanol, we would only need 8% of land for miscanthus because of the higher yield. But there is no one crop that fits all areas of our diverse land and climate conditions in North America. There is no question that we have many challenges to solve in the development process. Items such as the economical way to transport the huge tonnages of product to a processing facility must be solved. We will see developments in facilities to pelletize products to make them more economical to transport and store. There is a very high level of confidence that we can produce the biomass necessary to meet our current fuel requirements in North America. There was a recognition of problems to be faced as many cities run short of water. Who has the right to the water? Cities or Agriculture?

There was significant discussion about Biofuels and Biopolymers providing the opportunity to revitalize rural America through the growth of new jobs at all levels of expertise. The Biotechnology expansion will provide the opportunities for our bright young minds in Masters and PHD programs to seek opportunities in our country.

I left the conference with much more confidence in our ability to solve this problem. I am working on ways to share the conference presentations with those who have high speed internet providers.

TIP (TIMELY IDEA TO PRACTICE) OF THE MONTH

This month's inquiry... WOW – Fertilizer prices lately have been going through the roof – I've been wondering about accessing some solid or liquid manure from some of my neighbours – any idea on its value?

Answer : Christine Brown, Nutrient Management Field Crop Program Lead in the Woodstock OMAFRA Resource Centre has been developing a new factsheet 'Available Nutrients and Value for Manure From Various Livestock Types'. She is always willing and able to talk about her favourite subject – manure! Chris and the rest of OMAFRA crop team will be at the OSCIA site at the Outdoor Farm Show to talk about this and many other current crop issues. The table below is a shortened version and will give you a rough estimate for now.

Average Amounts & Value of Available Nitrogen, Phosphate and Potash for Different Types of Organic Nutrient Sources

Livestock Type	S= solid L= liquid	D.M.	Available Nitrogen			Available		Value		
			Fall ¹	Spring	Spring inject ²	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	Year 1 ³	Year 2-4 ⁴	
		%	Liquid lbs/1000 gal			Solid lbs/ton		L \$/1000 gal	S \$/ton	
Hog	solid ave	S	30	6.1	7.2	8.6	8.5	12	8.5	12
	finisher	L	7.6	30.7	38.2	49.4	21	32	21	32
	weaners	L	3.0	15.8	19.9	25.7	13	17	13	17
	SEW	L	2.2	12.5	14.8	18.9	5.5	14	5.5	14
	dry sows	L	1.9	13.0	18.3	24.1	9.2	12	9.2	12
Dairy	30% +	S	39	3.9	4.1	4.5	3.1	11	11	4
	18 – 30%	S	21	3.4	4.2	4.8	3.0	10	11	4
	liquid ave	L	8.4	14.4	15.4	19.2	7.7	26	32	10
	10 – 18%	L	14	20.1	19.7	24.2	13	34	44	16
	6 – 10%	L	8.0	14.8	16.2	20.2	6.9	26	32	9
	2 – 6%	L	4.4	9.8	11.6	14.7	5.0	20	24	6
Beef	30% +	S	38	5.7	4.8	5.3	6.9	16	18	9
	18 – 30%	S	24	3.8	3.7	4.2	3.0	10	11	4
	liquid ave	L	7.9	12.7	13.6	16.9	7.3	23	29	9
	10 – 18%	L	15	19.7	19.1	23.3	12	36	44	16
	6 – 10%	L	7.8	13.5	14.5	18.2	7.2	22	29	9
	2 – 6%	L	3.8	8.6	10.6	13.6	4.5	16	21	5.5
Runoff	0- 2%	L	0.7	2.1	2.7	3.5	1.0	9.2	7.6	1.2
Horse	average	S	37	3.0	2.8	3.1	2.8	9.3	9	3.8
Sheep	average	S	34	6.4	7.5	8.9	5.2	16.7	16	6
Poultry	layers	S	34	17.4	18.6	22.5	16	17	39	19
	pullets	S	48	24.5	25.3	28.9	25	29	58	30
	broilers	S	68	21.6	22.5	24.7	25	33	56	30
	liquid ave	L	11	41.8	49.6	63.5	28	32	82	31
Biosolids	aerobic	L	2.0	5.0	4.1	4.4	5.5	0	10	6.3
	anaerobic	L	4.4	11.8	11.8	13.8	13	0	21	15
	dewatered	S	32	22.6	25.6	27.3	24	2.4	43	32

1. Late fall application or early application with cover crop
2. Injection or immediate incorporation assumes good coverage
3. Assumes spring application incorporated within 24 hours where nutrients are required
4. Value includes the remaining 40% of P₂O₅ and organic N

BUY/SELL HAY LISTING SERVICE

Ontario Forage Council Introduces... <http://www.ontariohaylistings.ca>

A Free Hay Listings Service for People Looking to Buy and Sell Hay and Straw For more information, comments or questions, call 1-877-892-8663 or email info@ontariohaylistings.ca

Ontario Forage Council has been working on creating a new service for the forage industry. **We are pleased to announce that the "Ontario Hay Listings Service" website was launched this month.** The site www.ontariohaylistings.ca was officially launched on Tuesday July 22nd, at the 3rd annual Ontario Forage Expo held on the farm of Don & Robin Rowntree, located south of Georgetown, in Halton County. Both hay producers and purchasers have often commented that there is a real need for a hay (and straw) listings service here in Ontario. This site has been designed with dial-up users in mind, and with the objective of being as simplistic, yet efficient as possible. Our mission is to provide an easy and effective process of bringing hay producers and buyers together. It will provide a much needed service to the farming community here in Ontario and will also assist in creating awareness in Western Canada and the U.S. of a potential supply of quality hay that is available.

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

The annual Forage Focus 2008 conference is happening on December 2nd in Winchester Community Centre and December 3rd in Shakespeare Optimist hall. We are excited about our keynote speaker Limin Kung from the University of Delaware. "Making Forages the Foundation of your Future" The conference will also feature Ian MacDonald OMAFRA and Fritz Trauttmansdorff. Pre-registration is required cost is just \$35 and includes hot beef dinner and conference proceedings. Please call 1-877-892-8663 or 519-986-1484 by November 28th Check out our new website at www.ontarioforagecouncil.com or call for more information

CANADIAN YOUNG SPEAKERS FOR AGRICULTURE

"Do you like a challenge?"

"Would you like to share your enthusiasm for agriculture with an interested audience?"

"Does the opportunity to win a substantial cash prize appeal to you?"

"Are you 11 to 24 years old?"

If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, you may be interested in participating in the Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture competition, held annually in November at the Royal Agriculture Winter Fair in Toronto, as part of Youth Weekend. It's an opportunity to develop your public speaking skills and a forum to express community concerns. The competition originated in 1985 in honour of International Youth Year, and was originally sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food. Farm Credit Canada joined as a co-sponsor in 1987. There are cash prizes for the six finalists in both the Junior Competition (ages 11-15) and Senior Competition (ages 16-24). The Senior Champion will receive \$1000, while the Junior Champion is awarded \$500. Full details available on-line at <http://www.cysa-joca.ca/english/>

Upcoming EFP Workshops

	<u>Day 1</u>	<u>Day 2</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Clinton	Thurs Oct 16 Mon Nov 10	Thurs Oct 23 Mon Nov 17	Lois Sinclair 357-3146 Lois Sinclair
Woodstock	Tues Oct 21	Tues Oct 28	Cathy Dibble 463-9737
Markdale	Wed Oct 22	Wed Oct 29	Ray Robertson 986-3756

Last day to complete all EFP funding projects is December 15, 2008. You must call your local rep by that date to arrange your final inspection.

Clean sweep pilot program

Clean out your sharps and unused livestock medicines!

Farmers can dispose of sharps and unused livestock medicines in a safe and environmentally responsible manner.
...And it's free! November 20-22 2008

Collection locations

Outdoor Farm Show site, Woodstock, 9 am – 5 pm
Peterborough District Co-operative Services, Peterborough, business hours
O'Neill's Farm Supply, Napanee, business hours
Jamieson Campbell (1989), Monkland, business hours
Brussels Agri-Service, Brussels, business hours
Ritchie Feed and Seed Inc, Brockville, business hours

Other collection sites may be added. Visit www.ofac.org for the most current information.

For more information

Visit the Ontario Farm Animal Council website: www.ofac.org.
Call the Ontario Farm Animal Council/AGCare: 519-837-1326
Contact the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs:
Agricultural Information Contact Centre Toll Free: 1-877-424-1300,
Email: ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca

Funding for this program is provided by the Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem.

What can I bring in and drop off at the collection site?

Collection sites will accept used sharps (needles, syringes, scalpel blades) and unused livestock medicines. Collection sites will not accept pesticide products with PCP numbers, including animal pesticide products like ear tags or fly treatments. Unused medicated feeds will also not be accepted.

What happens if I bring something you don't accept?

The collection sites will only accept livestock pharmaceuticals and sharps. All other products will not be accepted and you will be responsible for taking them home and disposing of them yourself.

How can I bring product in?

Sharps can be brought in a special sharps container or in your own storage containers. Unused livestock pharmaceuticals can be brought to a collection site in their original containers—you do not need to repackage them for collection.

What happens to the pharmaceuticals and sharps you collect?

They will be placed in collection totes and transported to a medical waste destruction facility. We are working with a company called Stericycle that specializes in medical waste disposal and sharps disposal management. They are the largest provider of biomedical waste management services in North America.

Do you collect pesticides? If not, where can I take those?

We are not collecting pesticides as part of this pilot program. The next province-wide clean sweep for pesticides will take place in fall of 2009. Please contact your municipality regarding Hazardous Waste Days in your particular area.

Why should I bring in sharps and pharmaceuticals?

Animals should not be treated with expired medications as product stability and potency may be compromised. Proper disposal of expired or unused animal medications and sharps is important in helping to prevent the potential for ground and surface water contamination. The Great Lakes are the largest fresh water ecosystem in the world and contain 20 per cent of the world's fresh surface water. Eight million Ontarians depend on the Great Lakes for their drinking water and the entire Great Lakes Basin supports 25 per cent of Canada's agricultural production. Proper disposal helps safeguard your health and that of your family, the health of your livestock and crops, as well as overall public health and safety. By protecting water sources, you're also helping to protect wildlife habitats, environmental resources and sensitive ecosystems.

The bigger picture

The sharps and unused livestock pharmaceuticals clean sweep pilot collection program is part of a larger Ontario government initiative under the Canada- Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem designed to protect water quality in the Great Lakes. It will culminate in a province-wide sweep of both pesticides and livestock pharmaceuticals and sharps in the fall of 2009.

THAMES VALLEY REGIONAL SOIL & CROP IMPROVEMENT

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The Thames Valley Regional Soil & Crop Improvement Association newsletter is produced by Cathy Dibble, (519) 463-6374, Fax (519) 463-6375, email cdibble@odyssey.on.ca Submissions and advertising welcome.

MEMBERSHIPS

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

Contact information...

ONTARIO SOIL & CROP 1-800-265-9751

OSCIA WEBSITE: www.ontariosoilcrop.org

CROPLINE: 1-888-449-0937

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

WOODSTOCK OMAFRA RESOURCE CENTRE: 519-537-6621

FARM CENTRE <http://farmcentre.com/english>

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT TOLL-FREE INFO LINE: 1-866-242-4460

THE FARM LINE Confidential support and referral services: 1-888-451-2903

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Cathy's Comments

Sept 25/08 I hope everyone was able to get out to the Outdoor Farm Show this year to see the sights and enjoy your free brunch. Wednesday of the show turned out record numbers, and we feed well over 500 people at the joint OSCIA/Bayer Brunch, with the local Lion's Clubs delivering 1200+ meals to our tent over the three days.

As I sit to write this, Jeff is planting our wheat, after an incredible soybean yield (but I am sworn to secrecy until all the neighbours are finished their harvest too!). In the Drumbo/Woodstock area, soy and coloured bean harvest is ramping up and quite a few wheat fields have gone in already. What incredible weather we have seen over the last two weeks. The thermometer in my truck was showing 29 C on the way home from town today!

Thanks to everyone who came out to the Oxford SCIA meeting on Sept 8. We had an unexpected turnout of close to 70 producers that evening, including a few from Elgin & Middlesex counties. Thanks to Arnold Haskett and his meeting committee for doing a superb job this year. Arnold would also like to thank Ashley Mosburger of ProRich Seeds and Josh Rabe of Agrospray for generously providing the coffee and doughnuts for the meeting. A huge thank you to the staff of the Outdoor Farm Show for continuously allowing us to use the site for this annual meeting during such a hectic time for them. It is really interesting to watch just how much equipment is still being delivered to the show site at 10 o'clock at night before opening day. The show staff (including our daughter) put in many 12-15 hour days leading up to the event each year, and we are certainly proud to have a show of this caliber right here in Oxford County.

Also, a thank you to everyone who has resent their email addresses to me, and to those who also volunteered a swift kick - only Johnson succeeded.