



September 2007

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THAMES VALLEY REGIONAL SOIL & CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Oxford

Middlesex

Elgin

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10 Provincial Election - get out and vote!!

November 2007

2-11 Royal Agriculture Winter Fair

Exhibition Place, Toronto <http://www.royalfair.org/>

December 2007

4 & 5 Forage Focus Conference Napanee and Shakespeare respectively. Keynote speaker: Dan Undersander from the University of Wisconsin.

January 2008

8 Oxford SCIA Annual Meeting

9-10 CCA Conference and Annual Meeting, Holiday Inn, 30 Fairway Road South, Kitchener

16-18 Ag Info Days, Georgian Downs, Barrie

19 FarmSmart <http://www.uoguelph.ca/farmsmart/>

February 2008

5-6 OSCIA Annual Meeting, Sheraton Fallsview Hotel, Niagara Falls

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In cooperation with:

Terratec Environmental

Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association

Ridgetown College

OMAFRA Resource Centre - Woodstock

Your local Soil & Crop Association

OMAFRA Field Staff

Our local Hyland guy Paul Kerr flying high



MIDDLESEX RAINFALL SUMMARY 2007

NAME	ADDRESS	TOTAL	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT
N. Stokman	R. 7, Strathroy	289.2	52.4	48.8	59.0	30.2	98.8	0.0	0.0
H. Aukema	R. 6, Strathroy	271.0	61.0	45.0	46.0	30.5	88.5	0.0	0.0
L. Whiting	R. 5, Mt. Brydges	295.0	92.0	65.0	23.0	22.0	93.0	0.0	0.0
J. Robinson	R. 5, Mt. Brydges	239.9	56.4	38.6	15.0	11.3	118.6	0.0	0.0
G. Richards	6879 Longwoods Rd.	236.0	57.0	36.0	10.0	7.0	126.0	0.0	0.0
G Cornelis	R. 1, Ailsa Craig	168.5	32.4	27.8	30.9	24.4	53.0	0.0	0.0
E. Fox	R. 5, Parkhill	205.0	47.0	47.0	30.0	12.0	69.0	0.0	0.0
W. Mollard	R. 4, Parkhill	229.3	47.4	45.4	40.8	26.7	69.0	0.0	0.0
M. Robb	R. 1, Ilderton	217.0	47.0	35.0	30.0	35.0	70.0	0.0	0.0
R. Heard	Fanshawe Rd., London	300.5	77.0	83.5	45.5	22.0	72.5	0.0	0.0
G. Duynisveld	R. 3, Ilderton	332.5	76.5	67.0	72.0	26.0	91.0	0.0	0.0
D. Denys	R. 8, Parkhill	213.5	34.0	41.5	32.0	30.0	76.0	0.0	0.0
R. Desjardine	R. 8, Parkhill	213.0	34.0	41.0	32.0	30.0	76.0	0.0	0.0
F. Vanneste	R. 2, Lucan	270.0	51.0	36.0	71.0	30.0	82.0	0.0	0.0
H. MacKellar	R. 2, Glencoe	283.0	74.0	48.0	17.0	29.0	115.0	0.0	0.0
C. McVicar	R. 1, Newbury	309.5	73.5	55.0	3.0	54.0	124.0	0.0	0.0
B. Grieve	R. 2, Dorchester	290.1	72.0	44.1	46.5	42.0	85.5	0.0	0.0
A. Brown	R. 2, Belmont	219.5	49.0	38.5	34.0	20.0	78.0	0.0	0.0
A. White	R22, London	256.0	71.0	38.0	25.0	36.0	86.0	0.0	0.0
D. Murray	4598 Murray Rd, London	332.0	80.0	42.0	21.0	32.0	157.0	0.0	0.0
R. Willemse	R. 4, Parkhill								
Average Rainfall 2007		258.5	59.2	46.2	34.2	27.5	91.4	0.0	0.0

SUMMARY OF MIDDLESEX CROP HEAT UNIT STATIONS 2007

	TOTAL	MAY *		JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.
		Before May 10	After May 10					
N. Stokman	2262.0	141.0	356.0	693.0	441.0	772.0	0.0	0.0
H. Aukema	2664.0	136.0	370.0	732.0	764.0	798.0	0.0	0.0
J. Robinson	2159.0	145.0	354.0	720.0	293.0	792.0	0.0	0.0
G Cornelis	2528.0	146.0	358.0	687.0	736.0	747.0	0.0	0.0
E. Fox	2649.0	125.0	357.0	732.0	771.0	789.0	0.0	0.0
R. Heard	2594.0	149.0	366.0	713.0	750.0	765.0	0.0	0.0
G. Duynisveld	2674.0	142.0	381.0	742.0	766.0	785.0	0.0	0.0
D. Denys	2613.0	149.0	366.0	711.0	756.0	780.0	0.0	0.0
F. Vanneste	2688.0	144.0	360.0	720.0	795.0	813.0	0.0	0.0
R. Desjardine	2623.0	149.0	366.0	711.0	766.0	780.0	0.0	0.0
H. Dodge	1903.0	132.0	381.0	733.0	789.0		0.0	0.0
H. MacKellar	2723.0	147.0	299.0	781.0	808.0	835.0	0.0	0.0
C. McVicar	2408.0	105.0	335.0	664.0	689.0	720.0	0.0	0.0
A. Brown	2577.0	132.0	374.0	710.0	734.0	759.0	0.0	0.0
B. Grieve	2708.0	139.0	393.0	724.0	774.0	817.0	0.0	0.0
R. Willemse								
AVERAGE	2564.2	138.7	361.1	718.2	708.8	776.1	0.0	0.0

Message from our President ~ Approximately 40 Oxford Soil and Crop members and guests recently had the pleasure of touring the Lovely Province of Prince Edward Island. The people we met were very hospitable and great hosts. We were able to see a few farming operations and also were informed of some their environmental stewardship practices. A Big Thank You to Kevin Rivers for all the work he put into organizing this trip. A reminder - If you have some side by side comparisons or other trials you are involved in, please forward the results to Cathy Dibble or Al Bruce so others can benefit from your experiences. Wishing you a Safe Fall Harvest, Albert Renkema



Dan of Green Gables

Forage Masters ~ Congratulations to our Oxford competitors. Here are the top three winners for 2007 **1st** ~ Hugh Van Oostveen, Lakeside

2nd~ Steve Vanden Dool, Woodstock **3rd** ~ John Doan, Norwich

See the Forage Masters information in the OSCIA News section for more details on prizes and a special provincial challenge for the top producer from each county!

Our first winner of the Oxford SCIA bursary was announced at the St Mary's High School commencement this spring. Congratulations to Jessica Gal of Princeton! Two more winners will be awarded their cheques this fall at other commencement ceremonies.

Thanks to Wade Graham for organizing another great info meeting for the Oxford members on September 10. A special thanks to Doug Wagner and Canada's Outdoor Park for allowing us in to hold our meeting while the site is a beehive of activity preparing for the Outdoor Farm Show.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RR</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>May-Sept</u> <u>Total'07</u>	<u>To August</u> <u>2006</u>
David Arthur	4	St Mary's	54	63	55	54	97			269	412
George Beard	1	Brownsville		30	10	33	64			137	357
Jeff Dibble	2	Drumbo		86	49	27	64			225	399
Gord Haley	1	Otterville		25	20	44	56			145	377
John Landsell	2	Thamesford		61	73	58				192	372
RM Matheson	3	Embros		89	62	74	134			360	436
Bill Orth	2	Burgessville		45	22	52	73			192	425
Roger Orth	1	Burgessville		35	23	55	60			212	364
Barry Smith		Burgessville	36	34	26	45	71			175	285
Henry Van Dorp	1	Woodstock	132	67	34	32	80			212	365
Ross Wilson	1	Salford	84	54	39	52	87			232	355
HEAT UNITS											
Dibble				393	697	780	702			2572	2826
Haley				378	707	759	783			2627	2751
Matheson				352	638	690	700			2380	2522

THAMES VALLEY NEWS

Please see the OSCIA news section on information regarding the proposed realignment for provincial director boundaries. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Pat Lee (Oxford/Elgin) or Dave Williams (Middlesex/Lambton)

TIME IS RUNNING OUT!



Want to take advantage of the cost share programs associated with the 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.

Canada



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Environmental
Coalition

www.ontariosoilcrop.org



OSCIA News...

September 2007

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

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**Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement
Association**

1 Stone Road West, Guelph ON N1G 4Y2

Phone: (519) 826-4214 or 1-800-265-9751

Fax: (519) 826-4224

OSCIA 2008 ANNUAL MEETING

Date: February 5 & 6, 2008

Place: Sheraton Fallsview
Niagara Falls

Message from the President

Our OSCIA Summer Directors' Meeting was hosted by Pat and Margaret Lee. A big thank you for their hospitality and introduction to Oxford County. The Directors' meeting included updates on the various programs and project activities as well as a review of the strategic planning priorities that were identified at a previous meeting. *Frank Hoftyzer*



Priorities include: continuation and expansion of research partnerships; participation in a farm business management pilot project; realignment of provincial Director boundaries with regional boundaries; strengthening of membership, and; continuation and expansion of environmental programs including more focus on the bio-economy.

Important Information on Director Boundary Realignment -

At the August 27, 2007, meeting of the OSCIA Board of Directors, recommendations were put forth to realign the provincial Director boundaries with the existing regional association boundaries. In the past, there has been considerable overlap, duplication and confusion between the boundaries for provincial Directors and the regional associations. The new scenario will improve the communication abilities considerably – from the local associations, through to their regional association and their provincial Director who sits on the provincial board.

The realignment will result in eleven provincial board members who will work closely with their Regional Communications Coordinator. The local associations will benefit greatly from this streamlined approach. One of the strengths of OSCIA is its grassroots connection and the provincial Directors wish to put in place a more effective infrastructure to better service and strengthen the local associations.

Provincial Directors are currently elected by their local association delegates; however, the new procedure would require an election by the regional associations.

At the February 2008 OSCIA Annual Meeting, delegates will be asked to support constitutional changes necessary to implement this new infrastructure. The realignment would come into effect by the February 2009 annual meeting. As part of the process change, provincial Directors will be elected by their regions to

come into effect for the 2009 annual meeting. It will be business as usual for delegates to elect their provincial Directors for the 2008 annual meeting.

Provincial Directors will be communicating the proposed boundary realignment to the membership in their areas over the next weeks and months.

The proposed Director regions appear on the following chart:

<u>Region</u>	<u>Associations</u>	<u>Current Directors</u>	<u>Assumed Feb '08 – Feb '09</u>	<u>Feb '09 onward</u>
St. Clair	Lambton, Kent, Essex	Williams, Denotter	Williams, Denotter	One Elected by Region
Thames Valley	Middlesex, Elgin, Oxford	Williams, Lee	Williams (Lee – Pres '08)	One Elected by Region
Heartland	Huron, Perth, Waterloo, Wellington	McKinlay, to be named	New to be named	One Elected by Region
Georgian Central	Bruce, Grey, Dufferin, Simcoe N & S	McKinlay, Pridham	McKinlay, Pridham	One Elected by Region
Golden Horseshoe	Niagara N & S, Haldimand, Wentworth, Halton, Peel, Brant, Norfolk	Davis, Brooks, Hill	Davis, Brooks, Hill (Hill – Pres '10)	One Elected by Region
East Central	York, Durham, Peterborough, Victoria, Haliburton	Kinghorn, Brooks, Hoftzyer	Brooks	One Elected by Region
Quinte	Pr Edward, L & A, Hastings, Northumberland	Kaiser, Hoftzyer	Kaiser	One Elected by Region
Eastern Valley	Prescott, Russell, Glengarry, Stormont, Dundas	Haerle, Kruszel	Haerle, Kruszel	One Elected by Region
Ottawa Rideau	Grenville, Leeds, Lanark, Renfrew, Carleton, Frontenac	Kruszel, Kaiser, Cotnam	Kruszel, Kaiser, Cotnam	One Elected by Region
NE Ontario	Parry Sound, Muskoka, Algoma, Cochrane, Manitoulin, Sudbury, Temiskaming, Nipissing	Parsons, Cochrane, Muggler	Parsons, Cochrane, Muggler (Cochrane – Pres '09)	One Elected by Region
NW Ontario	Rainy River, Thunder Bay, Kenora	Mol	Mol	One Elected by Region

**OSCIA WEBSITE
VISIT US AT
www.ontariosoilcrop.org**

Ontario Forage Masters Program - Provincial Competition Added

OSCIA is pleased to announce a final provincial competition this fall to select the person to be named the **2007 Ontario Forage Master**.

First place winners from each local association will be invited to apply to the provincial competition with a short list invited to participate at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in November 2007.

This winner will go on to represent Ontario at the Forage Spokesperson Competition held as part of the American Forage and Grasslands Council conference in January in Kentucky.

Details for entry have been mailed to all provincial Directors, local associations, OFM contact persons, and to all known winners to date.

Any entrant who has not heard the results in their own county are encouraged to get in touch with the organizer for their local association. The deadline for entering the competition is October 1, and is strictly voluntary.

Prizes announced in the spring will be awarded to the local winners as previously outlined in the guidelines.

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



Promotional Material Available to Local and Regional Associations

NEW! Promotional material is available to local associations on a cost-recovery basis by contacting the provincial office. Durable double-sided fleece vests with the OSCIA name and logo embroidered, and embroidered OSCIA hats have been purchased.



Local and regional association secretaries can order these items for their association to use at upcoming winter meetings as gifts for a special member or speaker, or as fundraising items at upcoming local annual meetings.

Please visit the OSCIA website at www.ontariosoilcrop.org and look under Tools on the Members page for pricing and ordering information. ♦

OSCIA Membership Committee

The Membership Committee's purpose is to identify opportunities for OSCIA to strengthen its membership base, and add value for our members.

OSCIA Contact List

A master list providing the phone numbers of all local presidents and secretaries across Ontario has been prepared and will be mailed to each local secretary and president in order for you to pass on contact information as requested at your local associations.

OSCIA Membership base remains strong!

The Membership Committee has been reviewing membership numbers from the past five years. We have had an increase in membership to a high of over 3,800 reported members in 2006. This is an 8% increase in memberships since 2005, and keeps our membership numbers similar to the 4,000 members from 2002-2003! The 2007 membership numbers will be tabulated shortly.

The increase in membership numbers are due to your locals' strong organization, and events which continue to attract producers across Ontario. Thank you for being a part of our goal of increasing membership across the province. Your hard work continues to make this Association active and vibrant for upcoming generations.

Summary of OSCIA Membership Committee Survey

During recent OSCIA Annual Meetings and Provincial Directors' Meetings, the issue of OSCIA membership was a top priority. Below are the results of a survey sent to local OSCIA secretaries in June 2007. (20/55 counties responded)

The majority of respondents felt that:

- there should not be different classes of membership
- there should not be one set membership fee across the province
- memberships should be renewed annually
- like to have the Regional Communication Coordinators attending local events to sell memberships. ♦

Information Packages Available for Local Events

If your local association is planning a special tour or event, and would like to distribute timely technical information sheets, please contact Deanna Deaville at the provincial office. Please ensure any request is made at least three weeks in advance to accommodate sending out folders for your event. (cont'd)

Information that could be included if available are:

OMAFRA/OSCIA Crop Advances: Field Crop Reports - 2007-09-04

OSCIA Brochure

OMAFRA Infosheets

Biodiesel Use On-Farm?

Considerations and Opportunities for Building a Farm- Based Anaerobic Digester System in Ontario

Energy Audits

Energy Yields from a Farm Based Anaerobic Digestion System

Introduction to Energy Crops

Being *Energywise* for the *Future* (Farm Profiles)

Swine Farming – *Improving Creep Heat Conditions and Reducing Energy Use*

Tie Stall Dairy Farming – *Improving Barn Environment and Reducing Energy Costs*

Free Stall Dairy Farming – *Improving Barn Environment and Reducing Energy Costs*

Poultry Farming – *Improving Poultry Environment and Reducing Energy*

Dependency ♦

EFP Celebrates Milestone

On June 26, 2007, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada announced that 7500 EFPs have been completed in Ontario with Agricultural Policy Framework funding.



Keith Black, 2006 OSCIA President, presents a farm gate sign to Kristen Ego of Ego's Farm Market and Greenhouses (Coldwater), who was the 7500th producer to complete an EFP under the current program.

"EFP is spurring positive environmental change on the agricultural landscape," said Frank Hoftzyer, President of the OSCIA. "Having 7,500 producers through the program with peer reviewed and deemed appropriate action plans is a significant milestone that signals a clear commitment by Ontario producers to incorporate environmental beneficial management practices into their farm production plans." ♦

OSCIA Summer Directors' Meeting

The OSCIA Directors' Summer Meeting was hosted this past August by Pat and Marg Lee of Oxford County.

Thanks go out to the Lees and to the Oxford SCIA for their hospitality and introduction to Oxford County. While the Directors attended to business, their families, along with former presidents of OSCIA, enjoyed the sites and activities offered in the area.

Tuesday the whole group visited dairy, mink, ginseng, and fruit farms that are located in the county. ♦



Presentation at the ginseng farm of Les and Bertha Gehring.

EFP Reminder!

Are you one of the many thousands of producers who want to take advantage of the cost share programs associated with the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)? If so, 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 OSCIA Program Representative immediately to get the claim process started.
- If you have final approval from OSCIA to proceed, 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 deadline.

Call your local OSCIA Program Representative for more information. ♦

EFP and the associated cost share programs are supported through the Agricultural Policy Framework (APF) a federal – provincial - territorial initiative.

CROP TALK



OMAFRA Field Crop Specialists — Your Crop Info Source

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6. 2008 Corn-On-Corn Checklist
7. BMR Corn Silage
8. Research Profile: Grassy Weed Control in Grain Sorghum
9. 2007 Ontario Winter Wheat Performance Trials

Brought to You by the Following OMAFRA Crop Specialists

Mike Cowbrough, Weed Management Program Lead
 Hugh Martin, Organic Crop Production Program Lead
 Horst Bohner, Soybean Specialist
 Ian McDonald, Applied Research Co-ordinator
 Albert Tenuta, Field Crop Pathologist
 Keith Reid, Soil Fertility Specialist
 Jack Kyle, Grazier Specialist
 Brian Hall, Alternative Production Systems Specialist
 Peter Johnson, Cereals Specialist
 Scott Banks, Emerging Crops Specialist
 Gilles Quesnel, Field Crops, IPM Program Lead
 Christine Brown, Nutrient Management Program Lead
 Adam Hayes, Soil Management Specialist - Field Crops
 Greg Stewart, Corn Industry Program Lead
 Tracey Baute, Entomology, Field Crops Program Lead

Editor: Joel Bagg, Forage Specialist

Compiled by: Marian Desjardine, OMAFRA, London

Fall Pasture Management Following a Dry Summer

by Jack Kyle, Grazier Specialist, OMAFRA

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.

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



Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs, Crop Technology Branch

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.

For more information, refer to "Looking for Extra Forage", "Conserving Pasture Production During Dry Conditions" and "Fall Pasture Fertility Management After A Drought" on the OMAFRA Forage Website at www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/field/forages.html.

Grazing Mentorship Program

by 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.

How Many Soil Samples Do I Need?

by Keith Reid, Soil Fertility Specialist, OMAFRA

A perfect soil testing program would tell you exactly what nutrients you need to add to each part of your fields for optimum crop yields. This would account for all the variability in soil fertility that was naturally present in the soil as well as what we have imposed by our management. The reality is that we need to balance the cost of increasing precision against the value we can gain from this precision.

What does Nutrient Management require?

The nutrient management regulations specify that a single soil sample can't represent more than 10 hectares (25 acres). This is in line with the original field boundaries on many farms, and should capture much of the variability from past management. There is an option for including a larger area in a single sample, but this is only where the field has already been shown to be uniform.

Where will it pay to sample more intensively?

The risk with sampling large fields is the loss of

income from under-fertilizing responsive areas within the field, and over-fertilizing non-responsive areas. If there is going to be an advantage to intensive sampling, there has to be a mix of responsive and non-responsive areas within the field, and they need to be arranged in such a way they can be measured, and managed. In low testing fields, the best investment is in fertilizer rather than in more precise testing. In high testing fields, the cost of intensive sampling to find the parts of the field that might be responsive to fertilizer will be larger than the value of any increased yield

Smart sampling: dividing field sections to get the most information

When you divide your fields, the data you need the most will help to guide how to draw the boundaries between sections. The following table will help to guide your decisions.

Soil Erosion Still a Threat to Our Soils

by Adam Hayes, Soil Management Specialist, OMAFRA

Erosion control structures, no-till and minimum tillage practices have significantly reduced soil erosion in the province. Streams have less sediment in them and eroded areas of fields have become more productive. Unfortunately soil erosion still occurs on a significant acreage. Climate change may provide further challenges as extreme weather events could increase soil loss by wind and water by up to 3 times the present soil loss.

The dry conditions this spring showed us that we must still protect our soils from wind erosion. There were several windy days where significant soil was lost, in extreme cases filling in ditches. Growth has been reduced in many fields this season reducing the amount of residue after harvest to protect the soil from water and wind until the next crop is planted. If tillage is to be carried out on these fields, care will have to be taken not to bury too much residue. If moisture and timing permits an inexpensive cover crop, it may provide added protection to the soil this fall.

Table 1 - Guide to Soil Sampling

Parameter	Dominant Influence	Sampling pattern
Soil pH	Natural – pH drops faster on sandy soils; knolls where subsoil exposed tend to be alkaline	Sample knolls separately from hollows, and divide fields according to texture.
P & K	Management – most of the variation is from past applications of manure and fertilizer	Divide fields according to previous field boundaries. If past fields not known, divide farm cross-wise rather than length-wise.
Organic Matter	Natural – finer textured soils tend to have more organic matter; erosion decreases organic matter	Sample knolls separately from hollows, and divide fields according to texture.
Nitrate-N	Natural – will generally follow the same pattern as organic matter	As for organic matter.
Micronutrients	Mixed	Soil pH will have a dominant impact on availability, but past management may have added significant quantities in some fields.

Table 1 lists symptoms of soil erosion and options to correct the problem. Watch for these symptoms and take action to reduce soil loss. Lost soil takes nutrients with it and hurts crop productivity.

For more information, refer to the Best Management Practices booklets “Soil Management”, “Field Crop Production”, “No-till: Making it Work” and “Buffer Strips”.

Table 1 - Best Management Practices for Erosion Control

Type of Erosion and Symptoms	Best Management Practices
<p>Water Erosion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rills or cuts visible on soil surface after rain or snowmelt • Soil accumulated at bottom of slopes or depressional areas • Soil on knolls is lighter in colour, and stones may be visible on the hilltop • Crops buried with soil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use reduced tillage systems • Leave at least 30% crop residue on the soil surface after planting • Rotate row crops with solid seeded crops • Install erosion control structures where needed • Till and plant across the slope where possible
<p>Wind Erosion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil accumulated on the leeward side of any barriers • Seeds or seedlings are exposed, moved, or buried • Stems and leaves have small pits or abrasions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotate row crops with solid seeded crops • Maintain and build organic matter levels • Plant cover crops • Keep the soil surface rough • Plant windbreaks and use rye strips • Use strip cropping
<p>Tillage Erosion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil on knolls/hillsides is lighter in colour and bare • Water erosion is worse than expected on hilltops eroded by tillage • Large amount of soil accumulated on lower slopes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Till across the slope • Use reduced tillage systems • Keep eroded knolls and hilltops covered with vegetation • Reduce speed and tillage depth • Grow cover crops and/or add other organic sources to rehabilitate eroded knolls

Potash Deficiency in Soybeans

by Horst Bohner, Soybean Specialist, OMAFRA

Many soybean fields showed characteristic potash (K) deficiency this year. Potash is one of the most prevalent soybean nutrient deficiencies evident in the province. After nitrogen, K is the nutrient absorbed by soybean plants in the largest amount. A large portion of this K is stored in the seed, and therefore removed from the field each year at harvest. K deficiencies will severely cut soybean yield potential. K influences nodule formation, as well as the plant's ability to resist diseases.

Fall is an excellent time to apply K for next year's soybean fields. But not all fields that showed deficiency symptoms this year were truly soil deficient. What was going on in these fields? Regular soil testing is always recommended, but if K deficiency symptoms were evident a soil test is crucial to determine K soil levels.



Figure #1. Potassium (K) deficiency appears as yellowing or browning of leaf margins, generally on the older leaves.

Factors Affecting K Availability

Although there is considerable K in the soil, only 1 to 2% of the soil's potassium is readily available for the plant. About 10% is "slowly" available. A number of factors influence the uptake of K. These include:

1. Soil temperature - As temperatures increase the rate of diffusion and root growth also increases, making the potassium more available.
2. Soil compaction - Under poor aeration caused by soil compaction the low oxygen level in the soil decreases the uptake of the K. Roots cannot access as large a volume in compacted soils.
3. Dry conditions - When conditions are dry, the movement of the K in the soil to the root is slower. Low moisture also results in more of the K becoming fixed in unavailable forms.
4. Clay and Organic Matter - Soils that are low in clay or organic matter retain less K. Sandy soils may need more frequent applications of K than other soils.

Stress Induced Potash Deficiency

Factors that limit root growth, such as dry conditions, sidewall compaction, insects, and diseases, will reduce K uptake. Even if soil K levels are adequate, symptoms may be evident. This describes what happened in many fields in 2007. Because of the dry conditions, the roots were unable to take up K from the soil, even if soil K levels were sufficient. A soil test is the only reliable way to know if a field is truly low in K, or only showing stress-induced potash deficiencies.

Fertilizer Recommendations

Soil applied fertilizer at the recommended rate is the best way to ensure enough K will be available for next year's crop.

Leaf Samples

Fertilizer recommendations for soybeans are normally based on soil test results, but plant tissue analysis can provide useful additional information. There has been a recent update to the Critical Concentration for K in soybean tissue. Due to newer research the Critical Concentration of K has been revised upward from 1.2% to 2.0%, and the Maximum Normal Concentration from 2.5% to 3.0%. For more information on leaf samples, please refer to :

www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/soybean_analysis.htm.

Potash Recommendations for Soybeans Based on OMAFRA-Accredited Soil Tests

Ammonium Acetate Potassium Soil Test (ppm)	Rating	Potash (K ₂ O) ¹ Required kg/ha
0 - 15	Low	120
16 - 30	Low	110
31 - 45	Low	90
46 - 60	Low	80
61 - 80	Medium	60
81 - 100	Medium	40
101 - 120	Medium	30
121 - 150	High	0
151 - 250	Very High	0
251 +	Excessive ²	0

2008 Corn-On-Corn Checklist

by Greg Stewart, Corn Specialist, OMAFRA

It's possible that a large percentage of your 2007 soybean ground will get planted to winter wheat this fall. There may also be economic pressure to plant additional spring wheat in some areas of the province on soybean ground. If corn prices rise over winter and attractive pricing options present themselves, some corn producers may plant corn on ground that grew grain corn in 2007. A few of the steps that will lead to profitable corn-on-corn production need to be taken now.

1. Order the hybrid.

It is very difficult to think there is any thing more important than getting the right hybrid for corn-on-corn. Bt-rootworm protection, herbicide tolerant, Bt-corn borer protection, seed-applied insecticide, good stalk strength, and of course high yields are the traits you need to get. Wait to order this hybrid in March when the price of corn gets you salivating and I'll bet you Peter Johnson's salary that you won't be able to get it.

2. Identify potential fields with better drainage.

Potential fields should be targeted where corn-on-corn has the greatest possibility for success. Ideally these may be some of your lighter textured

soils or better drained fields where corn roots that are struggling with the stresses of corn-on-corn conditions are not frequently contending with wet soil conditions as well.

3. Identify potential fields where the 2007 corn crop was not herbicide tolerant.

This will make controlling volunteer corn in 2008 with your herbicide tolerant hybrid a simple proposition.

4. Consider fall tillage options and improvements.

There are some good examples in Ontario of reduced tillage systems working for corn-after-corn. However, my confidence in recommending them is limited. Until we have proved them out further, I recommend fairly aggressive tillage systems. Ensure that your fall tillage operation gets done for corn-on-corn under excellent soil fracturing conditions. Focus on uniformity, both of soil disturbance and residue management. Deep tillage that leaves the soil rough and the residue poorly distributed (i.e. a poorly set up chisel plow) will be tougher to deal with and give poorer results than a good job of disc-ripping or mouldboard plowing.

5. Planter set-up to remove trash.

Planter set-up should include precision depth control like in any previous crop scenario, but if corn residues are on the soil surface it is critical to remove them with trash clearing devices from the row area ahead of the row unit openers.

6. Nitrogen At Planting

If you plan on sidedressing your nitrogen in June, be sure to meet the early N requirements at planting time. Normally we consider 30 lbs N/acre to be a good number for this early plant feeding. However, in a corn-on-corn scenario, where more of the soil nitrogen may be tied up in the decomposing corn stover, it may be advisable to boost this number by 50% (i.e. 45 lbs N/acre).

7. Use the most economical N rate.

Field parameters can be entered into the Ontario Corn N Calculator to help you ensure the most profitable nitrogen application rate for a corn-on-corn scenario. For example, in a 2,900 CHU area consider a field of corn-after-corn with 150 bu/acre yield potential, on a sandy loam soil, with a corn price of \$4.50/bushel and nitrogen costs of \$.50/lb.

If you apply 45 lb N/acre at planting, how much additional N would you sidedress? (Answer: 97 lbs N/acre). What if all the N is applied as pre-plant urea and incorporated? (Answer: 152 lbs N/acre). Other factors that best describe your fields can be entered into the calculator at www.gocorn.net.

BMR Corn Silage

by Joel Bagg, Forage Specialist, OMAFRA, Lindsay

Brown mid-rib (BMR) corn silage has unique genetics providing lower lignin content and higher fibre digestibility (NDFD). This enables higher forage intakes and increased milk production in dairy cows. However, this improved livestock performance comes at the cost of lower silage yields per acre. So, where does BMR fit to its best advantage?

BMR gets its name from the "brown mid-rib" characteristic that makes it visually distinct. Four naturally occurring BMR genetic mutations have been discovered since the 1930's. The characteristic is not GMO. The mutation causes incomplete lignin formation. Plant breeders have taken this gene and incorporated it into modern corn genetics to commercialize silage-only hybrids. BMR corn silage is marketed in Ontario by Mycogen Seeds. The BMR characteristic is also found in sorghums.

Higher Intakes & Milk Production

Fibre levels (NDF) of BMR corn silage are similar to normal levels, but lignin is typically 25 - 35% lower. The lower lignin results in much higher fibre digestibility (NDFD). NDFD levels are typically 8-10 percentage units higher than normal corn silage.

Research has shown that a 1% unit increase in forage NDFD results in 0.37 lbs more dry matter intake, resulting in 0.55 lb/cow/day more milk. University studies have consistently shown increased intake levels with BMR corn silage of 3 - 5 lbs dm/day. Reviewed research results vary, but milk production is typically improved by 3.5 - 6 lbs/day. The increased milk/day appears to be a result of increased dry matter intake, rather than higher energy content (NE_L). Higher intakes should enable fresh cows to maintain weight better and get back in calf sooner. Higher fibre digestibility

enables increasing the amount of corn silage in the ration and reducing the amount of grain corn without adverse effects.

Because of the higher fibre digestibility of BMR, it is more advantageous to target it to classes of livestock where intakes are limited by physical fill. In large herds feeding TMR to groups these priorities would be close-up dry cows, fresh cows and first-calvers, and high producing dairy cows.

Lab Analysis

When sending BMR silage samples to a laboratory for analysis, use starch, NDF, and an in vitro NDFD to estimate energy, not the old method of estimating energy from ADF and NDF levels. The cheaper NIR analysis may require more calibration before we can accurately predict NDFD in BMR hybrids. BMR corn silage may have lower starch levels, offsetting the higher NDFD contributions to NE_L (mcal/kg).

Ration Balancing

Work closely with your nutritionist in ration formulation when feeding BMR corn silage. Because of its dramatically higher fibre digestibility, BMR silage behaves very differently in a ration. If you feed BMR silage the same way you would normal silage in a high grain ration, problems will result. Mycogen recommends feeding a minimum of 40 - 45 lbs/cow/day BMR silage (as fed). Higher fibre levels are required to maintain optimal rumen function and pH. Increase NDF and decrease grain levels in the ration to avoid acidosis. Provide adequate physically effective NDF. Do not include BMR in high grain diets. Mycogen also recommends a minimum forage to concentrate ratio of 55:45, and a minimum dietary NDF of 30%, or 32% where BMR is more than 50% of the forage dry matter.

Agronomics

In the past, we have typically seen a 10% yield drag with BMR corn. Lower yields (up to 20%) have been observed during seasons with more stress under marginal environmental conditions. However, there have been continued improvements in breeding. The fourth-generation hybrids now available are much improved over the original BMR hybrids commercialized over a dozen years ago, with better drought tolerance, disease resistance, and standability. Bt and RR traits are being incorporated. Mycogen claims they have

narrowed the gap to a 5% yield drag. Ontario needs more independent silage yield data to evaluate these hybrids.

Harvesting

BMR cell walls are more fragile, so it is more prone to seepage and packs tighter. Harvest BMR silage slightly drier (2%) than normal silage. A longer theoretical length of cut (TLC) is necessary to maintain physically effective fibre, especially if using a kernel processor. Without a processor, a TLC of $\frac{3}{4}$ - 1 inch is recommended in a horizontal silo, and $\frac{5}{8}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in a tower silo. With a processor, the TLC should be 1 - 1.5 inch in a horizontal silo, and $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inch in a tower silo. Avoid storage of BMR silage in bottom unloading silos. Using the milk-line to estimate moisture at harvest is not accurate. Moistures are best estimated by chopping a sample and using a Koster Tester, microwave or laboratory analysis.

Economics

There are some increased costs associated with BMR in addition to substantially higher seed costs. BMR corn silage produces more milk/ton, but not more milk/acre. Because of the lower yields and higher intakes, more corn silage acres will be required. This will partially be offset by fewer grain corn acres. What is the cost and availability of land rental in your area? BMR is most profitable when fed to close-up, fresh and high yield groups, and much less profitable if fed to the whole herd. What is the size of your dairy herd and can BMR be practically fed to specific groups?

Dairy producers should weigh the nutritional benefits against the agronomic costs associated with BMR hybrids to determine whether BMR has a place on their operations. Perhaps the most obvious situation where BMR may have an advantage would be in high corn silage diets. BMR is of interest to some milk producers in the Ottawa Valley, where there is a higher risk of alfalfa winterkill and more desire to increase the percentage of corn silage in the ration.

Research Profile: Grassy Weed Control in Grain Sorghum

by Mike Cowbrough, OMAFRA – Guelph

Overview: Grain sorghum is being considered as an alternative grain crop for ethanol and feed, particularly in geographic areas that are more susceptible to dry soil conditions or whereby it is difficult to cultivate land early in the spring. Achieving good control of grassy weeds has been identified by producers as a significant management challenge that must be addressed in order for the crop to be economically sustainable.

Technical Background: Prowl and Dual II Magnum have been identified as two potential herbicides for management of grassy weeds in grain sorghum. A registration submission under the Minor Use Program of the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) is being investigated. Historically, crop injury with both products has been a concern, especially when applied preemergent and then followed by excessive precipitation. The proposed use guidelines would dictate that both Prowl and Dual II Magnum be applied post-emergent to the grain sorghum crop but before any grassy weeds have emerged, as both products do not control emerged annual grasses. Furthermore, Dual II Magnum would be applied at a reduced rate for suppression only of grassy weeds.

Research Objectives:

- To evaluate grassy weed control with Prowl and with a reduced rate of Dual II Magnum at various application timings.
- To identify the most effective application timings for each herbicide program.
- To explore opportunities for improved grassy weed control in grain sorghum.

Key Learnings from 2007 trials:

- In the absence of adequate rainfall, the reduced rate of Dual II Magnum provided poor weed control regardless of application timing.
- Prowl applied at the 2-3 leaf stage of grain sorghum provided adequate grassy weed control (Figure 1).
- Prowl applied at the 4-5 leaf stage of grain sorghum provided poor grassy weed control (Figure 2).
- A pre-plant application of glyphosate to remove any emerged grassy weeds, followed by an application of Prowl at the 2-3 leaf stage of grain sorghum provided the best level of grassy weed control (Figure 3).

Future Research:

- Evaluate other potential grassy weed herbicides.
- Evaluate seed applied herbicide safeners.

Contributors:

Dr. François Tardif and Peter Smith (University of Guelph)

Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Table 1 - Ontario Performance Trial; Winter Wheat 2007; Cumulative Yield Index¹ Summary for Area I & II Combined² OCCC August, 2007.

Variety	Class ³	5 year	4 year	3 year	2 year	2007
Superior	sww	101 ⁴	100	100	100	103
AC Mackinnon	sww	103	102	103	105	103
AC Mountain	sww	100	99	100	101	101
Ashley	sww-a	101	100	99	100	97
25W41	sww-a		99	99	100	106
D8006W	sww-a		102	102	103	107
Ava	sww				104	106
E1009W	sww				106	105
FT Action	sww					90
Wisdom	srw	101	100	101	101	101
Warwick	srw	100	99	98	99	98
Vienna	srw	103	102	99	94	97
FT Wonder	srw	99	99	98	96	95
25R47	srw-a	111	109	109	107	112
Tribute	srw		103	103	102	101
Emmit	srw		110	110	110	110
E1007R	srw-a			105	106	104
R045	srw-a			101	102	106
Huntley	srw-a			102	100	100
Becher	srw				103	103
ADV Dyno	srw				102	106
R055	srw				104	103
25R56	srw				109	113
25R51	srw					103
AC Morley	hrw	98	97	95	97	98
Maxine	hrw-a	94	92	91	89	85
Warthog	hrw	97	97	96	99	96

¹ Indexed for each site and then averaged, index = 100 x (variety yield/site yield). Values differing by less than 3 within a column may not represent true differences in yield.

² Area I & II Combined = all heat unit zones West of Frontenac County

³ sww = soft white winter, srw = soft red winter, hrw = hard red winter, a = awned

⁴ Cultivar yield rankings may vary from year to year. Decisions are therefore best made using data with the greatest number of years.

NOTE: All areas of the Performance Trials are available on the website at:

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/wwperf-07.htm> **Printable copy: wwperf-07.pdf**

Copies are available at your local OMAFRA office or by calling the Contact Centre @ 1-877-424-1300.

Table 4 - Ontario Performance Trial; Winter Wheat 2007 – Cumulative Yield Index¹ Summary for Area III², OCCC, August 2007.

Variety	Class ³	5 year	4 year	2 year	2007
Superior	sww	105 ⁴	106	105	107
AC Mackinnon	sww	103	105	107	106
AC Mountain	sww	106	108	110	111
Ashley	sww-a	100	99	99	105
25W41	sww-a		94	98	101
D8006W	sww-a		97	97	96
Ava	sww			106	104
E1009W	sww			100	98
FT Action	sww				90
Wisdom	srw	100	100	101	102
Warwick	srw	93	93	94	96
Vienna	srw	103	99	97	90
FT Wonder	srw	97	97	97	102
25R47	srw-a	112	109	111	114
Tribute	srw		90	88	94
Emmit	srw		111	112	109
E1007R	srw-a			109	110
R045	srw-a			98	103
Huntley	srw-a			93	92
Becher	srw			99	96
ADV Dyno	srw			110	110
R055	srw			95	94
25R56	srw			109	100
25R51	srw				101
AC Morley	hrw	97	101	102	104
Maxine	hrw-a	89	91	88	87
Warthog	hrw	99	100	100	100
Harvard	hrw	101	101	100	99
Carlisle	hrw-a	96	95	94	97
AC Sampson	hrw	100	102	100	101
Wentworth	hrw			100	92
FTHP Redeemer	hrw			88	91
Means		5.66	5.35	5.49	4.89
No. of locations		9	7	5	3

¹ Indexed for each site and then averaged, index = 100 x (variety yield/site yield). Values differing by less than 3 within a column may not represent true differences in yield.

² Area III = East of Frontenac County.

³ sww = soft white winter, srw = soft red winter, hrw = hard red winter, a = awned

⁴ Cultivar yield rankings may vary from year to year. Decisions are therefore best made using data with the greatest number of years.

All Area III trials lost in 2005, thus no 3 year averages to report

**Table 5 - Ontario Winter Wheat Varietal Characteristics Based on Data From Across Ontario 2007
OCCC, August 2007**

Variety	Test Weight (kg/hl)	TKW (g)	Winter Survival (%)	Lodging (0-9) ¹	Height (cm)	Heading Date ² (JD)	Powdery Mildew (0-9) ¹	Leaf Rust (0-9) ¹	Leaf Septoria (0-9) ¹	BYDV (0-9) ¹	Fusarium Rating ⁴	Years (Fusarium Data)
Superior	74.4	39.4	91	2.0	90	157	0.9	2.2	2.3	1.3	S	6
AC Mackinnon	75.2	37.0	95	1.8	88	155	0.8	2.7	2.3	1.0	HS	6
AC Mountain	73.9	39.1	94	2.0	93	156	1.4	2.3	2.8	1.2	S	6
Ashley	74.3	42.2	92	1.3	89	158	0.3	1.5	2.2	0.4	MS	4
25W41	76.9	35.1	92	1.0	73	155	2.4	1.0	1.6	0.7	S	4
D8006W	75.5	43.3	94	1.3	81	154	0.7	2.3	2.1	0.9	HS	4
Ava	75.7	36.2	89	1.8	88	157	1.8	1.7	2.5	1.5	MR	2
E1009W	76.9	38.0	89	1.5	75	156	0.9	2.5	2.4	1.1	S	2
FT Action	74.0	40.1	89	1.5	94	158	0.9	1.6	2.5	1.4	MR	1
Wisdom	76.2	36.9	94	2.0	83	154	1.8	1.7	2.8	1.0	MR	6
Warwick	75.8	39.4	92	2.5	84	154	1.0	0.4	2.5	1.2	MS	6
Vienna	75.6	32.4	91	2.3	83	155	0.5	5.3	3.2	2.0	MR	6
FT Wonder	77.1	41.3	94	2.5	83	154	1.6	4.2	3.2	1.3	MR	6
25R47	75.1	37.2	94	1.5	73	154	1.6	0.7	1.9	0.6	S	5
Tribute	78.4	39.0	88	2.0	69	154	0.4	0.9	2.2	0.8	MS	4
Emmit	76.9	38.5	95	1.5	80	155	1.8	3.1	2.6	1.3	MS	4
E1007R	77.4	38.6	95	1.0	77	154	0.8	2.0	2.1	1.1	S	3
R045	77.2	37.0	92	1.3	76	154	1.1	0.9	2.9	1.1	S	3
Huntley	77.9	41.3	90	2.5	86	153	0.6	1.4	1.7	0.7	S	2
Becher	76.7	39.5	94	1.5	87	156	0.8	0.4	2.4	0.7	HS	2
ADV Dyno	73.9	39.4	92	1.5	84	158	1.1	2.6	3.3	1.0	MR	2
R055	76.4	35.5	95	2.3	76	155	1.0	0.9	2.4	1.1	HS	2
25R56	75.2	33.1	93	1.5	73	155	1.4	0.7	1.9	0.5	HS	2
25R51	75.0	35.4	95	1.3	75	153	2.1	1.6	2.8	0.7	MR	1
AC Morley	77.2	38.7	94	2.3	103	156	0.6	0.4	2.4	1.3	MR	6
Maxine	78.0	42.9	90	2.3	80	155	1.5	2.4	3.0	1.4	HS	6
Warthog	77.7	37.8	94	1.3	87	157	1.2	0.7	2.8	2.0	MS	6
Harvard	77.4	44.1	93	1.8	86	155	1.4	3.0	3.0	1.7	S	6
Carlisle	79.1	48.0	94	1.8	76	154	1.0	4.0	2.8	1.9	MS	6
AC Sampson	74.8	39.9	93	2.0	86	159	0.6	2.9	2.5	1.1	HS	6
Wentworth	77.6	46.3	95	1.8	90	156	1.4	0.7	2.5	1.5	HS	2
FTHP Redeemer	78.0	42.9	94	1.3	89	156	1.7	0.4	2.8	1.5	MR	2
Means	76.3	39.2	93	1.8	83	155	1.1	1.9	2.5	1.2		
No. of locations	8	8	7	1	7	6	4	3	3	3		

¹ For ratings 0-9, a high score is undesirable.

² Heading may vary from year to year and should only be used to indicate relative differences.

⁴ Fusarium ratings are based on Fusarium head blight ratings and deoxynivalenol (DON) levels from inoculated provincial trials. MR=moderately resistant (best); MS=moderately susceptible; S=susceptible; HS=highly susceptible (worst)

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Cathy's comments....

Hope most of you had a chance to make it to the 2007 edition of Canada's Outdoor Farm Show. Despite the weather (or maybe because of the weather), show staff say the turnout was great! The Bayer brunch and OSCIA/OMAFRA tent enjoyed many visitors from near and far, with record brunch crowds each day. The OSCIA executive and Guelph office staff are continually working on adding value to your Soil & Crop membership. Welcome to our news members who joined up during the show. In mid August, Oxford, Middlesex and Elgin members travelled to PEI for an excellent, but quick, tour of some agricultural highlights of the island. Right after arriving on the island, some of us were fortunate to meet "Dan of Green Gables" (see pg 3), we visited dairy, potato and organic produce operations, learned some new marketing ideas from a hog producer, and saw first hand many EFP demonstrations taking place on the island. Some chose to take the tour bus up to Rustico and Cavendish to see the real Anne, while others chose to walk the sights downtown Charlottetown had to offer. Many enjoyed some local musical entertainment, and across the street others toured and taste-tested at a local brewery. Many thanks to Oxford 1st VP Kevin Rivers and Tyler Wright of PEI Agriculture for planning such a great time for us all, and to OSCIA and Pioneer Hibred for their contributions.

Good luck with the fall harvest, so far we've had great weather...let's hope it continues! See you in November.