

Head to the Rudy H. Brown Rural Development Centre in Ridgetown, ON and take in the Southwest Agricultural Conference on Thursday, January 3rd and Friday, January 4th, 2008

We are celebrating the 15th year for the Southwest Agricultural Conference! We have partnered with the AGRI-FOOD Innovation Forum for this special year and will bring lots of extras to the event. The program has been enhanced to bring even more innovative speakers to share their ideas in addition to the great line up of agricultural knowledge that you have come to expect.

ONLINE registration through our website www.southwestagconference.ca is also available this year.

Celebrating with us, we have also teamed with the **Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association** to acknowledge their leadership in communicating and facilitating responsible, economic management of soil, water and crops. As a member, you will receive a discount on your registration. If you are not a member, you will receive a \$10.00 voucher in your registration package towards a one year membership.

We hope to see you at the 15th Annual Southwest Agricultural Conference!!!

Some of the **LEADING EDGE INFORMATION** at this conference includes:

- Fertilizer vs. Manure—A Nutrient Showdown
- Getting the Most from Your Soil Tests
- Pasture Strategies in Dry Years
- Which Inputs Really Pay?
- Rhizobotany: The Root of Agriculture
- Cover Crops—Red Clover and more!
- Energy Savings on the Farm
- Getting Down to the Grass Roots
- Innovation on the Back Roads.....And many more....

FEATURE SPEAKERS:

Alex A. Avery, Hudson Institute's Center for Global Food Issues "Modern Agriculture: An Environmental Solution"

Dr. Donna Houghton, Syngenta Crop Protection Canada "Pesticide Exposure and Human Health"

REGISTRATION FEES:

Full Conference Registration—OSCIA Member:

- Early Bird (until Dec. 6/07) \$85.00
- Regular Rate (until Dec. 20/07) \$110.00
- On-site Rate (applies after Dec. 20/07) \$170.00

One-Day Registration—OSCIA Member:

- Early Bird (until Dec. 6/07) - \$50.00
- Regular Rate (until Dec. 20/07) \$65.00
- On-site Rate (applies after Dec. 20/07) \$85.00

For more information or to register:

www.southwestagconference.ca

or

519-674-1596 or 1-866-222-9682



AGRI-FOOD | AGROALIMENTAIRE
Innovation Forum | Forum de l'innovation



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ST. CLAIR REGION SOIL & CROP NEWS



Southwestern Ontario

Fall 2007

Serving Kent, Essex and Lambton County Soil & Crop Members

Message from the President of St. Clair Soil & Crop

The Fall harvest is coming to a close. Some of you are done while others are just about there (just need a few more days or a few more trucks).

The gathering of the gold, as I referred to in an earlier message, is over now and it is now tally up time. The season comes down to a basic line—"NO RAIN NO GRAIN".

We saw the difference in fields that were only a mile apart. Same variety, same planting date, same treatments and 10 bushel differences in yield. I am sure most of you got the extra 10!

Seasons Greetings and we hope to see you at the Annual Meeting!

Henry Denotter, President St. Clair Region and Provincial Director



Photos Courtesy of H. Denotter



Upcoming Events

Essex Soil & Crop Annual Meeting—December 6th, 2007 (St. John's Parish Hall, Woodslee, ON @ 9:30 a.m.)

Kent Soil & Crop Annual Meeting - Dec. 12, 2007 (Smitty's Restaurant—Chatham, ON @ 5:30 p.m.)

Lambton Soil & Crop Annual Meeting—January 11, 2008 (Brooke Alvinston Community Centre, Alvinston, ON @ 9:00 a.m.)

Southwest Ag Conference—Thursday, January 3, 2008 to Friday, January 4, 2008 (Ridgetown Campus, University of Guelph)

OSCIA Annual Meeting—February 5 & 6, 2008 (Sheraton Fallsview Hotel, Niagara Falls, ON)

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Special Notice:

Please remember to submit your plot and project information as soon as possible so that it can be made available for our Annual Meetings. Thank-you!

Comments from the Counties

Essex County News—Marc Rivest

Another page on the calendar has rolled over. It is time to winterize equipment and review various yield trials to make next year's crop plans.

The 2007 yields were a welcome surprise to most with the limited rainfall experienced. The far west side and north side of the county were fortunate to receive timely mid-summer rain to boost yields. In general, the late August rain helped full season soybeans and corn.

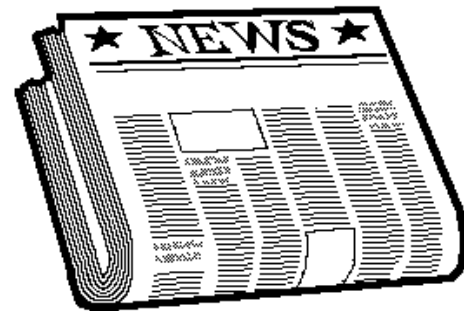
Our Annual Meeting is coming soon—Thursday, December 6th in Woodslee, ON at St. John's Hall @ 9:30 a.m. Special guest speaker from OMAFRA, Mike Cowbrough, Weed Management Specialist has been scheduled. Local agricultural representatives will also be available to help you make your 2008 crop decisions with the latest choice availability and price discounts. Bring a neighbour for this all day event!

Hoping you have a good winter, success in all your projects and wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

Kent County News— Ed VanDeWynckel

Quite a change this fall from last year. A pleasant change due to a drier fall to harvest crops this year. With the nice weather prevailing, it is hard to get into meeting mode. However, we have our Annual Meeting planned for December 12th in Chatham, ON at Smitty's Restaurant @ 5:30 p.m.

A comparison cover crop for 2007 project is under way on continuous soybeans among members. I encourage members to participate in these test projects. They will help farmers develop new techniques. If you have any new ideas for projects that Soil & Crop should look into, do not hesitate to let us know and there are grant funds available.



Essex Soil & Crop Improvement Association

360 Fairview Avenue Suite 311
Essex ON N8M 1Y6

November 16, 2007

Media Release

For Immediate Release

Essex Soil and Crop Improvement Association Annual Meeting

The Essex Soil and Crop Improvement Association (ESCIA) is having their 2007 annual meeting on Thursday, December 6, from 9:00 am. to 3:00 pm. An interesting and informative schedule has been planned that will benefit both full time and part-time farmers. The meeting will be located at St. John's Hall in Woodslee with an admission of \$15 which includes refreshments and a luncheon. Current issues in agriculture will be the emphasis of the meeting with displays from various government organizations, agricultural suppliers, local retailers, and equipment dealers.

Mike Cowbrough, Weed Specialist with OMAFRA, will speak on 'Weed Update'. In addition to the guest speaker, updates will be provided on Improving Yield of Second Year Soybeans/Essex County ICAT, Conservation Farm Award winner for the year 2007 and much more.

The meeting will conclude with the nominations and election for 2008 ESCIA Directors Committee. Should you require further information please contact Michael Dick at (519) 776-5209 ext. 369.

Lambton News—Les Douglas

Wow what a fall! What a difference a year can make. Our crops were off in a timely manner and there were no weather challenges like we had last year. As producers, our one major challenge this year was the weather which is nothing new. The lack of rainfall during this past growing season was evident in this Fall's harvest. Our soybean yield was below average but what a nice surprise we received when we got to our corn.

The results are in on our major project for the year which was a comparison of biosolids and commercial fertilizer. The information gained from this project is being tabulated and will be presented at our upcoming annual meeting. Our annual meeting will be held on January 11th, 2008 at the Alvinston arena. There should be some good information for everyone, so I hope to see you all there.

Everyone should have received information on the Southwest Agricultural Conference coming up in Ridgetown in the start of the New Year. There appears to be some useful information being presented again this year that a producer will be able to take home and apply to their own operations to make them more profitable. Don't forget to sign up early to receive a nice discount.

In closing I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday season and we will talk to you all in the New Year. Merry Christmas!

Improving Yield of Second Year Soybeans – SCDSCIA Project

Adam Hayes, Soil Management Specialist, OMAFRA

The objective of the project is to determine the value of a rye or winter wheat cover crop when soybeans are grown after one or more years of soybeans. The project was started because there is evidence that a winter rye or winter wheat cover crop seeded immediately following soybean harvest improves the yield of soybeans grown the following year. Rye or wheat is left until the spring and killed off prior to planting soybeans. The benefits of the cover crop are being assessed through yield, soil quality measurements and disease assessments.

The project started in the fall of 2006 but due to the wet weather only a few sites were planted in Essex County in early November. A main site was planted that included a strip of corn (as a rotation check) and two secondary sites. The main site included both wheat and rye while the secondary sites were planted to rye only. The yield data from the main site, sandy loam soil, showed a significant yield increase for the wheat and rye over the check. The rye and wheat showed a 13 and 15 bu/ac increase and the soybean yield on corn residue was 18 bu/ac higher than the check yield. To date, only one of the secondary site's harvest data has been received. It was on a clay soil and had poor to moderate rye growth and there was no yield advantage to the rye.

The fall of 2007 was more favourable for harvest and planting of the cover crops. Three main sites were planted and three secondary sites were established. Most were planted in early October and the growth looks good. The sites have been soil sampled and GPS coordinates of the plots were recorded.

The full results from the 06/07 plot year will be reported at the annual meetings and in the next newsletter.



Planting the main Lambton plot—fall 2007



Essex main plot (06/07) wheat and rye growth



Essex main plot (07/08) growth early November 2007

KENT SOIL & CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION HAPPENINGS:

The Kent Soil and Crop Improvement Association held their Grain Drying Tour on Wednesday, July 4th, 2007. The tour started at 3:00 p.m. at Pat Bednarik's farm in Chatham Township. Approximately 50 people attended the tour which consisted of three different types of grain drying systems around Chatham Township. Participants learned the pros and cons of the different set-ups as well as the fundamental elements of each system. Ralph Winfield was the guest speaker following the tour highlighting moisture removal, storage and grain conditioning. A delicious BBQ followed. KSCIA would like to thank the three participating farmers: Prelaz Farm, Janssens Farms and Pete Jennen Farm. Also thanks to Bill and Chad for speaking at each location. (Photos Courtesy of C. Baresich)



Kent Rainfall Summary

2007

NAME	RR	ADDRESS	TOTAL	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT
Brown, Dick	1	Morpeth	480	82	45	20	115	105	78	34
Buchanan, Roy	2	Thamesville	404	85	68	38	45	87	25	55
Charboneau, Walt	6	Chatham	145	64	81					
Cuthbertson, Morris	3	Chatham	490	84	88	30	46	127	59	55
Demers, G.	7	Dresden	446	65	71	41	71	116	27	55
Farquharson, Robert	1	Tilbury	499	85	83	29	63	135	58	47
Fraser, Barry	2	Chatham	482	66	76	30	82	104	70	54
Heyboer, Marinus	2	Highgate	353	62	60	26	50	83	29	43
Johnston, Watson	2	Kent Bridge	499	74	75	30	103	105	65	46
Johnstone, Bruce	8	Chatham	161	58	58	45				
Mifflin, Clark	3	Merlin	469	69	58	13	79	133	60	57
Morden, Gerald	1	Muirkirk	501	85	126	31	82	92	46	40
Nauta, Marg & Randy	2	Merlin	402	66	67	34	35	130	70	
Smyth, Rob	3	Chatham, Ont	0							
Taves, Ernie	1	Wheatley	508	111	56	28	52	147	59	55
VanDamme, Richard	5	Thamesville	415	78	57	34	72	88	41	45
VanderVeen, Terry	2	Thamesville	390	22	62	19	88	91	42	68
VanSegbrook, Dave	3	Tupperville	471	60	73	22	76	142	42	56
Weaver, Charles	7	Chatham, Ont	446	69	80	44	41	115	43	55
Totals			420	72	71	30	69	113	51	51