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## ST. CLAIR REGION SOIL & CROP NEWS



Southwestern Ontario

September 2007

Serving Kent, Essex and Lambton County Soil & Crop Members

### Message from the President of St. Clair Soil & Crop

Time to go for the gold (those golden corn and soybean seeds)! Let's do it safely so that we can enjoy the fruits of our labour.

This newsletter includes a realignment message from the Ontario President and gives an outline of what will happen. Please read it over as these agreements will be discussed at your next meeting. I will strive to be present at these meetings and address any questions or concerns you may have. I have an outline from Guelph that goes over the transition plans. Essex, Kent & Lambton counties have been meeting together under the St. Clair umbrella for several years and this structure will not be affected. This change will help to reinforce what we are doing in terms of trials and streamline the use of our RCC for mailings and newsletters. Comments can be brought to the next St. Clair meeting through your local president. Anyone wanting a more direct response can email me at [denfarm@wavedirect.net](mailto:denfarm@wavedirect.net).

Henry Denotter, President St. Clair Region and Provincial Director



Pictures from the Essex Twilight Tours. Top-Diemer Family; Below-Greg Stewart, OMAFRA; Right-Adam Hayes, OMAFRA (Photos by H.D.)

### Upcoming Events

- Int'l Plowing Match & Rural Expo—September 18th-22nd, 2007
- Royal Agricultural Winter Fair—November 2nd-11th, 2007
- Essex Soil & Crop Annual Meeting—December 6th, 2007 (Woodslee, ON)
- Kent Soil & Crop Annual Meeting - Dec. 12, 2007 (Chatham, ON) Tentative
- Lambton Soil & Crop Annual Mtg-TBD



### Thank-you to the following sponsors for this edition:

- KENT & ESSEX MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY
- PRIDE SEEDS
- Your contributions help to make this newsletter possible.

### Inside this Edition

- County Comments.....p. 2
- CK Conservation Farmer of the Year Award.....p. 3
- OSCIA News.....p.4
- Crop Talk.....p. 8
- Drying/Aeration Tips.....p. 19

# Comments from the Counties

## Essex County News—Marc Rivest

Where has the summer gone! As of the last newsletter on June 10<sup>th</sup>, all was well. Not so on Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>, with some growers reporting only three-tenths of an inch of rain in July. You know the rest of the story.

Hopefully, everyone enjoyed the various crop tours and twilight tours in their area. Our county tour on Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> was very informative with soil compaction demonstrations, no-till planter action, and soil pits to show various soil philosophy. Thanks to Adam Hayes and Greg Stewart from O.M.A.F.R.A. for their wealth of knowledge well shared.

The Outdoor Farm Show is another place of knowledge and meeting your neighbours. We hope you enjoyed your free admission tickets and brunch, compliments of Bayer Crop Sciences and the O.S.C.I.A.

Our annual meeting is Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup> in Woodslee. We hope to see all members present and please feel free to bring a friend. Special speaker is to be announced later.

Have a safe and successful harvest!

## Lambton News—Les Douglas

I would like to start off by thanking everyone who came out to attend our twilight tour this year. The evening was a very sociable and informative event. The speakers and the twilight tour crew did an excellent job and you should all be commended. I would like to thank the sponsors as well—without your support this event may not be possible. Last but not least, I would like to thank the Buurma family for hosting the event this year. The location was perfect and the amount of hard work that went into preparing the location was greatly appreciated! Sometimes the word thanks is not used enough.

As I write this letter, I am getting ready to reap the benefits of my hard work this year in the fields. We will soon know the impact the dry weather had on the crops this past summer. I am hoping that it was not as bad as we had first thought. Harvest time is when we learn what worked and what didn't work on our farm. This is the first step in record keeping and crop planning for the upcoming year. Plots will be coming off and we will soon know what varieties we will want to try next year as well as see what techniques worked. We may determine which fertility program or type of tillage we plan to use next year. Either way the next month or so will be filled with great exhilaration and may be filled with some disappointment as well.

I wish you all a safe harvest. Hopefully it will not be like last years harvest and we get all of those planned winter wheat acres planted. If we stick together we will get through this rush that we call harvest!

## Kent County News— Ed VanDeWynckel

Well, its been another busy summer. It went from being too dry in most areas to almost too wet later in the season.

Our Grain Bin Tour held on Wednesday, July 4<sup>th</sup> was a success. It was interesting to see a few different types of drying and storage operations. Tours like this get you thinking about what options are out there for ourselves on our own farms.

Thank-you to all those farmers for participating and the grain drying farms that allowed us to tour your setups. A special thank-you to Pat Bednarik for organizing this event for us!

### BABY NEWS!!!

CONGRATULATIONS GO OUT TO CRYSTAL & ROB BARESICH ON THE BIRTH OF THEIR DAUGHTER, SARA ELIZABETH BORN SEPT. 10, 2007 WEIGHING 8 LBS. 4 OZ. BEST WISHES TO YOU ALL!!!

(Krista Gladstone will be covering Crystal's Regional Communication Co-ordinator duties during the Interim.)

### SOME DRIER/DRYING/AERATION TIPS

The following are some of the tips as presented at the Kent Summer Tour by Ralph Winfield. The tour was held on July 4<sup>th</sup> in Chatham Township. Four bin setups were toured by over 60 guests, followed by a BBQ and presentation.

#### 1. Don't Over Dry Grain

- it is energy expensive and reduces saleable product
- dryeration / cooleration can work to save energy
- you should dry your grain as close to your required moisture content as possible

#### 2. Make Sure You Have Adequate Air Flow

- natural air drying is not sufficient; not enough air flow is provided; stirators will correct this
- the more air flow the better
- watch out for wheat - don't fill your bins as full with wheat because the same fan that works for corn and beans will not work for wheat – only fill your bins about half as full as what you would for corn and beans
- remove fines from corn if necessary – fines reduce the air flow rate

#### 3. Do Let The Air Out

- you need to let the air out of the bin occasionally; this reduces the headspace pressure which can cause a stalled or inefficient fan
- a stalled (or nearly stalled) fan is not good
- provide at least one sq. ft. per 1000 CFM

#### 4. Deep Bed Grain Drying Is More Efficient

- but don't get carried away!
- the deeper the bed the greater the moisture difference
- stirators let the air through and reduce the moisture differential

#### 5. Good Transitions Properly Located Are Important

- reduces turbulence and pressure variations
- transition should be about 180° from unloading auger

#### 6. Know The Air Pressure In Plenums

- everyone should have a gauge to measure the static pressure at various locations around the bin; this will help you reduce potential problems
- an air pressure gauge or a manometer will work
- it is also helpful to have an electronic temperature sensing device for the outside of the bin that you can quickly use to locate hot areas

#### 7. If You Have An Older Continuous Flow Drier

- consider a heat recovery system - properly designed
- if you get too greedy you lose!

#### 8. Know the Equilibrium Moisture Content Values

- tables or graphs are readily available for most crops
- these are available usually from your equipment supplier
- they tell you the required relative humidity to reach a specific moisture content
- you should also have a relative humidity thermometer

#### 9. Grain Is A Living Organism

- keep in mind that grain is a living organism – it respire and produces moisture

#### 10. Do Check Grain Condition Frequently

- your nose knows best!
- if you had \$100,000 of cash stored under your mattress, you would probably check it often to ensure it was safe; make the time to check your bins on a regular basis (weekly is suggested)

#### 11. Cool Grain ASAP After High Temperature Drying

- aeration is a must do

#### 12. Clean And Disinfect Bins - Before Needed

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**CHATHAM-KENT CONSERVATION FARMER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**2007**

**Co-sponsored by: Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority and the  
Kent Soil and Crop Improvement Association**

Do you know someone using good conservation practices? Why not nominate them for the Conservation Farmer of the Year Award! A panel of judges will evaluate each nomination for their effort and effectiveness in using conservation practices. Some of these practises could include:

- tillage practices, cover crops, crop rotation
- structural erosion control practices
- livestock and manure management
- pesticide management practices
- forest, windbreak or wetland management

Nominations will be accepted for any farm operator within the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. To nominate an individual or a family, complete the nomination form below and return it by **October 8, 2007**. Judging will take place late October.

**NOMINATION FORM FOR CONSERVATION FARMER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

I wish to nominate the following individual or farm family:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Addresses: \_\_\_\_\_  
(R.R. and 911)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Lot: \_\_\_\_\_ Conc.: \_\_\_\_\_ Township: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Why did you nominate this individual or family?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_