



**November 2006**

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# THAMES VALLEY REGIONAL SOIL & CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Oxford

Middlesex

Elgin

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## November 2006

**20-21 Ontario Federation of Agriculture's (OFA)**  
2006 Annual Meeting and Convention  
**28,29 Forage Focus 2006** Winchester & Shakespeare.

## January 2007

**3-4 Southwest Ag Conference** Details available soon.  
<http://www.southwestagconference.ca/>  
**9 Oxford SCIA Annual Meeting**  
**10&11 CCA Conference and Annual Meeting**,  
Sheraton Fallsview Hotel Niagara Falls. Information:  
<http://www.fallsview.com/PDF/Stargroups.pdf>

**18 Elgin SCIA Annual Meeting**  
**20 FarmSmart Conference**, University of Guelph,  
organized by Golden Horseshoe Regional and  
Heartland Regional SCIA  
**25-28 26<sup>th</sup> Guelph Organic Conference**, "Next  
Generation Organics" University of Guelph. For further  
information, visit <http://www.guelphorganicconf.ca/>

## February 2007

**6,7 2007 OSCIA Annual Meeting**, Stage West Hotel,  
5400 Dixie Road, Mississauga  
**6-8 Cdn International Farm Equipment Show**,  
Toronto <http://www.torontofarmshow.com>  
**14-17 National Farm Machinery Show**, Louisville,  
Kentucky <http://www.farmmachineryshow.org/>  
**20-21 Innovative Farmers Association 2007**  
**Conference**, Lamplighter Inn, London. Details at  
<http://www.ifao.com/>

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*Terratec Environmental*  
*Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association*  
*Ridgetown College*  
*OMAFRA Resource Centre - Woodstock*  
*Your local Soil & Crop Association*  
*OMAFRA Field Staff*



**ESCIA annual meeting will be held on January 18, 2007  
at the Keystone Complex in Shedden, Please Mark your calendars**

Apologies to those in Elgin County who received your last newsletter quite late ~ we had some Issues with the mailing list and over 30 newsletters were returned to Drumbo. We have tried to get the addresses corrected and remailed.

Elgin Weather Data

NAME	ADDRESS	TOTAL	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	CHU's
K. Kelly	R3 RODNEY	477	0	90	58	128	51	150	0	3277
D. Aldred	R1 WEST LORNE	774	0	84	67	215	90	142	176	3166
D. Small	R3 IONA ST	585	0	84	25	147	53	155	121	
V. Haddlesey	R4 IONA ST	682	0	87	45	180	91	122	158	3353
D. Porter	R2 PT STANLEY	562	0	96	35	181	83	167	0	
Oegema Farms	TALBOTVILLE	659	0	90	54	132	118	104	162	3524
J. Littlejohn	R2 WALLACETOWN	558	0	66	22	164	54	127	126	3667
R. Dykstra	R1 BELMONT	449	0	64	64	122	71	128	0	3055
I. Foster	R4 AYLMEER	677	0	93	0	161	112	180	132	3228

Oxford Rainfall and Heat Units (recorded in mm)

NAME	RR	ADDRESS	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	May-Sept Total'06	To Sept 2005
David	Arthur	4 St Mary's	80	106	54	181	71	161	126	699	388
George	Beard	1 Brownsville	58	67	102	101	87	161	154	672	357
Jeff	Dibble	2 Drumbo		102	76	221	Gauge	Down		398	443
Gord	Haley	1 Otterville		97	56	109	115	166	138	681	397
John	Landsell	2 Thamesford		103	30	196	43	179	126	677	441
RM	Matheson	3 Embro		116	56	194	70	137		574	444
Bill	Orth	2 Burgessville		83	82	98	162	162		587	278
Roger	Orth	1 Burgessville		73	66	154	71	172	171	536	547
Barry	Smith	Burgessville		62	65	95	63	151	136	572	381
Henry	Van Dorp	1 Woodstock		88	101	122	54	163		528	319
Ross	Wilson	1 Salford	33	93	63	118	81	162	177	694	313
	<b>HEAT UNITS</b>										
	Dibble			483	705	866	772	492		3318	3253
	Haley			418	673	871	789	506		3257	3355
	Matheson			395	626	800	701	470		2992	3119

*Thanks to everyone who faithfully records and submits this data each and every month - it is usually my fault if they don't all get in the newsletter on time!! (Yes, Bob, the family did keep track for you!)*

**Oxford Corn Variety Trials** – Some of the plots have been harvested, but I have not received enough of the data to publish yet. Hopefully we will have it all by the Christmas newsletter for the annual meeting/feed fair, scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in January as always. (Jan 9<sup>th</sup> in 2007) The directors will be holding a planning meeting later this fall, so if you have any ideas, feel free to pass them on.

**In sympathy:** Condolences go out to the family and friends of Darlene Whittaker of Embro. Darlene was a familiar face in the Embro area and beyond, famous for her catering abilities, and the supplier of the great meal at last year’s annual meeting. She will be missed by many in the community.

**Oxford Soil & Crop bursary winners:** Congratulations to our three deserving winners for 2006 ~ Meike Spruit, Kristina Hargreaves and Jayne Hart.

**Canada-Ontario  
Environmental  
Farm Plan (EFP)  
Workshops (Third Edition)  
Now Available**

Producers are invited to attend free EFP (Third Edition) Workshops to gain knowledge on best management practices, develop an action plan for their farm and learn about government cost-share programs that are available.

**COUNTY/DISTRICT - OXFORD  
TOWN - Woodstock  
Day 1 - November 28, 2006  
Time - 9:30 am to 3:00 pm  
Day 2 - December 5, 2006  
Time - 9:30 am to 3 pm**

**COUNTY/DISTRICT - OXFORD  
TOWN - Woodstock  
To Be Announced as needed**

**Call today to register!**

**Program Representative  
Cathy Dibble (519) 463-9737  
Email : oxford@ontariosoilcrop.org**



**www.ontariosoilcrop.org**

The Agricultural Policy Framework (APF) - A FEDERAL - PROVINCIAL - TERRITORIAL INITIATIVE

**OXFORD FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE -  
Annual Meeting**

Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006,  
Elmhurst Inn, Ingersoll  
Social Hour - 6:00 p.m.,  
Banquet - 7:00 p.m.  
**Guest speaker Gisele Ireland,**  
*Teeswater, Ontario*  
Tickets \$20.00 each  
Call June Nussey  
519-485-2442

**OXFORD WOMEN FOR THE SUPPORT OF  
AGRICULTURE**

*Yearly Calendar: Speakers and Events*  
Nov 15/06 - Workplace Health and Safety Act  
Dec 1/06 - Christmas Social - Mt. Elgin Golf Club  
Jan 16/07 - V.O.N. Oxford Hospice/ Palliative Care  
Feb 13/07 - Tuesday: All Day Workshop  
March 21/07 - Wednesday: Alan Slater - Peacekeeper  
April 17/07 - Tuesday: Giselle Ireland  
For more information, please contact  
Heather De Boer, Secretary at 519-842-9284



*Testing varieties at the Walton's Soil & Crop corn variety trials*

MSCIA will not be holding an annual banquet this fall. Watch your news for info on the upcoming Annual Meeting/Crops Update.

### MIDDLESEX RAINFALL SUMMARY 2006

NAME	ADDRESS	TOTAL	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT
N. Stokman	R. 7, Strathroy	198.2	60.8	71.8	65.6	174.0	80.4	94.2	
H. Aukema	R. 6, Strathroy	484.0	56.5	65.5	72.0	213.0	77.0	103.0	230.5
L. Whiting	R. 5, Mt. Brydges	476.0	67.0	70.0	77.0	141.0	121.0	121.0	123.0
J. Robinson	R. 5, Mt. Brydges	459.1	46.6	96.6	29.7	143.1	143.1	121.2	
G Cornelis	R. 1, Ailsa Craig	231.2	36.2	33.4	29.0	100.8	31.8	52.2	
E. Fox	R. 5, Parkhill	393.0	55.0	77.0	62.0	131.0	68.0	94.0	
W. Mollard	R. 4, Parkhill	395.7	54.0	67.3	54.6	146.5	73.3	102.9	213.0
M. Robb	R. 2, Ilderton	432.0	36.0	56.0	78.0	191.0	71.0	86.0	163.0
R. Heard	Fanshawe Rd., London	461.5	65.5	70.0	70.0	188.5	67.5	122.0	196.0
G. Duynisveld	R. 3, Ilderton	462.5	64.0	84.0	70.0	162.5	82.0	128.0	190.0
D. Denys	R. 8, Parkhill	365.0	63.0	69.5	39.5	120.0	73.0	96.5	211.5
R. Desjardine	R. 8, Parkhill	329.0	40.8	52.2	45.3	117.7	73.0	96.5	211.5
F. Vanneste	R. 2, Lucan	371.1	64.3	47.3	59.0	154.5	46.0	92.0	211.0
R. Dodge	R. 2, Kerwood	315.5	56.0	104.0	38.5	117.0			
H. MacKellar	R. 2, Glencoe	446.0	57.0	94.0	49.0	137.0	109.0	125.0	
C. McVicar	R. 1, Newbury	493.0	57.5	113.5	35.5	170.5	116.0	103.0	169.0
B. Grieve	R. 2, Dorchester	419.4	56.5	74.1	46.9	146.4	95.5	181.5	127.0
A. Brown	R. 2, Belmont	389.5	50.0	52.5	59.5	129.0	98.5	140.0	134.0
A. White	R22, London	445.6	55.1	86.5	47.0	152.0	105.0	147.0	130.0
D. Murray	4598 Murray Rd., London	382.0	43.0	59.0	20.0	153.0	107.0	129.0	114.0
R. Willemse	R. 4, Parkhill	256.0	40.8	52.2	45.3	117.7			
<b>TOTALS TO DATE</b>		<b>2006</b>	<b>390.7</b>	<b>53.6</b>	<b>71.3</b>	<b>52.1</b>	<b>146.6</b>	<b>91.3</b>	<b>119.2</b>

### SUMMARY OF MIDDLESEX CROP HEAT UNIT STATIONS 2006

	TOTAL	MAY *		June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	
		Before May 10	After May 10						
N. Stokman	971.0	155.0	314.0	657.0	837.0	772.0	530.0		
H. Aukema	2652.0	141.0	317.0	675.0	869.0	791.0	541.0	163.0	
J. Robinson	2581.0	147.0	309.0	661.0	838.0	773.0	513.0		
G Cornelis	2567.0	168.0	307.0	662.0	837.0	761.0	512.0		
E. Fox	2602.0	151.0	252.0	675.0	869.0	806.0	528.0	194.0	
R. Heard	2580.0	147.0	293.0	689.0	838.0	760.0	558.0	217.0	
G. Duynisveld	2646.0	147.0	314.0	708.0	848.0	776.0	549.0	110.0	
D. Denys	2569.0	146.0	304.0	655.0	850.0	760.0	529.0	219.0	
R. Desjardine	2595.0	156.0	336.0	666.0	833.0	760.0	529.0	220.0	
H. Dodge	2643.0	163.0	342.0	666.0	850.0	785.0	549.0	121.0	
H. MacKellar	2714.0	162.0	315.0	644.0	923.0	832.0	549.0		
C. McVicar	2448.0	159.0	301.0	623.0	804.0	720.0	484.0	145.0	
A. Brown	2630.0	146.0	312.0	694.0	855.0	769.0	510.0	194.0	
B. Grieve	2640.0	143.0	303.0	686.0	866.0	785.0	535.0	210.0	
R. Willemse	1835.0	156.0	336.0	666.0	833.0				
<b>AVERAGE 2006</b>		<b>2444.9</b>	<b>152.5</b>	<b>310.3</b>	<b>668.5</b>	<b>850.9</b>	<b>775.0</b>	<b>529.7</b>	

\* Under the Heat Unit system we have used for the last 25 years, we would start accumulating heat units on May 11.

In 1994, a newer system was developed that starts according to average daily temperatures (third day averaging >12.8 C).

For comparison sake, we have used the old method to develop totals, starting on May 11 and continuing until first frost.

## **OTHER LOCAL NEWS**

*Courtesy of:* Kim DeKlein, OMAFRA Regional Information Coordinator, Woodstock Resource Centre Phone 537-8078 Fax 539-5351  
[kim.deklein@ontario.ca](mailto:kim.deklein@ontario.ca)

### **"FORAGE FOCUS 2006" CONFERENCE: TARGETS FORAGE EQUIPMENT & TECHNOLOGY**

*Nov 28, Winchester Community Centre OR Nov 29, 2006, Shakespeare Optimist Hall, 9:30 a.m.*

"Equipping Yourself For Quality Forages". The keynote speaker, Dr Ron Schuler, is an Extension Agricultural Engineer at the University of Wisconsin, specializing in forage equipment performance, and a frequent contributor to Hoard's Dairyman magazine. His topics include: "Equipping Yourself To Make More Quality Forage" and "What's New In Corn Silage Harvest Management?". Chris Brown, OMAFRA Nutrient Management Specialist, will discuss "Manure & Forages - A Successful Partnership?". Registration is \$30 and includes a hot beef dinner. For more info or to register call 1-877-892-8663 by Nov 24<sup>th</sup> (required). Forage Focus 2006 is certified for CCA credits. Contact Ray Robertson, P.Ag., Ontario Forage Council, 1-877-892-8663, [info@ontarioforagecouncil.com](mailto:info@ontarioforagecouncil.com)

### **ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLAN (EFP) - Limits Increased**

The Canada-Ontario Farm Stewardship Program (COFSP) has been adjusted so that a farm business may now be eligible for up to \$50,000 to the implementation of beneficial management practices. The previous cap of \$30,000 was raised to \$50,000 by government partners in response to producer requests. Producers who reached the earlier cap will be able to submit applications for additional projects to conserve and enhance soil, water, air and wildlife habitat resources on their farms. Remember, all category and program funding caps within the program remained unchanged. This means that if you reach the category maximum with your original project(s), this enhancement will allow you to participate in other projects in other categories

**Farm Financial Management - Statements and Ratios With Mike Bossy** Nov 22, 2006 - Quality Hotel & Suites, Woodstock, Jan 25, 2007 - Mitchell Golf & Country Club, Mitchell. This success-building workshop will help you advance your knowledge of statements and ratios so you can analyze your operation better and maximize your operation's financial performance.

**Hiring and Keeping Employees** Dec 7, 2006 - Arden Park Hotel, Stratford - Michelle Painchaud You'll learn how to find and hire the right people and the key skills of how to keep them. Anyone who's trying to increase their farm management abilities will benefit from this multi-faceted workshop.

**Commodity Marketing Management** -Stoneridge Inn & Conference Centre, London - Feb 7-8, 2007 Victor Aidevan, Feb 27-28, 2007 Dr. Larry Martin During this two-day workshop, an expert will lead you through key strategies in price risk management and put you on the path towards developing your own commodity marketing plan.

**Transferring the family farm** Dec 12, 2006 - Club Lentinas, Chatham - Len Davies & Mike Bossy Designed for producers who want to retire from farming and transfer their business, this essential one-day workshop will walk you through the first steps in transferring your farm.

**Estate Planning** Nov 29, 2006 - Stone Crock - The Grand Room, St. Jacobs - Jenny Hughes This workshop will help bring your family together to discuss the details of estate planning and learn how to handle the issues surrounding what is often an unspoken topic.

**Value Chain Management** Feb 28 & Mar 1, 2007 - Holiday Inn, Guelph - Martin Gooch This introductory workshop is designed to gain an understanding of value chains, how they influence you, and how you can build profitable relationships with others in the industry.

**Advanced Farm Management** (6 day farm management program) - Quality Inn & Suites, Woodstock

Module 1 - December 5-6, 2006 - Dr. Larry Martin & Martin Gooch

Module 2 - January 23-24, 2007 - Mike Bossy & Julia Christensen Hughes

Module 3 - February 20-21, 2007 - Al Mussell & Dr. Larry Martin

If you're not familiar with the work of Steven Wright, he's a famous erudite scientist who tends to see things a bit differently than the rest of us mortals. Here are some of his gems:

Borrow money from pessimists -- they don't expect it back.  
 Half the people you know are below average.  
 99% of lawyers give the rest a bad name.

A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.  
 A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.  
 If you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain.

The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.  
 If everything seems to be going well, you have overlooked something.  
 When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.  
 Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.  
 If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.  
 Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.  
 The hardness of the butter is proportional to the softness of the bread.  
 To steal ideas from 1 person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.  
 The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard.  
 Everyone has a photographic memory; some just don't have film.



## Biosolids Management Specialists

*Over 28 years of experience in land applying biosolids in Ontario.*

SAVE over \$100/acre in nutrient costs

### Did you know?

The biosolids program is fully endorsed by the following Ontario Ministries:

- Environment (MOE)
- Agriculture and Food (OMAF)
- Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC)



Beneficial use of biosolids has been a successful practice in Ontario for over 34 years. We apply Best Management Practices by using the best available technology and state-of-the-art equipment.

Enrich your soil with:  
**Nitrogen**  
**Phosphorus and**  
**Organic Matter**

- Terratec uses state of the art land application equipment with high flotation tires to minimize soil compaction and prevent erosion.
- We have certified crop advisors and professional agrologists on staff to help you with nutrient management and to answer all of your agronomic questions.

For further information or to participate in Terratec's biosolids land application programs please contact **Ron Reinholt** at **905-312-4086** or **Mark Janiec** toll free at **1-888-TOP-CROP (867-2767)**:

**Message from the President ~ Keith Black**

A damp September, followed by 8 inches plus of rain in October makes for a very difficult harvest and an almost impossible wheat planting. We continue to be very busy in the provincial office, processing claims and getting federal cost share cheques out to producers who have completed eligible environmental projects. To date since April 2005, we have allocated more than \$35 million in cost share towards more than 7700 projects across the three programs: Canada Ontario Farm Stewardship Program, Greencover Canada, and Tier 1 of Canada Ontario Water Supply Expansion Program. OSCIA Program Representatives are geared up for another busy winter season of EFP workshops, and will continue to accept Project Proposal Applications and conduct field inspections of completed projects so claims can be processed. This past year, OSCIA, with the encouragement of the Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition and our Federal and Provincial partners, signed agreements with the Oak Ridge Moraine Foundation and Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation to administer new cost share programs that offer an additional \$1.26 million dollars each, of top up money for selected beneficial management practices initiated by farmers within the targeted areas. The combined cost share presents terrific opportunities for producers, and sends a clear message from the Foundations that they are genuinely interested in helping producers. As our Major and Partner Grant projects are completed and the data is being compiled, reports will be available at annual meetings and production meetings this fall and winter. Be sure to attend those in your area. OMAFRA has announced the Premier's Award for Agri- Food Innovation Excellence to recognize and foster innovation in the Agri Food Industry. This \$2.5 million dollar program will be awarded over the next five years to applicants developing projects that add value to existing projects, create jobs and drive economic growth. Fifty-five awards will be given out each year. Winners will receive a plaque, farm gate sign and \$5,000. Two top innovations will receive the Minister's Award of \$50,000 and the Premier's Award of \$10,000. For more information visit [www.omafra.gov.on.ca](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca) or call 1-877-424-1300. Applications must be received by November 30, 2006. Farming has always had its challenges, and this year is no exception. As the holiday season approaches, take time for yourself, your family and friends. Look ahead to a new year of better tomorrows. Seasons Greetings.♦



**OSCIA Annual Meeting Review - John Shepherd, RCC, Golden Horseshoe SCIA**

**Canadian Developments On Soil Management & Carbon Credits "Soil Management Programs and Soil Conservation Initiatives have a long history in Canada".**



Speaking at the Annual Meeting of the Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association in Niagara Falls, Doug McKell said that it has been a succession of major events in Canadian history that has shaped government policy for land utilization in this country. Mr. McKell is the Executive Director of the Soil Conservation Council of Canada, based in Indian Head, Saskatchewan. He said that the roots of the Soil Conservation Council of Canada go back to the "dirty thirties" when the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) was formed to deal with the serious problem of soil degradation and land abandonment on the prairies. In fact, it was farmers' concerns about soil degradation that led to the formation of the first Soil Conservation Organizations in Canada. With the coming of the 1980s, there was new cause for concern and the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry was authorized to examine soil and water conservation in Canada. The committee concluded that there was urgent need to develop and promote programs to improve soil and water conservation practices and thus the Soil Conservation Council of Canada was founded in 1984. In more recent years influence has come from such events as:

- \* The International Panel on Climatic Change in 1990.
- \* The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1992
- \* The Kyoto Protocol in 1997
- \* The Walkerton Disaster in 2000
- \* The North Battleford event in 2001 where 700 people fell ill after drinking contaminated city water.

The Agricultural Policy Framework (APF) of 2002 includes five sections, one of which is the environment. From that initiative has come the Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Program for Canadian Agriculture. Its objective: **To reduce GHG Emissions, Increase Carbon Sinks and help Canada meet its Kyoto commitment.** It in turn has three sections: The National Farm Stewardship Program (now in its third year), The Greencover Program (also in its third year), Carbon Offsets (still being developed).

Mr. McKell said that key issues continue to surround the Carbon Offset Program and that a pilot program, PEARL, (Pilot Emission Reduction Removal Learning) leaves many questions unanswered. Such things as: \* Will the program attract producer interest? \* Will the new government change the rules regarding emissions, etc.? \* Will Canada's commitment to the Kyoto Accord change? A pilot program under PEARL to learn about offset trading has involved a total of 198 producers from across Canada, 4 of which are in Ontario. An annual payment schedule has been developed. So far, Mr. McKell admits that producers, particularly in Ontario, do not find the numbers attractive. It will be up to CAPACC (Canada's Agricultural Producers Adapting to Climate Change) to communicate the concepts of offsets and propose strategies at the producer level.♦

**Responses to Resolutions** Responses that have been received to the resolutions passed at the OSCIA Annual Meeting held in February are entered onto the OSCIA website. To access the resolutions on the website, go to [www.ontariosoilcrop.org](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org) and click on the "Resolutions" button. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact Evelyn Howse at the provincial office.♦

**OSCIA Awards**

**Soil and Water Conservation Farm Award:**

The purpose of this award is to recognize, reward, and acknowledge farmers who practice excellent soil and water management on their farms, as well as provide high profile to the basic principles of conservation. This is a resin all-weather sign measuring 16" x 19".

**Recognition Certificate:**

This certificate is designed to recognize individuals in your community who have contributed to the organization. When requesting the certificate, please indicate the recipient's name and date of presentation. This is a paper certificate, suitable for framing, measuring 8½" x 11".

These awards are ideal for presentation at annual meetings. Both are available by calling Evelyn Howse at the provincial office (1-800-265-9751). Please allow 2 weeks for preparation and shipping time.♦

**Ontario Forage Masters Program**

The 2006 Ontario Forage Masters program is now complete. This year's program was generously sponsored by Pickseed Canada, Agri-Food Laboratories, and NK Brand Seeds. Each sponsor assisted the program with either financial contributions and/or provided prizes winners in each of the participating local associations. Twenty-four counties/districts participated, with a total of over 200 participants. Of these, 34 are 4-H members. OSCIA congratulates all these individuals. The prizes awarded to the winners this year are:



Pickseed Canada

- 1st prize – 25kg Pickseed seed, Pickseed gloves
- 2nd prize - \$150 certificate for Pickseed seed, gloves
- 3rd prize - \$50 certificate for Pickseed seed, hat



Agri-Food Laboratories 1st prize only – \$75 gift certificate for lab analysis



For the Way you Farm

NK Brand Seeds provided provincial support and promotion. On-farm judging and management of stored feed formed the major portion of the final score. The following table shows a listing of winners in our area.

**ASSOCIATION**

**BRANT**

**OXFORD**

**PERTH**

**WELLINGTON**

**1ST PLACE**

Larry Davis

Steve & Lisa Hutchison

Jim Robinson

Romy Signer 4-H

**2ND PLACE**

Maple Leaf Research

Mark Kirwin

Brian Vink

Ashley Harrop 4-H

**3RD PLACE**

Albert Vandenburg

Gord Green

Mike Bell

Bill Kabbes

**THAMES VALLEY REGIONAL  
SOIL & CROP IMPROVEMENT**

**PRESIDENT:**

Jeff Dibble 463-6374  
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Cathy Dibble (see below)

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**MEMBERSHIPS**

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

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CROPLINE: 1-888-449-0937

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WOODSTOCK OMAFRA RESOURCE CENTRE: 519-537-6621

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

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

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

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**Cathy's comments....**

Well, we've finally had a really good run of decent weather, and I know there are a lot of very tired people out there too. I hope everything is running smoothly for everyone, the end is in sight. This has definitely been a tough fall for everyone. Thankfully, the quality of most of the beans out there hasn't been affected, but corn quality could cause us livestock people some grief. While there are still some soybeans fields out there yet, in the stores Christmas items flood the aisles. Kids informed me there's only 40 days till the big day!

And as Christmas looms in the near future, it seems early to be thinking about annual meetings and the usual round of producer info meetings that will be starting soon, but planning is in the works for many of them already. Don't forget to watch your mail for your membership renewal information at the end of the year.

Twice this fall, I have had the opportunity to do something I haven't done since we moved to Drumbo ~ run a grain buggy. Not only did I get to help out a couple of friends in a pinch *and* get my "tractor fix" for a while, I was able to drive two fairly new tractors!! (those new green machines are a heck of a lot different than what I am used to - not needing to use the clutch is odd, and still an automatic reflex that is hard to break)

Good luck to you all for the rest of the fall harvest!