



**February 2007**

Vol 8 No 1  
Publication #40044132

**THAMES VALLEY REGIONAL SOIL & CROP  
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION**

**Oxford**

**Middlesex**

**Elgin**

**SPECIAL EDITION**

Look inside for your Free Lunch  
offer for the Western Fair Farm Show  
Courtesy of Bayer Crop Science

<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>Page</b>
COMING EVENTS.....	1
THAMES VALLEY NEWS.....	2
OXFORD NEWS.....	2
ELGIN NEWS.....	3
MIDDLESEX NEWS.....	3
OTHER LOCAL NEWS.....	3
CONTACT INFORMATION .....	1 & 4

<b>COMING EVENTS</b>
<b>FEBRUARY 2007</b>
20-21 Innovative Farmers Conference, Lamplighter Inn, London. Details at <a href="http://www.ifao.com/">http://www.ifao.com/</a>
27 Middlesex Crops Update and Annual Meeting (see inside)
27 Profitable Pastures Drumbo (see inside)
28 Profitable Pastures Elmwood
<b>MARCH 2007</b>
5-7 Ontario Corn, Soybean and Wheat Conference (see inside)
7-9 Western Fair Farm Show, London <a href="http://www.westernfair.com">www.westernfair.com</a>
23 Ontario Hemp Alliance Annual Meeting (see inside)
27 Oxford S&C Spring meeting (see inside)
<b>APRIL 2007</b>
4 Oxford Agricultural Awards of Excellence (see inside)

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Submissions and advertising welcome.

**Memberships**

\$20.00/yr or 3 for \$50.00;

contact your local county secretary/treasurer

## THAMES VALLEY NEWS

### Thames Valley Biodiesel Project

Larry McGill, Middlesex County, has been chosen as one of the co-operators in the Natural Resources Canada biodiesel project. His John Deere has been running the fuel blend since early 2006 and his report will be available later this year. The evaluation of Biodiesel on-farm project is funded by NRCan, and is a demonstration project for six co-operators across Ontario to test 5% biodiesel in one of their farm tractors for a year of normal farm duty. The trials will identify best practices and potential challenges for on-farm handling and storage, equipment maintenance, and the benefits and disadvantages relating to emissions, equipment performance, and general on-farm use of biodiesel versus using 100% petrodiesel. UPI will provide a fuel tank for storage, cement pad, nozzle, hose, filter, and metered pump. The biodiesel used conforms to ASTM D6751 and Canadian General Standards Board CAN/CGSB-3.520 B1 to B5 blends standards. UPI will deliver the biodiesel pre-blended to the farm. The project will pay for the extra cost of the biodiesel, and the cooperating farm will pay market price for the UPI diesel. Tractors or equipment used for the project will have a dynamometer performance test done by a local licensed mechanic before the project begins and at the end of the program to quantify any changes in the tractor. The same dynamometer will be used for both tests to reduce test error. Each cooperator will be asked to keep a log book to record date, time, equipment maintenance, hours or acres of tractor use, tasks equipment used for, temperature, fuel added, and any technical issues associated with biodiesel use. The logbooks will be collected for summary analysis of the economics and the practical use of Biodiesel on-farm. Agriculture, Agri-Food Canada and Environment Canada will conduct emission measurements on the equipment used to monitor levels of GHG emissions, and exhaust pollutants that contribute to poor air quality. Environment Canada has taken emission measurements on farm this past summer, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has evaluated biodiesel fuel efficiency and consumption compared to regular dyed diesel. A final report will be prepared March 2007.

Congratulations to Pat Lee, Provincial Director for Oxford/Elgin on his election to 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President on Ontario Soil & Crop!! Pat, his wife Marg and son run a dairy farm near Springford.

## OXFORD NEWS

### RENEWALS NOW DUE

If you haven't returned the orange renewal notice sent out in December, please remit soon  
~ don't miss out on upcoming information, events and special deals! ~

### OXFORD SOIL & CROP ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

Tues March 27 at Agraturf in Tavistock featuring OMAFRA's Tracy Baute, planter maintenance and the MeterMax system. More details to follow in the next newsletter

### OXFORD FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE -

#### Reserve Your Place for the 2007 Agricultural Awards of Excellence

The Oxford Federation of Agriculture's 2007 Agricultural Awards of Excellence Dinner and Awards Ceremony is fast approaching. Wed, April 4 at the Oxford Auditorium in Woodstock. Meet our award finalists, and representatives of business, industry, agriculture, and the larger community who come together to feast on some of Oxford County's finest produce prepared by the Elm Hurst Inn, learn about issues and challenges facing agriculture in Ontario and around the world from guest speaker Jack Wilkinson, serving his third term as president of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, and to celebrate some of the great success stories in farm operations and agribusiness in Oxford County today. Tickets are available now (\$60 each). Call Penny Esseltine, OCFA Agricultural Awards of Excellence Coordinator at (519) 688-3842 or e-mail to [esseltine@rogers.com](mailto:esseltine@rogers.com).

### FEED FAIR, FARM SHOW & ANNUAL MEETING

Feed Fair Results	SPONSOR	FIRST	SECOND	<i>All second place winners receive a \$25 voucher courtesy of the Norwich Branch Waterloo~Oxford Co-op</i>
1 <sup>st</sup> Cut Hay	ProRich Seeds	Steve Witmer	Al Bruce	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Cut Hay	Cargill Mt Elgin	Al Bruce	Steve Witmer	
Haylage	Ont Harvestore	Doanlea Farms	Arnold Haskett	
Baled Haylage	Circle G Farms	Springtop Farms	John Anghern	
Corn Silage	Pioneer/Blythe Brae	Bakkersfield Farms	Mark Kirwin	
Whole HM Corn	Lamers Silos	Veldale Farms	Stuartmere Farms	
Processed HM Corn	Syngenta	Maurie Clayton	Mark Kirwin	
CommercialDry Corn	Sylvite	Scott Utter	Kevin Boakes	
OVERALL WINNER	Hyland Seeds	Mark Kirwin	Kevin Boakes	

Thanks to all our sponsors and exhibitors for a successful day. We had a record number of attendees, trade show exhibitors and feed fair entrants. Thanks to DeeLights Bakery for an excellent lunch

Innovators Challenge: Congratulations to the winners of our third competition! Rob DeBrabandere won a \$100 TSC gift card for his unique tool to aid in calibrating your seed drill, and Walter Kropf who received a \$50.00 gift certificate from Morrow's of Drumbo for his unique bale handling attachment.

**MSCIA CROPS UPDATE & ANNUAL MEETING**

Tues., Feb 27 Middlesex Centre, Coldstream

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. *Note: Speaker sessions start at 9:33 SHARP!*

9:00 a.m.	Registration, Coffee & Donuts - sponsored by FCC
9:33 a.m.	Anything Soybeans - Bugs & Big Bushels" - Horst Bohner, OMAFRA Soybean Specialist
10:15 a.m.	On-Farm Bio-Diesel, Production & Use - Don Langford
10:45 a.m.	"Corn Yields vs Corn Yield Potential" - Dr. Thijs Tollenaar, University of Guelph
11:45	Annual Meeting
12:00p.m.	Lunch
12:45 p.m.	EFP Update – Margaret May
1:00 p.m.	"The Business of Agriculture in the Former Soviet Union" - Stan Malcolm, Granton
1:45 p.m.	Project Report - N Use on Sweet Corn - Elaine Roddy, OMAFRA
2:00 p.m.	Crop Projects, Question/Answer Period - Peter Johnson, OMAFRA Cereals Specialist

**Cost:** (includes lunch) **Members - \$10.00 Non-Members - \$25.00****☎ For more information, contact Rob Foster – 519-666-3780****OTHER LOCAL NEWS****Ontario conference offers keys to success for profitable pastures**

Maximizing value from pasture land to strengthen both the pocketbook and the land base is the focus of a special, leading-edge pasture management conference designed for Ontario cattle and sheep producers. "Profitable Pastures: The keys to success," is a one-day conference planned for Feb. 27 in Drumbo, Feb. 28 in Elmwood and March 1 in Oakwood. It showcases advice from leading specialists in pasture management, to help producers understand and implement the latest thinking on how to make best use of pastures on their farms. "This conference will give producers the tools to apply innovative pasture management approaches, to get the most out of their grazing potential while maintaining the health of the land for long-term sustainability," says Jack Kyle, grazing specialist with OMAFRA. "It provides a one-stop look at the latest trends and ideas, with practical advice on how to apply these for best results on-farm." Registration and trade show, at 9 a.m., followed by speaker presentations on "Economics of Pasture Gain," by Dennis Martin, OMAFRA beef feedlot specialist, and "Innovative Pasture Management – The Keys to Success," by cattle producer Neil Dennis. Mid-afternoon sessions include a presentation by local producers on "Making the most of pastures on my farm," and a talk on "Recovering from the Muddy Pastures of 2006" by Jack Kyle, along with an end of day speakers panel on "Tying it all together." The conference ends at 3 p.m. Further information is available at [www.ontarioforagecouncil.com](http://www.ontarioforagecouncil.com). To register, phone 1-877-892-8663. Conference cost is \$30, which includes roast beef lunch. Registration deadline is Feb. 23.

In addition to CAPAEI, partners include Ontario Cattlemen's Association, Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency, OMAFRA, Ontario Forage Council, Agricultural Adaptation Council and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC). Canada's Agricultural Producers Addressing Environmental Issues (CAPAEI) is a federal initiative funded through AAFC's Greencover Canada program. It is designed by, and administered through the Soil Conservation Council of Canada. The Canadian Cattlemen's Association coordinates the delivery of the program to beef cattle producers.

**Ontario Corn, Soybean and Wheat Conference, London Convention Centre/Hilton Hotel, London**

March 5, Ontario Soybean Growers Annual Meeting, 9 am

March 5, Ontario Corn Producers Annual Meeting, 1 pm

March 6, Joint Conference, 9 am

March 7, Ontario Wheat Producers Delegates Meeting, 8 am

**Ontario Hemp Alliance Annual Meeting**

10 am - 3 pm, Grace Presbyterian Church 50 Finkle Street, Woodstock.

Registration \$20 includes Lunch (soup &amp; sandwich) Contact: 519-655-6277

## Cathv's comments....

Happy February!! Winter is almost over, but not the number of various meetings and ag shows coming up. I hope you get a chance to come out to some of our local soil & crop info meetings scheduled for the upcoming months - remember, you are more than welcome to cross county lines to attend everything our regional association has to offer. Welcome to all our new members who have joined the local associations - we all hope you enjoy the newsletters, information and social events that are all part of joining Soil & Crop. We are working closely with the provincial association to add value to being a member, including special opportunities, discounts and freebies at events such as FarmSmart and Canada's Outdoor Farm Show. Included with this newsletter is an offer of free lunch at the Western Fair Farm Show thanks to Bayer Crop Science and the Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association. Also, you can expect a new and improved membership card to arrive in the mail shortly. This more durable plastic card should be carried in your wallet to enable you to get discounts at many events...we are working on more and more specials all the time! See you soon ~ Cathy

## Contact information...

**ONTARIO SOIL & CROP** 1-800-265-9751  
**OSCIA WEBSITE:** [www.ontariosoilcrop.org](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org)

**CROPLINE:** 1-888-449-0937

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

**OMAFRA RESOURCE CENTRE**  
**WOODSTOCK** 537-6621  
**LONDON** 873-4070

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

**THE FARM LINE:** 1-888-451-2903

**AGRICULTURE INFO CONTACT CENTER**  
1-877-424-1300

**LOCAL SOIL & CROP SEC/TREAS**  
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Elgin ~ Margaret May 287-5334  
Oxford ~ Cathy Dibble 463-6374

**EFP PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVES**  
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# 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 - March 6, 2007

Day 2 - March 13, 2007

Time - 9:30 am to 3:00 pm

## COUNTY/DISTRICT - ELGIN

TOWN - Glencoe

Day 1 - March 13, 2007

Day 2 - March 20, 2007

Time - 9:30 am to 3:00 pm

## COUNTY/DISTRICT - OXFORD

TOWN - Woodstock

Day 1 - February 21, 2007

Day 2 - TBA

Time - Doors open at 6:30, start time 7 pm.

## Call today to register!

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Canada



Ontario

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