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Breaking Ground

(in Northeastern Ontario) **WINTER 10/11**

A Publication of the North Eastern Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association (NEOSCIA)

SDSCIA Summer Crop Tour

On August 06, the Sudbury District SCIA toured "The Valley" with an open invitation to all NEOSCIA members to join them. An enthusiastic group boarded the bus at 10 a.m. and headed to the first stop - a visit to the Xstrata Onaping Tailings Management site. Here they viewed energy crop research plots growing in organic residual covers on the mine tailings.



Later in the day, they would visit Greenzone Farms in Chelmsford to compare the same plot layout growing on agricultural baseline soils. Lunch was held at Beaulieu Farms in Blezard Valley where the meal consisted primarily of food grown on this produce and berry farm.

After lunch, the bus made a stop at Valley Growers in Blezard Valley, for a visual evaluation of the potato growing, processing, and packing operation. There was also a short stop at Sudbury Downs before returning to Market Square in downtown Sudbury for a BBQ hosted by "Eat Local Food Sudbury" and the Farm ON Alliance where the meal again gave focus to local producers.



NOTE: **Sponsors/Advertisers needed for coming year. \$500 for 4 issues!**

This newsletter is published 4 times per year. Articles can be submitted in either English or French and should be submitted to the Communication Coordinator (see below). Please supply translation, if available.

Material in this newsletter is based upon factual information believed to be accurate. Action taken as a result of this information is solely the responsibility of the user. We reserve the right to edit articles.

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COMING EVENTS

Special Event

On Thursday, January 06, 2011, The Northern Ontario Regional Office of OMAFRA is holding a special event for northern farmers. They will be holding a "Webcast" of the South West Ag Conference (Ridgetown) at the Sturgeon Falls and New Liskeard campuses of College Boreal. Pierrette Desrochers will host the Nipissing link while Dan Tasse will host the Temiskaming connection.

There will be 2 concurrent sessions to choose from. The Pioneer lecture will include a panel on the Future of Agriculture; a study of "Roots- The Foundation of Yield; Managing Glyphosate Resistance; Quest for 300 Bu. Corn; Top Yielding Soybeans; Corn Strategies 2011; and Wheat- Raising the Bar.

In the Syngenta lecture we will examine Better Crops for Safe Water; Farmstead Energy Options; Succession Planning; Tillage, Erosion, and Field Variability; Variable Rate Opportunities; Would More Nitrogen Pay?; and Biomass Marketing Opportunities.

Registration at the door will be \$60, but be sure to let OMAFRA know that you are coming so that they can order your hot lunch! Call them at 1-800-461-6132 and let them know which site you will be at.

Earlton Farm Show Grows Again

NEOSCIA President Janet Parsons

For those living outside of Temiskaming, it's not too early to start thinking about attending the Annual Farm Show and Conference in Earlton. The trade show, speakers, and seed fair are currently being planned. A couple of years ago a feature on maple syrup from Powassan was added and that has been a great success.

For 2011 a new feature called "Living in the Country Expo" will take over the upstairs hall. The "Living in the Country Expo" will focus on rural life skills and farming on a small scale. Amy Hallman, FarmOn Coordinator for Northern Ontario, is working with Graham Gambles on the Expo. She adds that the Expo would be of interest to owners of small acreages, newcomers to farming, looking for manageable points of entry to the business, and people who would like to gain practical homesteading-type skills.

While planning is in the early stages, it is hoped that a 'chicken tractor' will be on site with all the information one needs to have a few layers to provide fresh eggs all year for the family. Also

a topic of interest to the horse owner is in the works. There will be lots of vendors catering to the needs of anyone living in country.

The number one attraction will be the Canning and Preserving Workshop by BerNARDin. This event will take place on Friday evening and there will be a fee (canning kit included). This workshop has been held in other communities and has been extremely successful so you will need to sign up early. Attendance is limited.

So mark your calendar for April 8 and 9 and plan on attending the ever-growing Farm Show, Conference, Seed Fair, and Living in the Country Expo in Earlton. And don't forget, the annual meeting of NEOSCIA is being held on the Friday afternoon. Everyone is welcome.

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Acknowledgement of Good Animal Care at NLARS

by John Rowsell, Head of NLARS Research

We take very good care of our cattle at New Liskeard Agricultural Research Station (NLARS). At least, that is the opinion of the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC), and their opinion counts with us, BIG TIME.

The University of Guelph adheres to guidelines for the care and use of animals in research developed by CCAC. If we are not in compliance with the CCAC guidelines, we could jeopardize major sources of funding to the University that affect everyone from the animal researchers to the astrophysicists, even if they don't use animals. The guidelines on the use of farm animals for research, as well as other guidelines, can be found at www.ccac.ca.

CCAC performs a site assessment of our facilities every 3 years. Their most recent assessment was on November 24.

They aren't the only ones who take a look at our operations. We are inspected at least once a year unannounced by the Inspector, Animals for Research Act, OMAFRA. As well, we perform our own site assessments at least twice a year. Members of the Animal Care Committee from the main campus come to New Liskeard to help us with those assessments. We also depend on the assistance and opinions from our attending veterinarians from Temiskaming Veterinary Services.

Our interest in providing good animal care is not just compliance with rules. Valid research results demand that the animals be well cared for. All of the cattle at NLARS belong to the Ontario Cattlemen's Association and they trust us to give the best care possible.

So, when the Assessment Director of CCAC stated that NLARS has the 'best managed beef research facility in Canada', we were indeed proud.

On Farm Grain Marketing Summary

- You tube videos

by Janet Parsons

You tube has made it out to the farm. If you market grain using delivery contracts and are looking for a way to keep track of all those contracts then maybe you should watch the You tube video 'On Farm Grain Marketing Summary'. When you check this out you'll be clicking into the newest approach to sharing good ideas amongst farmers.

Janet Parsons, a former dairy farmer turned cash cropper, had a problem keeping track of grain contracts and sales. As she says "marketing hundreds of tons of multiple crops over multiple years is a different kettle of fish to selling milk to the marketing board."

Grain marketing is done year round and typically over three years: the year before the crop is grown, the year it's grown, and the year following. As she explains, "this way the farmer can even out crop pricing." Janet figures she's not alone with this problem and decided to share her solution with other farmers. "With today's technology it's simple to do." She used a 'minoHD Flip video' camera .

After making the video she uploaded it to You tube and that was it. The quality of the video is lacking with respect to the spreadsheet clarity but you still get the idea. Whatever the marketing strategy a farmer uses, he needs to keep track of the grain. This video shows one way. Janet notes that you can use a pencil and graph paper as well but it's just not as flexible.


There are no formulas used in the spreadsheet so you can add more columns for more information and more rows for more contracts at will. You do the calculations manually but you could use formulas if you wanted. To see the video go to google and type in 'On Farm Grain Marketing Summary', then click videos (top left of screen) and look for it. You'll see a picture of a spreadsheet with yellow lines. For those who can't access high speed internet the column headings are

split in three sections.

Section 1 is headlined with Crop, Acres, Predicted Production per acre (based on crop insurance farm averages), Total Predicted (tonnes), Crop insurance coverage yield per acre, Total crop insurance coverage (tonnes), Tonnes to contract.





Section 2: Date taken of production contract, contract delivery date, price, tonnes, running total of quantity left to contract, % sold of predicted production.

Section 3: Actual production, tonnes left to sell, Date taken of production contract, contract delivery date, price of contract or direct sale, tonnes, Running total of tonnes left to contract or sell, and % of actual production contracted or sold. On the left side under 'crop', you enter your first crop followed by fields on the next line and then acreages. Leave a few spaces and repeat with the next crop. On the computer spread sheet you can scroll from year to year whereas if you were using paper and a pencil you would probably put one year per page.



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CSCIA Annual Meeting

Over 20 members of the Cochrane SCIA met on the evening of Dec.09 to plan for the coming year. District Director Mack Emiry (from Massey) was there to discuss the proposed Provincial Fee Increase to \$7.50 per member, and also promoted the upcoming OSCIA Annual Meeting in Niagara Falls come February.

The group made the necessary commitments to sustain the leadership of the local organization, and discussed potential summer projects as well as the annual picnic.

OMAFRA representative Dan Tasse spoke on the highly successful past season for canola production, and demonstrated the effective use of developing your own "Field Crop Budget" sheet.

Graham Gambles, the Regional Communication Coordinator for NEOSCIA, discussed the 2011 Earlton Farm Show and Conference (April 8&9) and gave a brief description of the new "Living In The Country Expo" that will be staged upstairs at the Earlton Arena. He also outlined the development of a major (4 day) bus tour for regional members in the summer of 2012. It is proposed that the north-eastern farmers visit the thriving farm community that surrounds Lac St. Jean (Saguenay Region) in Quebec. Although isolated, the area is very comparative to our region in terms of climate, soils, topography, and farm production.

Germany in the Fall

By Sharon Lane, Regional Correspondent to Breaking Ground

I recently (September 28 to October 20) had the opportunity to travel to Germany with my daughter. We decided to visit a city in the north of the country that we had not had time to explore properly previously. So after a couple of days in Frankfurt, we headed to Schleswig-Holstein province in the northeast to Lubeck, a restored medieval walled city. We took the train from Frankfurt via Kassel to Hamburg and finally to Lubeck. From Lubeck, we travel southeast, again by train, to Berlin. After five days in Berlin, we went south to Augsburg and on to Munich and then back west to Heidelberg. From Heidelberg, we again headed east through Kassel to Gottingen and finally back to Frankfurt to fly home. In all of these train rides, we traverse Germany several times.

My impressions of the German countryside as we criss-crossed the country were

that it was very neat and tidy. I don't remember seeing any unkempt plots of forest or fields. Fields are very small when compared to Canada and appear to be well managed. The sheep pictured in the photo were in a small field in the village of Seeburger beside a bus stop between two homes.



Sheep (Possibly Shetland – a rare and old breed from the Shetland Islands) grazing in a paddock in Seeburger near Gottingen

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Breaking Ground (in Northeastern Ontario)

Germany in the Fall

Continued from page 4

All land is utilized in the North German Lowlands. The Basin area north of Munich to Berlin and Lubeck has loess soil with a moderate continental climate and a long growing season. This is the "breadbasket" of Germany. The extreme weather from June to August this summer affected crops, resulting in a 12% drop in yield from last year. Heavy rain damaged the wheat crops and yields were down 5% but not enough to cause a shortage only forcing the price up. Silage corn yield was down. Fields of corn had not been

harvested yet in early October probably because machinery could not get on the fields. Some rivers were in flood conditions as we travelled from Berlin south to Augsburg. Farmers may have to harvest it after a frost like they are doing in Southern Ontario. Some crops – beans, turnips and sugar beets – were still growing in mid October. There is a high yield in potatoes and beets this year. Winter barley was affected less because it ripened earlier. This was probably good news to

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Farmers' Market in Marktplatz in Lubeck

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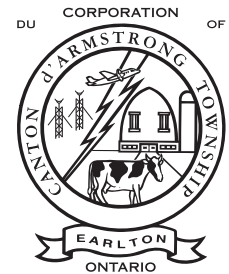
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Germany in the Fall

Continued from page 4

the organizers of the Oktoberfest, which is observed October 1 and 2 in Munich. The extreme weather in Germany means a reduction in crop yield, not a shortage of grains in German. It does mean Germany will have less to export.

The Hallertau area of Bavaria's production of hops makes Germany the top producer in the world of this ingredient for beer. Germany has had a law since 1516 that the ingredients for beer could only be pure water, barley and hops. William's Purity Law (Reinheitsgebot) with only minor changes to allow Bavaria's wheat-based beer has remained to this day and even withstood a challenge by other EU countries. All German breweries have reaffirmed their commitment to Reinheitsgebot.

The Central German Uplands include the Moselle and Rhine Valleys and the area from Frankfurt to Hanover with Kassel in the centre. The steep hillsides overlooking the rivers are terraced for vineyards. Because they are steep, manual labour is used to tend the grapes. The many vineyards produce approximately 1.2 billion bottles of mainly white wine. Apple orchards abound in the Saar and Moselle River valleys, and the Vierzstrasse can be bicycled or walked linking cider-making villages. Cider and apfelwein (apple wine) are only available in the Frankfurt and Hesse area in the fall and can be purchased for less than 1 euro (\$1.50 Canadian) in the grocery stores. Heller is produced when apple wine ferments longer and is served after Christmas. The wine was developed in the sixteenth century when a disease wiped out the vineyards.

On a bus trip to visit the salt lake at Seeburger (near Gottingen), I saw a free-range farm with hens and geese with moveable pens. Eggs were available at the farm gate similar to here in Ontario. There is a huge movement in Germany for organic produce, and Germans spend about 5.8 billion euros per year on organic food. In 2008, Germany spent 121 million euros of public money on organic farming. 4.5% of the farms do not use chemicals.

Twenty-five percent of Germany is well-managed woodlands, but the country is experiencing loss of forest due to acid rain. Germany has fallen behind the rest of the EU since the unification with East Germany in environmental issues. Powerful interest groups have made it difficult to pass legislation to regulate

farming practices and pollution controls. The present government is trying to change over from coal and nuclear power plants to wind. By June 2010, Germany had 26 387 windmills generating 7% of the net electricity consumed. Many of these windmills can be seen from the train between Lubeck and Berlin and Berlin and Kassel.



Windmills near Kassel

Winter canola is often planted in the fall and harvested in July. This year there was a 10% lower yield due to the weather. Canola is used primarily for biodiesel fuel not food. This field in the photo at Eppelheim near Heidelberg will have to be harvested this autumn, as it was in full bloom in mid October.



Canola crop on outskirts of Eppelheim near Heidelberg

Germany is appropriately the same size as Newfoundland & Labrador. Only 37% of the country is arable with 17% in meadows and pasture. Only 2% of Germans are involved in agriculture, but production has increased dramatically in the last 20 years.

German agriculture is heavily subsidized by the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the German government.

(Observations are the authors, but statistics were taken from Germany government information on the Internet.)

Update on Bedstraw Control

by Graham Gambles, RCC

At the November 18/10 Annual Meeting of the Temiskaming Crop Coalition, Dan Tasse of OMAFRA spoke on the progress that has been made on the chemical control tests for "Bedstraw". This project has been funded by the OSCIA as a regional NEOSCIA project. 2010 was the second year in a 3 season study at the Temiskaming location. (Algoma initiated their portion of the project in 2010.) This was a significant stop on the summer bus tour of the District.

It is clear that visual control appears good in the second year after spraying with Milestone. Even the half-rate application produced a clean growth of grasses, including brome, timothy, and quack. Virtually all broadleaf species (bedstraw and other weeds, plus clovers, alfalfa and trefoil) were eliminated. This was in vivid contrast to the bedstraw over-run control plots and even the plots that combined Milestone with 2,4D.

Another (cheaper) chemical, "Trophy" was tested this year with disappointing results. Applied at 180g/L fluroxypyr at .24L/ac, the cost was \$10/ac. However, the Bedstraw control did not exist, (in comparison to Milestone) so there was no economic benefit in real terms.

At the end of September, the entire site was once again trimmed to lawn height. Next year each plot will receive a 1 meter square plant count to determine the percentage of various plant species in the third and final year of this trial. Beyond that point, only casual observations of bedstraw re-infestation will be taken annually, until the time that the site is plowed down.

Soybean Plots at Kermac Farms

Sean Mackey and Kerry Schubert of Temiskaming tested seed spacing of soy variety DKC 25-04 this year. It was planted May 13 into a 2009 wheat field, and harvested on October 10 (149 days) at 13% moisture. The land had been conventionally tilled then rolled before seeding. Treatment was CruiserMax. Herbicide was 1L/ac Round-up and Classic, with 1L/ac of 6% manganese in this mix.

The 7 inch rows yielded 54.1 Bu/ac, while the 15 inch rows gave 53.5 Bu/ac.

88th Royal Agricultural Winter Fair Nov. 5-14, 2010

By Sharon Lane, Regional Correspondent to "Breaking Ground"

FedNor sponsored over 40 agricultural and equine businesses and organizations in Northern Ontario with a \$364 950 grant. Rainy River Cereals from Fort Francis in the northwest, Savour Muskoka in the south, Thornloe Cheese in the northeast, Purvis' Fisheries from Manitoulin and many businesses and organizations in between had booths.

The Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, David Onley, opened the 88th Royal Agricultural Winter Fair Nov. 5 and toured the Northern Ontario section.



Guy Paquette, FedNor officer; Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, David Onley; Gayle McPherson, Royal Board of Directors

The Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Industry and FedNor, cut the ribbon officially opening the Northern Ontario section as well as a special ribbon of hand-woven Northern Ontario tartan, provided by Belle Vallee Wools' owner David Wight.



Guy Paquette, FedNor officer; Bob Jadavi, Royal CEO; Aime Dimatteo, FedNor Director General; Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Industry about to cut the Northern Ontario tartan; Gayle McPherson & Michael Belcourt, Royal Board of Directors

Belle Vallee Wools is the only fully integrated operation of its kind in Canada. The Wight family have raised sheep and pro-

duced wool since 1856. They make wool yarns and blankets.



David Wight of Belle Vallee Wools with a customer

Northern Ontario Agri-Food Education and Marketing had three booths at the Royal. Agricultural Technology Demonstration booth showed the robotic system for milking with a live feed from the Mooney Farm in Massey as well as visits from Oprah, OFAC's robotic spokesperson for agriculture. Oprah asked the children questions concerning agriculture. Northern Maple was a regular stop for school classes. Boreal Harvest booth promoted and provided information on rural life in Northern Ontario and assured people that "yes" we can grow potatoes and garlic in Northern Ontario. Ken Lane, a director of NOAFEM, explained worm composting. The third booth for NOAFEM had members' products for sale. These included honey, maple syrup, jams, jellies, pickles, wool and woollen items, rugs, walking sticks, garlic and many more products from the North.



Aime Dimatteo, FedNor Director General & Sharon Lane, Director of NOAFEM in front of NOAFEM's booth

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88th Royal Agricultural Winter Fair

Continued from page 20

One Northerner who stopped to visit was Ron Cook of St Charles and Holland Landing. Ron was a NOAFEM member and visited Sudbury area schools presenting Horticulture in the Classroom program. He was showing his granddaughter, Shyanne Ross, around the RAWF.



Ron Cook & his granddaughter, Shyanne Ross, with Pat Marcotte, NOAFEM, coordinator of the Boreal Harvest booth

Approximately 350 000 people, Canadians and visitors from as far away as China, came to the Royal this year. It opened at 9 a.m. and except for the first Sunday closed at 9 each evening. Booths included entrepreneurs who had samples to taste, city, provincial and federal governments and schools with information, cooking demonstration with samples, food vendors and agricultural and horticultural displays. Then there was the "agricultural fair" aspect. The animals and home crafts that are judged, the competitions that are held, the bids made at auctions for prize animals and embryos and the dog and horse shows to watch. City people got a chance to see and pet animals from the farm and interacted with all things rural. For those of us from the farm and the North, we got to see the best that both the city and the farm can produce.



Brown Swiss Cow in the Ring of Excellence



Oprah spokesperson for agriculture in Northern Ontario area



Children playing in Ontario grown canola seed grown canola seed

Grain Farmers of Ontario

Annual Meeting

Wed., January 05, 9:30 a.m.

Kerns Hall (Temiskaming)

Speakers:

Rob McLoughlin, Brian Hall, Luc Bourgeois, Dana Omland

Proposal: NEOSCIA BusTour to Lac St. Jean in 2012

By *Graham Gambles, NEOSCIA Regional Communication Coordinator*

Over the last decade (and more), I have made numerous trips across the Province of Quebec. Many of these travels led me through the Saguenay region that surrounds Lac St. Jean. What caught my eye was the outstanding similarities between the agricultural industry in this area to the situation that we experience here in northern Ontario.

The district is centered on the 48th parallel, the same latitude as Englehart. South of this line is a vibrant dairy and crop production area that includes Canola and corn. As you travel North, expect to see more beef farms and small grain operations. The east side of the lake is noted for its blueberry production as well as the regional potato farms.

The main difference is the extensive development of on-farm (higher value) marketing opportunities, the likes of which OMAFRA is now promoting in their "Quest for New Farm Value" workshop series. The Saguenay area has developed an agricultural tour of over 50 locations

around the Lake. Here we find that on-farm entrepreneurs have expanded the core agricultural business to meet the needs of the urban population, while increasing the profitability of their own farm. Enterprises range from the traditional riding stables and fruit growers to massive flower gardens, cheese and chocolate makers, eco-tourism and micro-breweries.

Agricultural research figures prominently in Normandin, located in the north end of the region. Here, an Agriculture Canada research and experimental station examines the future of agronomy in this northern climate. Seed and chemical companies also run trials in the 300 year old agricultural district.

There are some obvious challenges to this proposed bus tour. The first is the distance that must be traveled, and the time required to undertake such an adventure. In all likely-hood, the coach bus would be boarded at a location in Temiskaming and proceed north to Rouyn-Noranda. We

would then head East to Chibougamau, where we would stay the night. This drive will take about 12 hours. The following morning we would head south to the Normandin research station, arriving before noon. From this point we would tour specific farms and businesses located around the Lake. We would be in the farm district for 2, possibly 3 days, before retracing our route back to Ontario. The whole event will take at least 4, and more likely 5 days in late July of 2012.

The second limitation is language. About 95% of the population is unilingual French speaking, so a great effort must be made to develop links to the bilingual members of the farm community. The region does host visitors from around the world, so with time, we should be able to develop a great tour for both our English and French speaking farm operators.

More details, pictures and maps will be available at the April 8&9 Earlton Farm Show. Stop by the NEOSCIA booth and pre-register for this great event!

TCC Summer Bus Tour

Well over 100 people attended this mid-July evening event that was highlighted by a supper provided by Koch Farms of Earlton. This year, the area between Earlton and the Quebec border was traversed in this 6-stop tour. There was lots to talk about!

First stop was Kevin Runnalls field of white beans. He had planted the "Lightening" variety at 50#/ac in 15 inch rows on May 24. Sprayed with Reflex and Assure on June 19. This crop was directly compared to a soybean field planted May 18.

Terry Phillips Winter Wheat field was examined next. Hard Red varieties "Harvard" and "Princeton" had been seeded Sept. 21 of 2009, with a starter fertilizer of 100#/ac.6-30-30. In the spring, (Apr.13) they received 220 #/ac of 80-0-0, then sprayed with Refine SG and Ag Surf on May 20. As American experimental work shows a return on Sulphur application for wheat, Urea and Ammonium sulphate was used. The only problem that he observed was an issue with getting rid of green canola straw, as the site had been planted to Liberty canola in the previous year.

Darren Gray was proud to show off his field of alfalfa (Quality Seeds Guardsman-2) that was truly one of the best in the area. The branching roots of this variety worked well in the heavy wet clay of this field.

The Bedstraw test plots were observed next, and are described elsewhere in this bulletin.

Ben Schapelhouman of Grant Farms showed a demonstration of DST Canola plots that were planted May 22. Plots 1 through 8 received 65# Urea and 53# ammonium sulphate with 18 #/ac potash, all banded below the seed with the drill. This gave all 8 plots a nutrient level of 112#/ac.N; 31#/ac.P; 111#/ac.K with 13#/ac.S. A ninth plot received double the rates of urea/ammonium sulphate and potash to test for the "safe" rates. Average population counts on the first 8 plots were 8-9 plants/square foot, but that density dropped to 6 plants/square foot on plot #9. All plots were sprayed with Liberty, select and Proline at appropriate timing.

The final site, located at the Quebec border, was the "observation plots" of Synagri (Ferme Denis & Alain Touzin) that had been seeded on May 10. Here we compared the growth of wheat (Megantic, Orleans, and Major), barley (Oceanik, Synabelle, and Synasolis), oats (CDC Dancer & Synextra), as well as alfalfa (Gaia and Stella) and a forage mixture. Fertilizer on the plots was 175 #/ac. triple 14, plus .29 B. 10.6% with MES (Phos/Synagri). On June 26, the cereal had been sprayed with Puma+Refine SG + crop booster.

A great time was had by all, and a special thank you was delivered to NEOSCIA (FedNor) intern Kelly Bird on the last event of her stay in the North.



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American Students Visit the RAWF

(Toronto) Students from Nonnewaug High School, Woodbridge, CT, travelled 14 hours to the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

The students stopped at NOAFEM's *Agricultural Technology Demonstration* booth to see Northern Maple. Sharon Lane, a director of NOAFEM asked if they had milked a cow before. Sharon learned that the students have a unique program at their high school entitled **Ellis Clark Agro-Science Program**, which offers courses in agro-science, agro-production, veterinary science, horticulture, agro-mechanics, landscaping, conservation and horse management. This program prepares them for careers in the agricultural and horticultural fields. They can get up to two year's credit from their college or university time by graduating from this special program.

Wouldn't it be great if our government encouraged students to pursue careers in agriculture?



*Noonnewaug Students at RAWF
Amy Barone, Melissa Gyba, Jessica Goggia*

OPRAH attends National Science Week!

(Sudbury) OPRAH, the Ontario Farm Animal Council's animal care specialist attended National Science and Technology Week at Science North in October. OPRAH is a robotic puppet that interacts with people, especially children. Prior to the event at Science North, OPRAH visited students at MacLeod Public School.

As part of the NOAFEM exhibit, OPRAH was popular with visitors of all ages and quickly became the unofficial greeter for Science North, welcoming everyone who came through the door. Exhibitors at this event included

Great Lakes Forestry Service – Fire and Insect Labs, Northern Ontario Aquaculture Assoc. SNOLAB, rethink Green Sudbury and NORCAT.

NOAFEM exhibits included Northern MAPLE and a unique link to the barn cameras on JONELLA Dairy Farm in Massey where the cows are milked using a robotic milking system.

Thanks to Jean Marc Lalonde, Science North, Mack and Beth Emiry, Neil Tarlton, Alana McEarchen and Valerie Michaud for their awesome help with this project. Special thanks to the Mooney family for allowing us to visit their farm via the internet! This exhibit will be repeated at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in November.



*OPRAH meets one of the Mars Landing Rovers,
part of a mining in space presentation.*

“Living in the Country”

**April 8 & 9, 2011
Upstairs at the Earlton Farm Show**

Join us for the first annual trade show geared to the small acreage landowner and backyard farmer! There will be vendors of seeds, garden and small farm tools, workshops on topics like canning, beekeeping, chainsaw safety and small flock poultry. Also, info on farm internship programs, future skill training opportunities, and farming/garden books.

Presented by NOAFEM, FarmON and NEOSCIA
Want to be a vendor or offer a workshop?
Call Amy: 705-521-6717

Geospatial Agricultural Research Project Update



Announcement of NOHFC Funding on October 1, 2010

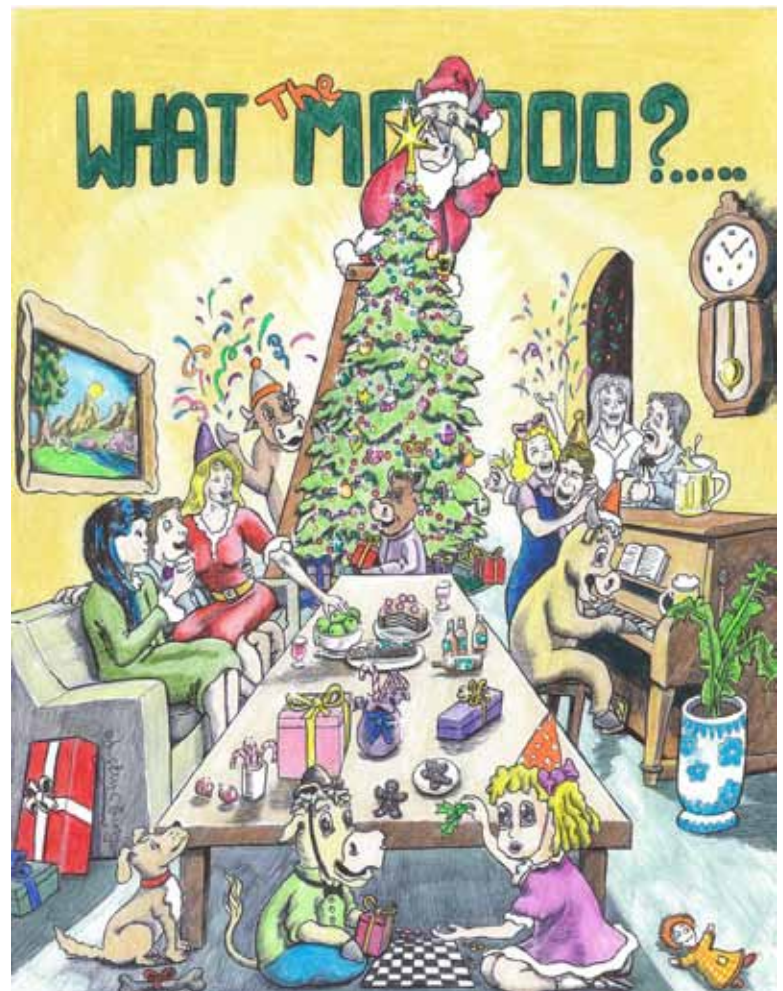
Photo from left to right: April James, Chris Dobson, Sean O'Hagan, MPP Monique Smith, Dan Walters, Mark Wachowiak, John Kovacs, Graham Gambles.



Researchers in Nipissing University's Geography and Computer Science and Mathematics departments in partnership with the NEOSCIA, OMAFRA, Agriculture and Agri-foods Canada, University of Guelph, and others are developing a web-based geospatial decision support tool that integrates real-time field measurements, such as soil moisture and air temperature, with satellite imagery and other relevant spatial data. The goal is to enhance the competitiveness and profitability of agriculture by creating opportunities for information and knowledge sharing, and by integrating new and existing technologies to generate knowledge.

Faculty and students from the Geography and Computer Science and Mathematics departments have made significant progress on the development of the web-based visualization tool. Several prototypes of the system were recently demonstrated at the Temiskaming Crops Coalition and West Nipissing District Annual Meetings. We thank those in attendance for their valuable feedback. We installed an additional weather station on Leisure Farms in the Sturgeon Falls region. You can now access all three weather stations through Nipissing University's website (www.nipissingu.ca/weather/). Several satellite images (SPOT-5 and WorldView-2) were acquired for the Verner and Temiskaming regions. The images are useful for detecting variation within fields. We also want to thank Steven Roberge for allowing us to use his canola fields this past summer. This project is made possible thanks to funding from NOHFC, Nipissing University, Co-operative Regional Nipissing-Sudbury Ltd, Temiskaming Crops Coalition, Koch Farms, and Brownlee Equipment.

We will be organizing workshops in Verner and Temiskaming Shores in February or March 2011 to receive input on the web interface design and function, and additional sights for weather stations and field monitoring.



This month's artwork comes from Justin Burry of Englehart. View more of his work at <http://justin-burry.tripod.com>