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2010 ONTARIO FORAGE MASTERS PROGRAM

for OSCIA MEMBERS

The details for the 2010 Ontario Forage Masters are as follows:

The Ontario Forage Masters is designed to:

- ⇒ identify forage producers with winning management practices from among **members of local Soil and Crop Improvement Associations**, and
- ⇒ recognize outstanding forage producers and promote excellence in the growing, harvesting, and storage of forages.

Ontario Forage Masters Sponsors:

- ⇒ The 2010 Ontario Forage Masters is being generously sponsored by Pickseed Canada Inc., and Agri-Food Laboratories, in cooperation with the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA).

LOCAL PROGRAMS

- Will be sponsored by a local Soil and Crop Improvement Association(s) which will have registered in the program by ***April 16, 2010***, by sending registration forms to OSCIA, 1 Stone Road West, Guelph, Ontario, N1G 4Y2.

- Will meet criteria established by the provincial organization for the local members to be eligible for entry.
- Will have a minimum of five and a maximum of fifteen grower participants.
- **All participants will be members of local Soil and Crop Improvement Association(s).**
- OSCIA will forward Ontario Forage Master Guidelines and Scorecard to each participant following receipt of entry information.
- Pickseed Canada, Agri-Food Laboratories, and OSCIA encourage more SCIA associations to participate in this excellent program.
- Previous first place local association winners are eligible to participate.
- Dealers or employees of the sponsors are not eligible to participate in this program.
- Each participant in the local/area program will:
 - enter a field with a minimum of 10 acres of legume based mixture;
 - choose to enter either the hay or the haylage program but not both;
 - provide, on the day of judging, a soil test report taken within the last three years on the entire field;
 - provide certified seed tag of recommended variety or know the variety planted in the field being judged;
 - make available, on day of judging, hay or haylage for sampling and scoring.
- **Registration** – contact your [local SCIA secretary](#) to register. Look on the OSCIA website www.ontariosoilcrop.org - Structure – Local Associations for their name and number.

PRIZES – HERE’S WHAT PARTICIPANTS CAN WIN

Prizes for 2010 provided by the sponsors to the top three winners in each participating local association are as follows:

Pickseed Canada Inc.

- 1st prize - 1 x 25kg bag of Pickseed Premium Forage Seed & Pickseed gloves
- 2nd prize - \$150 gift certificate toward purchase of Pickseed Seed & Pickseed gloves
- 3rd prize - \$50 gift certificate toward purchase of Pickseed Seed & Pickseed touque

Agri-Food Laboratories

- 1st prize only - \$75 certificate for analysis redeemable through Agri-Food Laboratories

4-H MEMBER PARTICIPATION

- The sponsors encourage 4-H members to enter their name in the 2010 Ontario Forage Masters Program.
- A 4-H member is entered along with other Soil and Crop entrants.
- **The 4-H member must be part of a family or farm who are members of their local Soil and Crop Improvement Association. This would be the only entry from that farm.**
- The 4-H members are eligible for the prizes listed as well as a special award for 4-H members.
- 4-H members must indicate on the entry form that they are a 4-H member.
- More than one 4-H member working on and entering the same field will be entered as a team (one entry).

LOCAL FORAGE MASTER JUDGING CRITERIA

FIELD INSPECTION

- The entry is judged and field inspected by a local team of judges, one to two weeks prior to second cutting, using a score card point system.
- **Participants should notify the local contact person prior to second cutting if not already contacted by judges.**

STORED FEED JUDGING AND SAMPLING

- The local team will also inspect the first cutting in storage as hay or haylage.

A) Hay - Harvest and Storage Score Card

1. A sample of the stored forage must be taken for analysis to complete the Feed Value Score Card. All samples for the Ontario Forage Masters must be clearly marked and submitted in the kits provided.
2. Participants should have five square bales or two large round bales available for the judges to score the hay quality and take feed samples.

B) Haylage Management Score Card

- 1(a). Sample for Analysis - A representative sample is collected on the day of harvest from the forage box, placed in a plastic freezer bag (eg. Glad freezer bag, 10.5" x 11"), placed and stored in a freezer for presentation to the judge(s) on judging day. This sample is forwarded for analysis.
- 1(b). The following is the procedure for forwarding samples to Agri-Food Laboratories:
 - If the sample is taken after a 24 hour field wilt, it can be frozen.
 - If the sample is taken directly at cutting, then the sample should be air dried for 24 hours before it is frozen.
2. Sample for Storage - A representative sample will also be taken from the silo for judging the Haylage Management part of the program. This may or may not be from the field entered in the program. This sample should indicate the

haylage storage management.

C) Feed Value

The feed samples taken by the judges will be analyzed for crude protein, NDFD, and NDF, with equal weighting to determine the feed value score.

D) Score Card

- The participant with the highest point score will be declared the local winner.
- The local winners will be announced in early August or as soon as results are received.
- The score card is divided into three stages as follows:

	<u>Points</u>	
Stage I	Agronomic Factors Score Card	100
Stage II	Hay-Harvest & Storage Score Card OR Haylage Management Score Card	100
Stage III	Feed Quality Score Card (includes Crude Protein, NDFD and NDF)	100

To determine the total point score the "Judging Criteria" are weighted as follows:

		<u>Weighting %</u>
Stage I	Agronomic Factors Score Card	50
Stage II	Hay-Harvest & Storage/Haylage Management Score Card	25
Stage III	Feed Quality Score Card	<u>25</u>
	Final Point Score	100

LOCAL JUDGING TEAM

- Each participating local SCIA group selects a judging team of at least two persons.
- The local judging team consists of persons knowledgeable and competent in forage production and storage practices, and might include prominent growers, OSCIA members, Pickseed Canada representatives, or an OMAFRA staff member.
- **Names of judges and local contact person are entered on the registration form.** This allows communication directly with judges and local associations.
- Following the on-farm judging, the judges score card sheets are forwarded in the envelope provided immediately to:

Paul Wight
Pickseed Canada Inc.
21 Alexander Street, Box 467
Burford ON N0E 1A0
Telephone: 519-449-2213
Fax: 519-449-3071

- Following the on-farm judging, the stored feed samples are forwarded immediately, using only the kits provided, to:

Ron Piett

Agri-Food Laboratories
Unit 1, 503 Imperial Road
Guelph, Ontario N1H 6T9 (519) 837-1600

IMPORTANT: All analysis must be completed by Agri-Food Laboratories in order to maintain consistent analysis. Analysis completed by any other lab are not accepted.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>It's important that the stored feed samples be sent immediately after judging to the above address so that the analysis can be completed on time to reduce deterioration of frozen haylage samples.</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>If the sample is taken after a 24 hour field wilt, it can be frozen.</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>If the sample is taken directly at cutting, then the sample should be air dried for 24 hours before it is frozen.</i> |

- OSCIA will forward the names of winners to all participants, local contact persons, judges, and OMAFRA Agriculture Development Contacts. OSCIA will also forward the individual scores to the local contact persons – participants will be advised to call their local contact person to obtain their scores.

SPONSOR ASSISTANCE

- Pickseed Canada is interested in assisting with the program with the participating local associations.
- Pickseed Canada provides a listing of areas and representatives to work with local associations.
- Sponsors are not be able to provide a representative for all associations in the province.
- It is suggested that the local association secretary-treasurer or contact person approach the Pickseed Canada representatives to discuss the program.
- OSCIA provides the name of each county secretary-treasurer to the Pickseed Canada representatives.

LOCAL ASSOCIATION RESPONSIBILITIES

- Promote the "*Ontario Forage Masters Program*" to local association members.
- Encourage farmers to participate.
- Identify a local contact person to coordinate the details for the program.

CONTACT PERSONS' RESPONSIBILITIES

- Approach **local Soil and Crop members** to participate.

- Coordinate the judging team for the inspection of farm fields and the taking of feed samples.
- Forward completed registration forms to OSCIA, 1 Stone Road West, Guelph, Ontario, N1G 4Y2, no later than ***April 16, 2010***.
- Promote forages through the local winners and news items about the program and the winners.
- Keep samples in good shape.
- **Forward the completed judges score sheets to Paul Wight, Pickseed Canada Inc., 21 Alexander Street, Box 467, Burford ON N0E 1A0.**
- **Forward (in the boxes, with ice packs, provided) the stored feed samples to Ron Piett, Agri-Food Laboratories, Unit 1, 503 Imperial Rd., Guelph, ON, N1H 6T9.**
- Forward the samples to the lab as quickly as possible (e.g. via courier) after they are taken to minimize deterioration. Freezing the samples and packing them well before shipment will help ensure they arrive in good condition.
- Follow up with judges to ensure score cards and samples are forwarded (as above) in a timely manner.
- Provide scores to individual participants of their local program.
- Invite local Pickseed Canada representatives to annual meetings or local award programs to recognize sponsors and assist with awarding prizes to the winner.

FORAGE MASTERS FINAL

- The Forage Master winners are selected based on the agronomic score card. The highest scores will be used to declare the winners in each participating association.
- The local association is to select a suitable function to present the Forage Master awards from sponsors.
- The sponsors will provide suitable awards in the form of product or service to the first, second, and third placing entries as indicated in the section *PRIZES – HERE’S WHAT PARTICIPANTS CAN WIN* shown on page 2.

PROVINCIAL COMPETITION

The final provincial competition is held to determine the “Ontario Forage Master”. To be eligible, the entrant must be the first-place winner in their local SCIA.

Details for the final competition (guidelines, prize package) will be posted at a later date on the OSCIA website www.ontariosoilcrop.org.

WHY PARTICIPATE?

This is an excellent program for **Soil and Crop members** to be recognized for growing and storing superior forages as well as raising the profile of forages to Ontario agriculture.

In 2009, twenty-four associations were represented with 166 participants. Be sure to count yourself in this worthwhile program in 2010.

ONE LEVEL REGISTRATION

Complete entrant list, selection of judges and contact persons for the 2010 Ontario Forage Masters are to be forwarded by the local association to OSCIA in Guelph by **no later than APRIL 16, 2010**.

COUNT YOUR ASSOCIATION IN!