



THAMES VALLEY REGIONAL SOIL & CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Oxford

Middlesex

Elgin

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COMING EVENTS....

MARCH

- 18 Grow Your Farm Profits Workshop Woodstock
- 19 Grow Your Farm Profits Workshop St Thomas
- 23 EFP Workshop St Thomas
- 24 Oxford SCIA Spring Meeting *See page 4*
- 31 Oxford CFA Agricultural Awards of Excellence
see page 87

- 31 EFP Workshop Strathroy
- 31 GHG Calculator (HOLOS) Testing Workshop
....page 13 - Volunteers needed!!

APRIL

- 1-3 Ontario Forage Council Profitable Pastures 2009
 - April 1st in Elmwood Community Centre
 - April 2nd at the Stirling Lions Hall
 - April 3rd at Drumbo Agricultural Hall *see page 8**Please note Drumbo date has been changed from March 31*

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!

We are currently looking for co-operators for the many field trials each county and the region will be running this year. Contact your local director or secretary for more details.

Brought to you in part by
OMAFRA Resource Staff – Woodstock
Your local Soil & Crop Associations
OMAFRA Field Staff
Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association



Hyland Seeds
Agraturf Equipment Ltd



2008 Oxford Feed Fair ~ some of our winners clockwise from top left Paul Stuart, John Mackay, Jan Veldhuizen, Rob Fallowfield, Jane Howard, Bernie Pynenburg, with presenter Adam Garfat.

MESSAGE FROM OUR PROVINCIAL DIRECTOR

Hi, I am the new director of OSCIA representing Thames Valley - the counties of Oxford, Elgin and Middlesex. I have been to all 3 Annual Meetings and have been impressed by the quality of speakers and the enthusiasm of the membership. The Thames Valley Project for 3 years is Fungicides on Corn. All 3 counties have also submitted Major Grant applications on some excellent projects. Hopefully some get approved. All counties are also doing some interesting trials on their own. Don't be afraid to volunteer for some of these. A major strength of this organization is the amount of research that gets done on the farm that benefits all farmers. Don't forget to sign up for some workshops on EFP and Growing Your Farm Profits. These are excellent programs that offer both good education and funding possibilities. I look forward to serving this organization in the future and wish everyone a good cropping season. Gord Green

Note: Gord, along with his wife, Laura, and son, Dave run a successful a dairy & cash crop farm in the Embro area of Oxford County. Gord is a former Oxford SCIA director and president. We look forward to working with Gord!

MIDWEST COVER CROPS COUNCIL

The Midwest Cover Crops Council is dedicated to improving and increasing the use of cover crops in and around the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basins. Many of our local OMAFRA staff and OSCIA members are very involved in this, and some of our Thames Valley members have presented their successes and challenges at the council meetings. The Council's website is featured below for a quick view of what information is available www.mccc.msu.edu

Midwest Cover Crops Council

Illinois Indiana Iowa Michigan Minnesota North Dakota Ohio Wisconsin Ontario

WELCOME TO THE MIDWEST COVER CROPS COUNCIL WEBSITE

The goal of the *Midwest Cover Crops Council* (MCCC) is to facilitate widespread adoption of cover crops throughout the Midwest, to improve ecological, economic, and social sustainability.

WHO WE ARE?

The MCCC is a diverse group from academia, production agriculture, non-governmental organizations, commodity interests, private sector, and representatives from federal and state agencies collaborating to address soil, water, air, and agricultural quality concerns in the Great Lakes and Mississippi river basins (including Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Manitoba, Ontario, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and North Dakota).

WHY COVER CROPS?

Cover crops are an effective tool to reduce soil erosion and increase nutrient recycling on farmlands, thereby also decreasing the soil and nutrient loads entering lakes and waterways. Cover crops can have numerous other benefits including improvement of soil quality, pest management, fertility management, water availability, landscape diversification, and wildlife habitat.

Cover crops survey...coming soon

NEWS

Presentations, posters, and photos from the 2009 MCCC meeting will be posted as they become available

February 25-29, 2009
Conservation Tillage & Technology Conference w/ Cover Crops Pre-conference
Ohio Northern University

The MCCC Site search is now working...see bottom right of any page

View the MCCC plans for the Cover Crop Selector Tool from the 2008 ASA Posters.

Home
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Mission and vision
Supporters
MCCC meetings
Cover Crop Resources
Cover crop species
Cover crops selector survey...coming soon
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THAMES VALLEY REGIONAL PARTNER PROJECTS....PLANS FOR 2009-2011

We have applied for two regional projects for the next three years: assessing fungicide application on specific corn hybrids, and studying "SMART Wheat" (ask Peter!) If interested, please contact your local directors or secretary.

ONTARIO FORAGE MASTERS COMPETITION 2009

Details for the 2009 Forage Masters Competition have been announced, with a registration deadline of April 17/09. The program is designed to identify forage producers with winning management practices among OSCIA members and 4-H members. Sponsors for this year include Pickseed Canada, Agri-food Laboratories, and the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in cooperation with OSCIA. Contact your local secretary to enter!



Middlesex News

Headline on Corn Trials 2008

The use of fungicides on corn has increased dramatically over the past 2 years. Their ability to control leaf diseases (anthracnose, grey leaf spot, rust, northern corn leaf blight) and other plant health benefits have caused substantial yield increases in some cases. This project was designed to compare a "responsive" (Dekalb 50-20) variety to "unresponsive" ones (one of P37F74, P37Y17, PrideA6686Bt, and Hyland B282). Dekalb 50-20 was used as a check variety to see if soil type, weather or other factors played a role if a fungicide was worth while or not. Both varieties were sprayed with Headline (160 ml/ac) after silking with a ground application rig. Untreated checks and sprayed plots were measured for leaf diseases in late August and yields taken at harvest.

Co-operator	Variety	With Headline			Without Headline		
		Disease Severity (%infection)	Yield (bu/ac)	Moisture (%)	Disease Severity (%infection)	Yield (bu/ac)	Moisture (%)
Dave Siddal	Dk 50-20	8	228	19.2	11	218	18.8
	P37Y14	5	200	19.6	8	204	19.0
Cuddy Farms	Dk 50-18	15	191	23.3	13	184	22.7
	P37F74	16	190	23.8	16	184	23.4
Aerts Bros	Dk 50-20	20	206	21.3	23	191	20.4
	P37Y14	14	208	21.2	17	202	20.6
Roy Bloomfield	Dk 50-18	11	170	22.4	14	155	22.7
	P37Y17	13	165	21.0	15	167	22.3
Jim Rock	Dk 50-20	7	218	23.0	8	208	22.1
	NK 46Q	6	219	26.5	10	214	24.6
Jim Reith	Dk 50-18	15	198	21.3	19	200	20.2
	P37Y17	11	195	21.4	14	193	20.8
Charlie Bolton	Dk 50-20	n/a	252	20.4	n/a	254	19.5
	Dk 48-78	n/a	219	19.4	n/a	215	18.5

Results On average, the Headline increased 50-20, 50-18 yield by 7.4 bu/ac, increased moisture .6%, and decreased leaf disease by 2%. On average, the Headline on the other varieties increased yield by 2.3 bu/ac, increased moisture by .5% and decreased leaf disease by 2%.

The disease ratings and its effect did not seem to correlate to a change in yield. The different varieties seemed to respond differently to fungicide treatment. Due to the fact that our protocol was late getting out and an early spring planting, we had to stretch our varieties to include isolines of the intended varieties, and some that were not planned on to get enough numbers. Hopefully, we still get the early spring planting this year, but I will get things organized sooner.

Thanks to all the co-operators, Twilight Acre Farms for spraying the plots, BASF, Greg Stewart, and Peter Johnson. Anyone interested in being a co-operator this year, contact me at 519-666-0811 ~ Mathew Aerts

Middlesex EFP Workshop

Strathroy

Day 1 March 31 10 am -3 pm

Day 2 April 7 10 am -3 pm

Lunch at Cost

Contact Margaret May to register 287-5334

middlesex@ontariosoilcrop.org



Elgin EFP Workshop

St Thomas

Day 1 March 23 10 am -3 pm

Day 2 March 30 10 am -3 pm

Contact Margaret May to register 287-5334

elgin@ontariosoilcrop.org



OXFORD ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

Tuesday March 24th @ 7:30 p.m.

Dey's Farm Equipment, Tillsonburg

185022 Cornell Rd, just east of Cty Rd 13

Featuring...

Lisa Dirksen, Cargill Agronomist *The Value of Planning*

Peter Johnson, OMAFRA Cereal Specialist *Your Questions Answered*

Jake Dey, Dey's Farm Equipment

Visit the equipment line up and enjoy refreshments courtesy of Dey's

Thanks to all our Sponsors and Exhibitors who continually and generously support the association. We had a very successful annual meeting, feeding 133 people. Special Thanks to Cropplan Genetics, Bayer Cropscience and Oxford AgroPro for sponsoring our feature speaker, Barry Wilson.

Feed Fair Results

Category	1 st Place	Sponsor	Prize	2 nd Place
1st Cut Hay:	Alan Dale	Pro-Rich Seeds	\$100 voucher towards alfalfa seed	Steve Witmer
2nd Cut Hay:	Kevin Boakes	Cargill Princeton	Bag of Alfalfa seed	George Van Dorp
Haylage:	Mark Kirwin	Quality Seeds	Bag of Alfalfa seed	Paul Shulman
Baled Haylage:	Dave Topham	Circle G Farms	Roll of Silage Plastic	Rob Fallowfield
Corn Silage:	John Mackay	Pioneer Hi-Bred	Bag of Corn Seed	Janeric Farms
HM Shelled Corn:	Paul Stuart	Syngenta	Coat	Jeremy Van Dorp
HM Processed Corn	Rob Fallowfield	Morrow's of Drumbo	\$50 voucher	Veldale Farms
Dry Corn:	Bernie Pynenburg	FS Partners Norwich	10 acres Custom Application	Kevin Boakes
Overall Winner-	Kevin Boakes	<i>highest points in 5 categories</i>	Hyland Seeds	2 bags corn seed

all 2nd Place Winners received a \$25 Gift Card donated in part by TSC Stores

Thanks to Rod Blonde of Stratford Agri Analysis for his invaluable assistance with the feed fair every year – the extra hands are greatly appreciated. Rod also takes samples from each entry in the haylage class and sends them away for analysis, providing the results to the participants free of charge. Below are the summarized results from those samples for the top ten entries in the class as judged by the volunteer judges during the annual meeting.

<i>Ranking at feed fair</i>	<i>Crude Protein</i>	<i>ADF</i>	<i>NDF</i>	<i>Crude Protein Digestibility</i>	<i>Relative Feed Value</i>
1 st	19.6	37	45.9	66	122
2 nd	21.7	36.4	44.5	68	127
3 rd	19.3	38.8	48.0	65	114
4 th	22.3	33.1	41.9	68	140
5 th	19.1	37.7	47.1	67	118
6 th	22.1	26.9	38.8	69	163
7 th	20.1	40.4	47.8	63	112
8 th	17.6	36.4	51.3	66	110
9 th	19.3	34.7	42.7	67	135
10 th	23.9	28.8	38.1	70	163

Results from the Forage Masters Competition 2008

1st Place Oostview Farms, Lakeside receiving 25kg bag of Pickseed Premium Forage Seed, Pickseed gloves, \$75 certificate for analysis through AgriFood Laboratories

2nd place Steve Vandendool, Woodstock receiving \$150 gift certificate towards Pickseed Seed, Pickseed gloves

3rd place Joe Wilson, Ingersoll receiving \$50 gift certificate towards Pickseed Seed, Pickseed hat

First place winners are invited to compete at the final provincial competition in conjunction with the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, to select an overall Ontario winner. This winner represents Ontario at the Forage Spokesperson Competition held as part of the American Forage and Grasslands Council conference scheduled for June 21-23, 2009, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Justin Dorland of Northumberland County is the 2008 Provincial Forage Master.

We would also like to thank all the co-operators who took the time to participate in the various field trials in the county last year. Projects in the works for 2009 include:

Oxford major grant and fertilizer BMP grant projects - assessing starter fertilizer rates in high fertility soils

Oxford corn variety trials - assessing new seed corn varieties

Thames Valley regional project grants - assessing fungicide use in corn for health and yield benefits
- SMART Wheat

If you are interested in doing a plot with us this year, please contact Arnold Haskett @ 463-9823.

OXFORD JR FARMERS

The Oxford Jr Farmers meets at 8:30 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the Woodstock OMAFRA Office.

New members are always welcome.

For more information, contact

Brad Ward @ 519-462-1537

or email golfclubs04@hotmail.com

next meeting April 14 8:30 pm @ OMAFRA
Social to follow at Kelsey's

2009 Oxford S.C.I.A. Executive & Directors

	Name	Address	P.C.	Phone	Email
Past President	Kevin Rivers	RR 5 Ingersoll	N5C 3J8	423-6797	kevinandallyson@xplornet.com
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2'nd Vice	Arnold Haskett	RR Innerkip	N0J 1M0	463-9823	nhaskett@xplornet.com
3'rd Vice	Mark Kirwin	RR 1 Salford	N0J 1W0	485-2618	jmkirwin@xplornet.com
ZORRA	Ron Marshall	RR 3 Woodstock	N4S 7V7	475-4646	ronmarshall@xplornet.com
	Roland Van Oostveen	RR 3 Lakeside	N0M 2G0	475-4325	
	Scott Innes	RR 1 Embro	N0J 1J0	475-6906	lesley.scott@execulink.com
E ZORRA/TAVISTOCK	Steve Witmer	RR 7 Woodstock	N4S 7W2	462-2888	
	Laura Aarts	401 Lansdowne, Woodstock	N4T 1J2	539-0254	laura.aarts@bayercropscience.com
	Paul Yeoman	RR 6 Woodstock	N4S 7W1	532-7223	paul.yeoman@dal.ca
BLANDFORD/ BLENHEIM	Gerhard Magnus	RR 1 Bright	N0J 1B0	684.7769	magd@sympatico.ca
	John Pynenburg	RR 2 Princeton	N0J1V0	458-4616	
	Dan VanWeerdhuizen	RR 1 Drumbo	N0J 1G0	463-9656	danvan@golden.net
SOUTH WEST OXFORD	Ian Mayberry	RR 5 Ingersoll	N5C 3J8	425-9069	mayberryhill@xplornet.com
	Adam Garfat	RR 1 Beachville	N0J 1A0	533-1916	rdgarfat@execulink.com
	James Hammerton	322 Simcoe St, Woodstock	N4S 1J3	533-6470	james@agrilib.com
NORWICH	Brian Armstrong	RR 2 Burgessville	N0J 1C0	424-9451	armacres@xplornet.com
	John Doan	RR 3 Norwich	N0J 1P0	468-3270	
	Evert Veldhuizen Jr	RR 4 Woodstock	N4S 7V8	537-1139	veldale@execulink.com
Secretary/ Treasurer:	Cathy Dibble	RR # 2 Drumbo	N0J 1G0	463-6374	cdibble@odyssey.on.ca
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<u>Soil & Crops Advisors:</u>	Christine Brown	401 Lakeview Dr Woodstock	N4T 1W2	537-8305	christine.brown1@ontario.ca
OMAFRA	Peter Johnson	581 Huron St., Stratford	N5A 5T8	271-8180	peter.johnson@ontario.ca



Isn't everyone glad to see this stuff disappear? Looking next door to the neighbours corn still standing in January...yes, they did eventually harvest it

Growing Your Farm Profits

Planning for Business Success

Where do you see your farm business in 5, 10 or 20 years? Do you have a plan that will help you reach your business goals? Do you know where to begin? The Growing Your Farm Profits workshop can help you identify, plan for and reach your business goals. Similar to the Environmental Farm Plan, you will complete a self-assessment for your farm business. The workshop will cover the following 8 areas of business management:

Marketing	Production	Financial Management	Human Resources
Social Responsibility	Succession Planning	Business Structure	Business Strategy

The workshop facilitator will then help you identify your top priorities, develop an action plan, and provide direction regarding industry resources to aid in implementation. You will not be asked to share personal or financial details with the facilitator or other participants. Past participants report that the workshops helped them develop realistic action plans for achieving their business goals. Some of the activities they plan to carry out include:

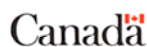
- "Improve record-keeping to better understand my business."
- "Learn more about direct marketing."
- "Determine if the commodity I'm selling is the most profitable in my area."
- "Meet with an advisor to develop a written succession plan"

The workshops are available free of charge however space is limited. Register today by contacting the local OSCIA Program Representative or visiting www.ontariosoilcrop.org.

Technical content developed by Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

Woodstock March 18 & 25 – contact Cathy Dibble 463-9737

St Thomas March 19 & 26 – contact Margaret May 287-5334



What is the Growing Your Farm Profits workshop?

Growing Your Farm Profits is the starting point for long-term business success. The two-day workshop helps you to assess your current farm management practices, develop long-term goals and determine a set of "SMART" actions to achieve those goals. The workshops encourage self-assessment in the similar style that made the Environmental Farm Plan a success. It provides an opportunity for producers including farm families and farm management teams to determine their business goals and develop strategies.

What is the benefit of attending the workshop?

You will learn a planning process that focuses on long-term viability and can be adapted to your farm business. The workshop provides you with an opportunity to assess your current farm management practices and understand how proactive planning can influence effective decision making.

Why is self-assessment and planning important to farm business?

By assessing your farm business, you can update farm management goals, build on current strengths, find solutions to challenges and make sure key decisions are turned into solid farm actions. Beyond the business side of farming, assessment and planning includes work-family time balance, environmental stewardship, and community involvement.

Will I have to discuss details of my business or finances with others?

Although this is a workshop with others in attendance, you will not be asked to share personal or financial details with the facilitator or other participants.

How is the Growing Your Farm Profits workshop different than other seminars or programs out there?

Growing Your Farm Profits workshop differs from other programs in business planning because it allows you to complete a self assessment, acknowledging your strengths and weaknesses. The workshop will provide you with the opportunity to take a proactive role in business planning and will provide the forum to begin the process. You will complete the workshop with a clear understanding of the priorities for your farm business, a practical action plan and direction on how to access other business development resources.

How did Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) become involved in farm business planning?

OSCIA has a proven track record of program delivery and engagement of producers – they have gained their trust. OSCIA has the infrastructure in place both provincially and locally to service program needs in the farm community. Environmental Farm Plans (EFP), environmental improvements, and stewardship of resources are integrated with the other components of farm business planning. .



FARMER/FOOD BUYER (CHEF) "SPEED DATING" BUSINESS NETWORKING EVENT

March 31 8:30 a.m. – noon, Western Fair Entertainment Centre – Carousel Room

Connecting Farmers and Food Buyers to tap into the Buy Local food market place. If you are a farmer interested in finding out more about selling into local food marketing opportunities, or a chef, food retailer, food processor, distributor, or food-service and institutional food provider looking to offer more local food, this is a must attend event. Farmers and food buyers will have the opportunity to meet in a rotating one-on-one session to develop business connections. Come and hear business owners share their opportunities and challenges to participate in the 'Buy Local' food movement. Pre-registration is required, fee is \$20.00 per person. There is no charge to farmers who are exhibitors. For complete details and to register, visit the London Economic Development Corporation website at www.lecd.com or contact the London Community Resource Centre at 519-432-1801 ext. 300 or e-mail mary@lcrc.on.ca

**OXFORD FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE
2009 Agricultural Awards of Excellence**

The Oxford County Federation of Agriculture's 2009 Agricultural Awards of Excellence Dinner and Awards Presentation Ceremony is fast approaching, on Tues, March 31 at the Oxford Auditorium in Woodstock. At this exciting event you will 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 Devlin's Country Bistro. Learn about bioscience in agriculture from guest speaker Peter Hannam, Chair of Soy 20/20 and President of Woodrill Farms and celebrate some of the great success stories in farm operations and agribusiness in Oxford County today. Tickets are available now by calling June Nussey, Awards Coordinator at 519-485-2442 or by e-mail to j.k.nussey@sympatico.ca by March 17th. If you include your name and mailing address we can send the tickets out to you along with an invoice for payment. To see a list of finalists, please go to www.ofa.on.ca/oxford

PROFITABLE PASTURES '09 & TRADE SHOW

April 1st in Elmwood Community Centre

April 2nd at the Stirling Lions Hall

April 3rd at Drumbo Agricultural Hall

Featuring Key Speaker Steve Kenyon

Steve Kenyon owns a custom grazing business near Busby, Alberta under the name of Greener Pastures Grazing Management Ltd. They currently run approximately 1500 head and manage more than 4000 acres. By using extended grazing techniques, they are able to pasture cattle year round. His vast experience will provide a practical take home message for every participant.

Also featuring John Molenhuis, Mike Von Massow, Ken Mitchell & Mike Buis. Register by March 27th: 1-877-892-8663 - pre-registration required. Tickets \$35 and includes hot beef dinner. www.ontarioforagecouncil.com

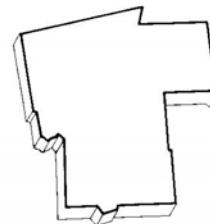
GROWER PESTICIDE SAFETY COURSES

The Ontario Pesticide Education Program (OPEP) has been providing pesticide safety and application training to Ontario farmers and pesticide vendors since 1987. Below are course dates in Oxford from listings on the OPEP website - 3 others are listed but are currently FULL. For more listings and other information: <http://www.opep.ca/> To register, call OPEP (800) 652-8573

Mon, Mar 23 Woodstock	Exam	7:30 PM
Sat, Mar 28 Woodstock	Course	8:45 AM
	Separate Exam	3:00 PM

**OXFORD WOMEN FOR THE SUPPORT OF
AGRICULTURE ANNUAL MEETING**

April 15, 2009 - OMAFRA Woodstock





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My wife sat down on the couch next to me as I was flipping channels. She asked, "What's on TV?" I said, "Dust." And then the fight started.

My wife was hinting about what she wanted for our upcoming anniversary. She said, "I want something shiny that goes from 0 to 150 in about 3 seconds." I bought her a scale. And then the fight started

When I got home last night, my wife demanded that I take her someplace expensive...So I took her to a gas station... And then the fight started.

My wife and I were sitting at a table at my high school reunion, and I kept staring at a drunken lady swigging her drink as she sat alone at a nearby table. My wife asked, 'Do you know her?' 'Yes,' I sighed, 'She's my old girlfriend. I understand she took to drinking right after we split up those many years ago, and I hear she hasn't been sober since. 'My God!' says my wife, 'who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?' And then the fight started.

After retiring, I went to the Social Security office to apply for Social Security. The woman behind the counter asked me for my driver's license to verify my age. I looked in my pockets and realized I had left my wallet at home. I told the woman that I was very sorry, but I would have to go home and come back later. The woman said, 'Unbutton your shirt'. So I opened my shirt revealing my curly silver hair. She said, 'That silver hair on your chest is proof enough for me', and she processed my Social Security application. When I got home, I excitedly told my wife about my experience at the Social Security office. She said, 'You should have dropped your pants. You might have gotten disability, too.' And then the fight started

A woman is standing nude, looking in the bedroom mirror. She is not happy with what she sees and says to her husband, 'I feel horrible; I look old, fat and ugly. I really need you to pay me a compliment.' The husband replies, 'Your eyesight's darn near perfect.' And then the fight started

THAMES VALLEY REGIONAL SCIA

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Cathy Dibble (see below)

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The Thames Valley Regional Soil & Crop Improvement Association newsletter is produced by Cathy Dibble, (519) 463-6374, Fax (519) 463-6375, email cdibble@odyssey.on.ca Submissions and advertising welcome.

MEMBERSHIPS

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

CONTACT INFORMATION.....

ONTARIO SOIL & CROP 1-800-265-9751

OSCIA WEBSITE: www.ontariosoilcrop.org

CROPLINE: 1-888-449-0937

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

WOODSTOCK OMAFRA RESOURCE CENTRE: 519-537-6621

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

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

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

LOCAL SOIL & CROP ASSOCIATION SECRETARY

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Elgin ~ Margaret May 287-5334 mmay@execulink.com

Oxford ~ Cathy Dibble 463-6374 cdibble@odyssey.on.ca

EFP PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVES

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Middlesex/Elgin ~ Margaret May 287-5334 elgin@ontariosoilcrop.org

CATHY'S COMMENTS

I hope everyone had a good winter, but I do hope it's finished now!! It sure is nice to see the sun again.

There may still be time to get into one of the Growing Your Farm Profits workshops being held throughout the province, and there are still many EFP workshops available for those who still haven't participated in this excellent program yet. We anticipate new funding programs to be announced soon.

Plans are in the works for this season's local SCIA meetings, tours and field trials. Consider participating in one of the field trials planned for this year. If you have any suggestions or ideas, please feel free to contact any of the directors listed here.

For those of you who happened to catch the Ontario Farmer interview with my dear husband after his first speaking session at the Farmsmart Conference this year ("with a wife and two teenagers, sometimes a warm shop is a good place to be") - all I can say is it's a darn good thing he was down in Louisville at the time that article came out! And Peter, now he understands why you have to be so careful - seeing your words in print seem so much stronger than when they actually popped out of your mouth.

Speaking of the wheat guy....we had the opportunity to see him perform live theatre this week. I can tell you that his usual antics we know and love don't compare to what we witnessed on stage in Embro. Between struggling to keep his two wives from finding out about the other, running from the law, and cuddling up with a bunch of "pansies", PJ was a busy leading man. The cast of 8 kept us in stitches all night long - great job everyone!!