

THAMES VALLEY REGIONAL SOIL & CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Oxford

Middlesex

Elgin

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COMING EVENTS....

MARCH

20 FIRST DAY OF SPRING!!!

21 GFO March Classic London Convention Center www.gfo.ca

29 GRAIN DRYING & STORAGE WORKSHOP Woodstock, with Helmut Spieser, OMAFRA details page 11

29 OXFORD SCIA SPRING MEETING Stratford Farm Equipment see page 7

APRIL

4 PEEL SCIA COMPOST TOUR Brampton call 905-838-3417 or email abbiebrander@yahoo.ca

8-9 OIA CONFERENCE & ANNUAL MEETING www.oia.on.ca

This newsletter generously sponsored in part by:



*Scene from harvest 2010 –
Such was the case at many
local elevators across the
province- there was just
TOO MUCH CORN coming in
to the Princeton Cargill
location so quickly storage
became an issue.
Photo Credit: Jamie Janssen*



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Your local Soil & Crop Associations
OMAFRA Field Staff
Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association



From our Provincial Director

Hi Everyone!

It is hard to believe that winter is winding down. It has been a busy winter meeting season but soon we will be out on the land. Now would be a good time to volunteer to do some plot work. I know that all three counties have lots of projects in the works. Don't be afraid to approach a county director with your help and ideas. Plans are also under way for tours and field days. Watch your mail for information as it unfolds.

We had a very good annual meeting in Niagara Falls. It was a busy time with lots of good field trial reports and resolutions. We also had some excellent presentations by some very good speakers. These can be accessed on the OSCIA website.

Thanks to Cathy and Margaret for heading up the workshops this winter. Besides the Environmental Farm Plan and the Growing Your Farm Profits workshops, they have organized soil test workshops and marketing workshops. There is currently work going on to develop a fourth edition workbook for the Environmental Farm Plan. There is no excuse for we the members not knowing what we are doing.

Thames Valley Soil and Crop has terminated its regional project of fungicides on corn. The results were disappointing. The region is doing a study on corn residue management in soybeans, and a study on corn populations that Middlesex started last year.

I hope spring goes well for everyone and here is hoping for a good growing season.

Gord Green

Thames Valley Corn Population Trial - An OSCIA Regional Partner Project

For more details, or to participate, contact Cathy at 519-463-9737 or cdibble@odyssey.on.ca

Report: Assessing the Effects of Fungicide on Various Corn Hybrids

(Thames Valley SCIA Partner Project Grant Project 2009-2010)

Purpose:

Previous fungicide trials have shown extreme variability in effectiveness, with very high (30-40 bu/ac) to no yield advantages. There appears to be a hybrid interaction with this variability of response. The purpose of this project was to assess the effects of fungicide applications on various corn hybrids and to examine the predictability of hybrid response to a fungicide application.

Methods:

1) Site Establishment

Sites were established each with 4 different hybrids:

- 3 sites had long season hybrids (A7646, A8168G3, MZ 4244BR, N45-A6)
- 5 sites had short season hybrids (38M58, DKC 46-60, DKC 50-48, P0125HR)

2) Hybrid Selection

Hybrids were originally selected for this project based on University of Guelph (2008) research. From this 2008 work 4 hybrids were selected that had been shown to be non-responsive to Headline® fungicide and 4 hybrids were selected that had been responsive to Headline®. The non-responsive hybrids were: 38M58, DKC 50-48, A7646, and A8168G3 while the responsive hybrids were: DKC 46-60, MZ 424, MZ 535 HX, and N45-A6. In 2010 MZ 535 HX had to be replaced with MZ 4244BR and MZ424 was replaced with P0125HR.

Each site had 2 replications of treated and untreated hybrids, 2 hybrids were chosen for each site that were categorized as responsive and 2 hybrids were non-responsive. Buffer strips were added between reps or after every 4 plots and each plot was 4, 6, or 8 rows of corn wide and ran the length of the field.

3) Treatment Application

Headline® fungicide was applied at all sites at the full rate with the University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus sprayer in most cases or with the co-operator sprayer. Untreated plots did not have fungicide

sprayed. The target application timing was crop stage VT (tasseling) and occurred from the middle to the end of July.

4) Disease Ratings

Each site had 2 ratings for disease during the course of the growing season. Each section was marked in order to ensure that the same section of field was rated each time. The first rating was conducted during early to mid July and the second rating was conducted in mid to late August. Plots were divided into 3 sections and 10 plants from each section were scouted for Northern Leaf Blight, Common Rust, Eye Spot, and Grey Leaf Spot. Disease presence was measured as a percentage of the plant leaf. In late August to early September stay-green ratings were taken from 5 plants from each section of each plot.

5) Harvest

Plots were machine harvested and wet weights were measured with a weigh wagon and recorded. Grain moistures and test weights were also recorded and yields were calculated.

Results:

1) Longer season sites

One long season hybrid (N45-A6) clearly had a yield advantage when sprayed with Headline® at all (2) locations (see Table 1). N45-A6 was identified in the original work as being responsive to Headline® and also had a positive yield response in the field trials of 2009. MZ 4244BR was a replacement for MZ 535 and hence not part of the original screening work, so we were uncertain as to how it might respond to Headline®. It appeared to not have any consistent response to Headline® in 2010. Those long season hybrids that were previously identified as being non-responsive (A7646 and A8168G3) did not have any consistent positive yield response to Headline® in 2010. Interestingly, A8168G3 did show positive yield response in 2009. Harvest moistures did tend to be slightly higher for the fungicide treated plots; average increase was 0.4 % at harvest. Differences in disease ratings were generally not significant across the trials. The amount of green plant tissue was measured in September. For the long season sites there was a trend in the sprayed plots to have more green tissue than the unsprayed plots, potentially indicating that the fungicide did have some impact on late season plant health.

2) Shorter season sites

In terms of positive yield benefits of the fungicide application, the shorter season sites did have more response to Headline® than the longer season sites. DKC 46-60 was identified as a responsive hybrid and in 2010 responded positively to the fungicide application at 4 of the 5 sites (average yield increase over untreated plots was 10.2 bu/acre, see Table 2). In 2009 this same hybrid had no positive response at any of the 4 test sites. P0125HR was a new hybrid in the trials this year and so we had no indication as to its potential responsiveness to Headline®; it responded to the fungicide at 2 of the 5 sites. The hybrids indicated as non-responsive (38M58 and 50-48) did see a yield increase to Headline® application at 2 of 5 sites; this was about the same trend as 2009 when they showed positive yield response at 1 (38M58) and 2 (50-48) of 4 sites. The harvest moistures at the shorter season sites were, on average 0.5% higher for the fungicide treated plots compared to other untreated checks.

There was an increase in disease pressure at the timing of the second rating compared to the earlier rating. At a majority of the sites Headline® did appear to cause significant eye spot reductions. However, the hybrid that responded best to spray application (greatest reduction in eye spot pressure) was not similar from site to site. The sites with the greatest reduction in eyespot due to spraying (i.e. GO10 and MO10) also tended to experience larger increases in yield over the untreated control.

The trend for treated hybrids to have more green tissue late in the growing season compared to untreated plots was not as evident in the shorter season sites as the long season

Table 1. The impact of foliar fungicides on grain corn yield and harvest moistures on 4 long season hybrids across 3 locations in 2010.

| Location-Hybrid | | Grain Yield bu/acre | | | Moisture Content % | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|-------|--------------------|-----------|------|
| | | Fungicide | Untreated | Diff | Fungicide | Untreated | Diff |
| D010 | A7646 | 179.0 | 188.4 | -9.4 | 16.6 | 15.8 | +0.8 |
| | A8168G3 | 155.5 | 171.4 | -15.9 | 18.1 | 17.5 | +0.6 |
| | MZ 4244BR | 153.8 | 167.7 | -13.9 | 16.3 | 16.0 | +0.3 |
| | N45-A6 | 155.7 | 140.9 | +14.8 | 17.3 | 16.6 | +0.7 |
| | Average | 161.0 | 167.1 | -6.1 | 17.1 | 16.5 | +0.6 |
| K010 | A7646 | 179.9 | 175.2 | +4.7 | 15.2 | 14.9 | +0.3 |
| | A8168G3 | 180.3 | 177.6 | +2.7 | 17.2 | 17.1 | +0.1 |
| | MZ 4244BR | 171.3 | 163.7 | +7.6 | 15.3 | 14.8 | +0.5 |
| | N45-A6 | 182.4 | 171.2 | +11.2 | 15.6 | 15 | +0.6 |
| | Average | 178.5 | 171.9 | +6.6 | 15.8 | 15.4 | +0.4 |
| V010 | A7646 | 224.5 | 220.9 | +3.6 | 20.5 | 20 | +0.5 |
| | MZ 4244BR | 217.9 | 214.3 | +3.6 | 19.1 | 19.6 | -0.6 |
| | Average | 221.2 | 207.6 | +3.6 | 19.6 | 19.3 | +0.3 |
| Average Across Locations | A7646 | 194.5 | 194.8 | -0.4 | 17.4 | 16.9 | +0.5 |
| | A8168G3 | 167.9 | 174.5 | -6.6 | 17.7 | 17.3 | +0.4 |
| | MZ 4244BR | 181.0 | 181.9 | -0.9 | 16.9 | 16.8 | +0.1 |
| | N45-A6 | 169.1 | 156.1 | +13 | 16.5 | 15.8 | +0.7 |
| | Average | 178.1 | 176.8 | +1.3 | 17.1 | 16.7 | +0.4 |

Summary:

Key points from 2010

- 1) Attempting to reliably characterize hybrids as being responsive or non-responsive to a fungicide has proven very difficult. Over the two years of this project most options have presented themselves. That is, at least one hybrid, identified as being responsive in the 2008 work has consistently responded to Headline with significant yield gains over the untreated plot. One hybrid, identified as non-responsive showed no advantage to Headline in either year. Other hybrids having been identified as either responsive or non-responsive have shown the opposite trait and have not been consistent from one year to the next.
- 2) The presence, or lack of corn leaf disease pressure had a fairly minor impact on the ability to indicate a yield improvement to the fungicide application.

Table 2. The impact of foliar fungicides on grain corn yield and harvest moistures on 4 short season across 5 locations in 2010.

| Location-Hybrid | | Grain Yield (bu/acre) | | | Moisture Content % | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------|-------|--------------------|-----------|------|
| | | Fungicide | Untreated | Diff | Fungicide | Untreated | Diff |
| G010 | 38M58 | 179.3 | 167.3 | +12 | 19.5 | 18.7 | +0.8 |
| | DKC 46-60 | 184.5 | 163.8 | +20.7 | 19.7 | 19.1 | +0.6 |
| | DKC 50-48 | 195.6 | 183.2 | +12.4 | 22.3 | 20.5 | +1.8 |
| | P0125HR | 191.2 | 176.9 | +14.3 | 21.7 | 20.5 | +1.2 |
| | Average | 187.7 | 172.8 | +14.9 | 20.8 | 19.7 | +1.1 |
| M010 | 38M58 | 240.2 | 226.2 | +14.0 | 23.4 | 22.1 | +1.3 |
| | DKC 46-60 | 239.0 | 224.1 | +14.9 | 22.0 | 21.7 | +0.3 |
| | DKC 50-48 | 218.8 | 216.1 | +2.7 | 19.2 | 18.3 | +0.9 |
| | P0125HR | 222.0 | 233.2 | -11.2 | 19.5 | 18.3 | +1.2 |
| | Average | 230.0 | 224.9 | +5.1 | 21.0 | 20.1 | +0.9 |
| J010 | 38M58 | 202.0 | 201.7 | +0.3 | 16.6 | 16.1 | +0.5 |
| | DKC 46-60 | 206.6 | 200.2 | +6.4 | 16.1 | 16.3 | -0.2 |
| | DKC 50-48 | 222.0 | 211.2 | +10.8 | 17.9 | 17.7 | +0.2 |
| | P0125HR | 197.6 | 200.2 | -2.6 | 17.7 | 17.4 | +0.3 |
| | Average | 207.0 | 203.3 | +3.7 | 17.1 | 16.9 | +0.2 |
| S010 | 38M58 | 163.0 | 158.9 | +4.1 | 15.6 | 15.6 | 0 |
| | DKC 46-60 | 186.8 | 179.5 | +7.3 | 16.7 | 16.3 | +0.4 |
| | DKC 50-48 | 165.4 | 161.2 | +4.2 | 16.7 | 15.9 | +0.8 |
| | P0125HR | 178.2 | 171.3 | +6.9 | 16.4 | 15.9 | +0.5 |
| | Average | 173.4 | 167.7 | +5.7 | 16.4 | 15.9 | +0.5 |
| S010-2 | 38M58 | 163.1 | 163.1 | 0 | 15.6 | 15.4 | +0.2 |
| | DKC 46-60 | 157.9 | 156.1 | +1.8 | 15.7 | 15.5 | +0.2 |
| | DKC 50-48 | 179.0 | 174.4 | +4.6 | 16.4 | 16.3 | +0.1 |
| | P0125HR | 168.4 | 167.9 | +0.5 | 15.9 | 16.1 | +0.2 |
| | Average | 167.1 | 165.4 | +1.7 | 15.9 | 15.8 | +0.1 |
| Average Across Locations | 38M58 | 189.5 | 183.4 | +6.1 | 18.1 | 17.6 | +0.6 |
| | DKC 46-60 | 195.0 | 184.7 | +10.2 | 18.0 | 17.8 | +0.3 |
| | DKC 50-48 | 196.2 | 189.2 | +6.9 | 18.5 | 17.7 | +0.8 |
| | P0125HR | 191.5 | 189.9 | +1.6 | 18.2 | 17.6 | +0.6 |
| | Mean Fungicide | 193.0 | 186.8 | +6.2 | 18.2 | 17.7 | +0.5 |

3) Ongoing efforts to classify hybrids as to their responsiveness to fungicides may have little value to producers unless it can be done more reliably. Further investigations into responsiveness to Headline may need to be conducted at a more basic (cellular) level and/or begin early in a hybrids (pre-commercialization) testing.

Next Steps:

No next steps are planned currently for this project.

Acknowledgements:

We would like to thank the co-operators who were involved with this study. We would also like to thank OMAFRA, University of Guelph and University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus for equipment and research facilities. Also would like to acknowledge Shane McClure and Margaret Ribey for technical support through the project.

Thank you to Thames Valley Regional Soil & Crop Improvement Association for the partner grant. Generous seed donations were made by Pioneer, Pride, Dekalb, and Maizex.

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Oxford News <http://oxfordscia.wordpress.com/>

Oxford Summer Tour 2011

Tour Chairman Mark Kirwin and his committee are considering Newfoundland as this year's destination. Tentatively, participants will arrange your own flights to Newfoundland in time to start the three or four day bus tour. You are more than welcome to extend your holiday for as long as you wish. Right now, Mark is aiming for the 22nd or 23rd of August. More details will follow in the June newsletter.

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OXFORD SCIA SPRING MEETING

7:30 pm March 29, Stratford Farm Equipment ~ Woodstock

684288 Hwy #2 East of County Rd 6

Gary McCutcheon, Hardi Sprayers – Sprayer Presentation
Peter Smith, University of Guelph Weed Science Technician – Herbicide Resistance in Ontario
Peter Johnson, OMAFRA Cereals Specialist – Q&A

Meeting sponsored by: Alltech Silage Inoculant

Refreshments provided – Bring a friend – New members welcome!

Membership Renewals – please note that this will be your last newsletter if you have not yet renewed your membership for 2011. Contact Cathy for more info cdibble@odyssey.on.ca or 463-9737.

Annual Meeting – January 2011 Oxford SCIA experienced an amazing turnout for the annual meeting this year, with over 175 lunch tickets sold. With excellent speakers and a record number of exhibitors, the day went very well. Thank you to all of our exhibitors and sponsors for their generous support. Results from the Feed Fair are as follows, with 21 producers bringing samples in for the various classes.

FEED FAIR 2010 WINNERS – sponsored in part by Ontario Soil & Crop, Ontario Seed Growers Assoc and these sponsors....

| Class | Sponsor | Prize | 1 st Place | 2 nd Place |
|-------------------------|----------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 st Cut Hay | ProRich Seeds | 1 bag grass seed | George Van Dorp | Kevin Boakes |
| 2 nd Cut Hay | Cargill | chemical app voucher | Kevin Boakes | Willy Koot |
| Corn Silage | Pioneer | 1 bag seed corn | Al Bruce | Bakkersfield Farm |
| Haylage | Quality Seeds | 1 bag seed | Greenmoor Farms | Zorland Farm |
| Baled Haylage | Circle G Farms | 1 roll silo plastic | Kevin Boakes | Dave Topham |
| HM Shelled Corn | Syngenta | Coat & Shirt | Leroy Van Ryswyck | Willy Koot |
| HM Process corn | Pickseed | \$200 voucher | Wilmarlea Farms | Janeric Farms |
| Commercial Dry Corn | FS Partners | 20 acres custom app | Richmar Farms | Willy Koot |
| Overall High Winner | Hyland Seeds | 1 bag seed corn, 4 bags seed soybeans ~ | Kevin Boakes | |
| 2 nd Overall | | | Willy Koot | |
| Special Draw | Mycogen Seeds | 1 bag seed corn | BJ Droogers | |

Thanks to Corner Farm Market and Morrow's of Drumbo for donating the 2nd place winner gift certificates

From Rod Blonde, Stratford Agri Analysis – we truly appreciate Rod's help with the feed fair each year, from getting everyone organized to figuring out how to put those silly banker's boxes together! Stratford Agri Analysis graciously takes sample back to their lab for testing and returns the results to the participants at no charge. Here is Rod's summary of the analyses:

15 samples of haylage were entered, judged and lab tested. Judges scores ranged from 220 to 273 points out of 300. Lab analysis:

- Crude protein ranged from 11.3 to 22.7
- Moisture ranged from 34.2 to 72.8
- ADF ranged from 31.4 to 50.0
- NDF ranged from 40.3 to 70.1
- Relative Feed Value ranged from 66 to 140
- 24 hour NDF digestibility ranged 39.26 to 46.73 34

15 samples of corn silage were entered, judged and tested. Judges scores ranged from 216 to 243 points out of 300. Lab analysis:

- Crude protein ranged from 7.8 to 9.0
- Moisture ranged from 59.2 to 71.8
- TDN ranged from 65.7 to 71.2
- Relative Feed Value ranged from 117 to 189
- 24 hour NDF digestibility ranged 43.49 to 48.

FIELD CROPS PROJECTS 2011 ~ *if you are interested in participating in a trial, contact the person in charge*

Oxford SCIA has been approved for an OSCIA Major Project Grant to assess if manure nitrogen will provide the same yield potential as commercial nitrogen. Best management practice recommendations suggest no more than 2/3 to 3/4 of the nitrogen needs of a corn crop should come from manure. However, some growers manage to use only manure, while others that attempt this suffer significant yield loss. Do higher yields experienced in recent years (200+ bu/ac) affect these recommendations? Do heavy clay soils affect nitrogen loss, particularly during cool and/or wet growing seasons?

Oxford Manure Study - Scott Innes, 533-7171

Early Planted Soys - Evert Veldhuizen Jr, 537-1139

Higher Corn Populations - Tim Pullen, 462-1781

High K on Soybeans - Ian Mayberry, 536-5780

Variable N on Wheat - James Hammerton, 532-8780

ONTARIO FORAGE MASTERS COMPETITION

Entry deadline is coming up April 21 for the 2011 Forage Masters competition...In Oxford, contact Arnold Haskett @ 519-463-9823 or nhaskett@xplornet.com to register. There are some great prizes available, as well as the chance to proceed on to the Provincial Competition at the Royal Winter Fair this fall. Call Arnold for more details or check out our website http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/docs/ofm_2011web_guidelines.pdf. Sponsors encourage 4-H members to enter.

OXFORD SCIA STUDENT BURSARY

This \$500.00 bursary is available to any high school graduate living in Oxford County and entering their first year of post-secondary education in the agricultural field. Contact your school's student services department, or Evert Veldhuizen at 537-1139 or Veldale@execulink.com

Oxford Corn Variety Trials Data is now available on our website, or by contacting Cathy for a copy of the annual report.

OXFORD JR FARMERS NEWS

The Oxford Jr Farmers meets at 8:30 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the Woodstock OMAFRA Office. Social to follow at Kelsey's. New members are always welcome. For more information, contact Brad Ward @ 519-462-1537 or email bward_17@hotmail.com

Elgin News <http://tvrscia.wordpress.com/elgin-county/>

Spring is almost here and we are all optimistic for another prosperous year.

The directors of E.S.C.I.A are busy planning the summer tour in West Elgin. Keep an eye open for a flier in the mail this summer. We have applied for a major grant to investigate low potash starter fertilizer in soybeans.

The directors of E.S.C.I.A. will be busy organizing and implementing various trials with:

- Spring vs fall vertical tillage vs no till soybeans on corn
- corn and soybean populations
- Smart soybeans
- Early planting with inoculants or seed treatments
- Fertilizer starter on soybeans (Potash)
- (N) rates on wheat

I wish everyone an early safe planting season - Ed Roodzant, President

ESCIA needs heat unit & rainfall cooperators. Involves recording daily high/low temp and heat units each month May -first killing frost. Please contact Margaret elgin@ontariosoilcrop.org 519-287-5334 if interested.

From the Elgin SCIA Annual Meeting...



Jamie & Ron preparing to get the show on the road



Soybean Panelists, Pioneer's Dave Harwood and Thompson's Andrew McVittie



Elgin SCIA Annual Meeting had an excellent turnout this year, as can be seen here – all listening keenly to OMAFRA's Greg Stewart

From the OSCIA Annual Meeting...

Oxford SCIA's Evert Veldhuizen Jr was announced the 2010 Ontario Forage Masters Winner after competing at the Royal Winter Fair in November. Evert gave his winning presentation at the OSCIA Annual Meeting in Niagara Falls in February. Here is Evert in at the annual meeting, along with the first photo slide of his presentation (even though it has nothing to do with forage), which can be viewed at <http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/2011ampresentations.htm>



ESCIA DIRECTORS 2011

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Malahide

| | | | | |
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| Tony Stover | 6556 Imperial Road Aylmer | | 519-773-5814 | |

Provincial Director

| | | | | |
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| Secretary/Treasurer | Margaret May- 4360 Glendon Dr, R4 Glencoe, | | | elgin@ontariosoilcrop.org |
| Peter Johnson | OMAFRA Cereals Specialist | | 519-318-7769 | peter.johnson@ontario.ca |

Twitter 101 – from the Twitter help pages...

What's Twitter Anyway?

Twitter is an information network made up of 140-character messages called Tweets. It's a new and easy way to discover the latest news ("what's happening") related to subjects you care about.

How is it Useful?

Twitter contains information you will find valuable. Messages from users you choose to follow will show up on your homepage for you to read. It's like being delivered a newspaper whose headlines you'll always find interesting – you can discover news as it's happening, learn more about topics that are important to you, and get the inside scoop in real time.

How to Start Using Twitter:

If you remember one thing after perusing this page, it should be this: **reading Tweets and discovering new information whenever you check in on your Twitter timeline is where you'll find the most value on Twitter.** Some people find it useful to contribute their own Tweets, but the real magic of Twitter lies in absorbing real-time information that matters to you.

Some good "Tweeps" to follow: TVRSCIA – Thames Valley, Albert Tenuta, Tracey Baute and Mike Cowbrough of OMAFRA, Dekalb, Pride, Pioneer, Syngenta, Ont Fed of Agriculture, Ont Farm Animal Council, and many ag businesses and journalists. These Twitter users list hot ag issues, usually direct from the field, current commodity prices and activity, coming events etc...check it out!

GRAIN DRYING & STORAGE WORKSHOP

March 30, OMAFRA Woodstock, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Instructor Helmut Spieser, Engineer, OMAFRA

This workshop is for you; if you want a better understanding of grain drying and storage principles, if you are planning a new system, if you are expanding your system, or are considering modifications to your grain handling system. Targeted to operators of on-farm grain storages and agri-business personnel. Free discussion is encouraged throughout the workshops which results in good exchange of information among participants.

Topics:

- How Grain Dries
- Types of Drying Systems
- Fan Sizing & Selection
- Dryeration/Cooleration
- Aeration to Keep Grain in Condition
- Locating Drying & Storage Systems
- Traffic Flow Considerations
- Reducing Drying Energy

Spaces are limited, so register early \$55.00 (lunch included) To Register Call Ag Business Centre, University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus, 1-866-222-9682 or 519-674-1500 ext 63592

13th ANNUAL SOUTHWEST BEEF FOCUS

March 29, Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood Community Centre, Alvinston
Registration \$20 per person--includes Ontario beef dinner and door prizes. For Information contact Margaret May 519-287-5334

5:30 PM Registration and Beef dinner; Visit with trade show

6:00 PM Beef Dinner

7:00 PM Dr Steve Miller, Uof G; Topic: Advances in Genetics impacting both cow-calf and feedlots

8:00 PM Dr Ira Mandell, U of G; Topic: Improving Meat Quality

ELECTRICITY CONSERVATION COURSE March 29 - Woodstock

The Business Development and Training Group at the University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus has developed a one-day course with Terry Rothwell titled "Conserve Electricity..Conserve Your \$\$ - Tools to Answer your own Farm Electricity Questions".

This course is derived from a course module that was originally funded and prepared by the Ontario Power Authority. The course is targeted at farmers with the objective to assist them in making informed, optimized electricity decisions that will genuinely conserve power and at the same time conserve their money.

Registration Includes: Lunch & refreshments, Course material. Course fee is \$145.00 Register online or print & mail your registration to: University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus c/o Mary Margaret McDonald, Ridgetown, Ontario, Canada N0P 2C0 Phone: 519-674-1500 x63592 Fax: 519-674-1512
mmcdonal@ridgetownc.uoguelph.ca

COUNTY AT A GLANCE AG STATISTICS

The County At A Glance agricultural statistics for 2009 are now available on the OMAFRA website at www.ontario.ca/omafra. You can access a standardized 1 page summary of agricultural data for each county in Ontario. This report lists the relevant census data for the county and compares it to the provincial aggregate data. You also get a handy bar chart that shows the top commodities for farm cash receipts.

Here's how you find the County At A Glance reports: From our OMAFRA homepage, look down on the left side for the "Quick Links" box and click on "Statistics". Then scroll down to "County Profiles". Our region is found under the set called "Southern Ontario". You have the option of downloading the pdf file.



THAMES VALLEY REGIONAL SCIA

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Cathy Dibble (see below)

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REGIONAL COMMUNICATION COORDINATOR

The Thames Valley Regional Soil & Crop Improvement Association newsletter is produced by Cathy Dibble, (519) 463-9737, 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
OXFORD WEBSITE: <http://oxfordscia.wordpress.com/>
THAMES VALLEY WEBSITE: <http://tvrscia.wordpress.com/>

CROPLINE: 1-888-449-0937

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/cropline/index.html>

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

OMAFRA TOOLS: Corn <http://gocorn.net/>

Herbicides <http://www.weedpro75.com/>

WOODSTOCK OMAFRA RESOURCE CENTRE: 519-537-6621

LONDON OMAFRA RESOURCE CENTRE 519-873-4086

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

CATHY'S COMMENTS

Hello everyone! Spring was in sight, at least until the last day of the Western Fair Farm Show. Wow, another winter blast, particularly for those of you west of Oxford County (sorry, but we've missed most that nasty white stuff all winter in Drumbo). As we head into March Break for the kids, there is still rain, snow and a bit of sunshine in the forecast.

Thanks to your local soil & crop associations for all their hard work putting together some fantastic annual meetings this winter! All three counties' meetings were very well attended, with excellent speakers and lots of great information. Thanks also to the many agribusiness sponsors who support these meetings, newsletters and other events throughout the year. Please remember to pass on your thanks the next time you meet them! We couldn't possibly continue all our programs and projects without their support and generosity.

By the time you receive this, we will have wrapped up the regional soil test workshops, but have more cool stuff in the works. Sometime within the next few months, we will be organizing Smartphone=Smart Farmers workshops - tools, tricks and apps that will be the most beneficial for your ag business. Watch your mail and our website for more details.

The mad rush of the winter meeting season is finally starting to wind down now, and local associations have started planning plots, projects and tours for the coming months, with something for everyone. Welcome to our newest members, we hope you enjoy these newsletters and events - all benefits of your OSCIA membership.

The next edition of the Thames Valley Regional SCIA newsletter will reach your mailboxes in mid-June. Best of luck with the coming planting season, and don't forget to plant a plot or two - and then pass the results along!