



THAMES VALLEY REGIONAL SOIL & CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Oxford

Middlesex

Elgin

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COMING EVENTS....

DECEMBER

5 Innovative Farmers Marketing Meeting www.ifao.com

JANUARY 2012

4-5 The 19th Annual Southwest Agricultural Conference, Ridgetown <http://www.southwestagconference.ca/>

10 Oxford SCIA Annual Meeting

12 Elgin SCIA Annual Meeting

21 FarmSmart University of Guelph. www.uoguelph.ca/farmsmart

FEBRUARY 2012

7-8 OSCIA Annual Meeting, Lamplighter Inn, London www.ontariosoilcrop.org

28-29 Innovative Farmers Assoc of Ontario Conference, London www.ifao.com or 519-986-3560

MARCH 2012

7-9 Western Fair Farm Show www.westernfair.com

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OMAFRA Resource Staff –
Woodstock & London Resource Centers
Your local Soil & Crop Associations
OMAFRA Field Staff
Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association



A typical scene this fall across the region, but far worse in The west end – tks to MM for the photo!



A cropper cousin of mine was getting nervous with the wet October we had, so purchased and installed tracks on his combine. He said it was a fairly straight forward job and is very happy with the results telling me **"they work great"**. Complete installation time was approx 3 hours with 2 men working on it.



Peter J and his technician, Shane planting wheat plots near Plattsville

While travelling the roads this fall, I came across this **"way cool"** old railroad bridge near Sheffield.



From our Provincial Director:

Hi Everyone

As I write this we are having a good streak of good harvest weather. They have been somewhat scarce this year. The yields have been surprisingly good given the conditions this year. I have heard of some very high yields in some cases. Hopefully harvest goes well for everyone. It is surprising how much can be achieved every day when the weather is this good.

Annual meeting plans are under way and plans are in the works for some winter workshops. Stay tuned for further details. Remember to send in your plot results. Interest is picking up in biomass crops and there is a new project in the works looking at amaranth and quinoa. These are specialty crops that have a local market that would take a lot of production. This is just some of the stuff to be watching. The OSCIA annual meeting will be in London this year in February. There will be some interesting speakers so watch for further details. There will be some reports on the above information and other plot results as well.

The holiday season will soon be upon us so all the best of the holidays to everyone.

~ Gord Green

EFP/GYFP Workshops

***** NEW!!! *** Online registration for all workshops at www.ontariosoilcrop.org/workshops**

EFP

Oxford Woodstock Day 1: Jan 24/12 Day 2: Jan 30/12 Contact Cathy 519-463-9737

GYFP

Oxford Woodstock Day 1: Jan 12/12 Day 2: Jan 19/12 Contact Cathy 519-463-9737
Oxford Woodstock Day 1: Jan 21/12 Day 2: Jan 28/12 Contact Cathy 519-463-9737
Elgin Springfield Day 1: Feb 17/12 Day 2: Feb 23/12 Contact Margaret 519-287-5334
Margaret May elgin@ontariosoilcrop.org Cathy Dibble oxford@ontariosoilcrop.org

Thames Valley Regional Projects

Our Corn Residue Management Study and Corn Population Trials are still standing in some areas – be sure to catch the results at a meeting this winter, and I hope to have a report in the March edition of this newsletter.

Johnson out standing in the field - we must have Shane to thank for this one ☺



Oxford Rainfall (mm) and Heat Units

										To Oct	To Oct
	RR	ADDRESS	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Total'11	2010
Arthur	4	St Mary's	100	125	85	111	93	109	145	668	665
Dibble	2	Drumbo		123	78	51	68	127	103	550	695
Haley	1	Otterville		109	54	39	115	142	78	537	426
Johnson		Ingersoll		128	74	37	104	133	100	576	562
Landsell	2	Thamesford		128	86	72	121	127		533	579
Matheson	3	Embros		129	92	83	82	113		499	597
Orth	1	Burgessville		173	83	64	79	141	126	667	647
Van Dorp	1	Woodstock		120	75	58	79	125	109	566	569
Wilson	1	Salford	73	141	54	40	103	133	113	584	362
OutdoorFarmShow	3	Woodstock		105	83	24	82	91	84	469	n/a
HEAT UNITS											
Dibble				325	618	802	754	532	232	3263	3532
Haley				243	697	847	779	595	294	3455	3497
Matheson				302	616	802	731	514		2965	3093
Outdoor Farm Show				312	628	807	728	517	214	3206	n/a

Oxford SCIA Student Bursary Awards

Congratulations to Dylan Magnus of Waterloo-Oxford and Evan DeGier of WCI – our two bursary winners for 2011. This bursary is awarded to successful applicants who reside in Oxford County and have been accepted into a post-secondary agricultural based program at college or university. Details are available on our website <http://oxfordscia.wordpress.com/contact-us/> or by contacting Evert Veldhuizen 537-1139

Oxford SCIA Annual Meeting, Feed Fair and Farm Show

Mark your calendar! As always, the second Tuesday in January is the date for our annual meeting – for 2012, the date will be January 10. Keep an eye on your mail for more details shortly after Christmas.

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 Sarah Harrigan @ 519-801-8446

Oxford Federation of Agriculture Annual Meeting: Dec 1, 2011 in the James Harris Room (by the lobby) at the Elm Hurst Inn. Social Hour 6-7 pm, dinner at 7 followed by a short business meeting. For tickets, contact your director or June Nussey at 519-485-2442 oxfordcfa@bell.net

Middlesex News

MIDDLESEX RAINFALL SUMMARY 2011

NAME	ADDRESS	TOTAL	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT
N. Stokman	R. 7, Strathroy	636.4	106.2	132.6	98.6	47.2	127.4	124.4	
H. Aukema	R. 6, Strathroy	713.5	81.5	168.0	89.5	40.5	100.0	156.0	78.0
L. Whiting	R. 5, Mt. Brydges	682.0	119.0	141.0	53.0	56.0	103.0	104.0	106.0
J. Robinson	R. 5, Mt. Brydges	681.8	114.1	133.4	68.9	62.6	104.1	97.6	101.1
G. Richards	6879 Longwoods Rd.	742.0	95.0	144.0	98.0	83.0	66.0	121.0	135.0
G Cornelis	R. 1, Ailsa Craig	694.0	84.0	112.0	106.0	57.0	98.0	139.0	98.0
E. Fox	R. 5, Parkhill	690.0	89.0	107.0	116.0	66.0	94.0	105.0	113.0
W. Mollard	R. 4, Parkhill	745.1	101.0	107.0	129.0	61.0	99.6	134.0	113.5
M. Robb	R. 1, Ilderton	742.7	81.0	183.7	90.0	48.0	92.0	147.0	101.0
R. Heard	Fanshawe Rd., London	719.0	122.0	137.5	71.0	43.5	119.5	115.5	110.0
J. Duynisveld	R. 1, Ilderton	748.2	122.0	183.7	145.5	68.5	107.3	121.3	
D. Denys	R. 8, Parkhill	847.0	122.0	98.5	153.0	59.0	110.0	203.0	101.5
F. Vanneste	R. 2, Lucan	845.5	112.0	105.0	130.0	77.0	122.0	173.0	126.5
H. MacKellar	R. 2, Glencoe	728.0	60.0	137.0	96.5	128.0	109.0	121.0	77.0
C. McVicar	R. 1, Newbury	838.5	106.5	172.5	96.5	95.5	130.0	143.0	94.5
B. Grieve	R. 2, Dorchester	815.1	107.5	193.6	62.0	84.0	125.0	137.0	106.0
A. Brown	R. 2, Belmont	763.0	101.5	137.5	67.0	96.5	122.0	142.0	96.5
A. White	3739 Harry White Dr., London	825.0	93.0	186.0	48.0	87.0	140.0	147.0	124.0
D. Murray	4598 Murray Rd, London	690.0	123.0	121.0	85.0	61.0	96.0	101.0	103.0
R. Willemse	R. 4, Parkhill	761.0	124.0	100.0	152.0	56.0	89.0	124.0	116.0
Average Rainfall 2011			103.2	140.0	97.8	68.9	107.7	132.8	

MIDDLESEX CROP HEAT UNIT STATIONS 2011

	TOTAL	MAY		JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT
		Before May 10	After May 10					
N. Stokman	3370.0	97.0	401.0	692.0	882.0	790.0	605.0	
H. Aukema	3679.0	93.0	393.0	698.0	889.0	800.0	614.0	285.0
J. Robinson	3675.0	87.0	406.0	695.0	892.0	803.0	602.0	277.0
G Cornelis	3688.0	82.0	407.0	692.0	898.0	811.0	625.0	255.0
E. Fox	3758.0	56.0	363.0	709.0	908.0	807.0	632.0	339.0
R. Heard	3574.0	92.0	397.0	682.0	864.0	786.0	585.0	260.0
J. Duynisveld	3262.0	84.0	407.0	670.0	842.0	769.0	574.0	
D. Denys	3467.0	80.0	367.0	637.0	861.0	766.0	583.0	253.0
F. Vanneste	3678.0	82.0	424.0	720.0	867.0	806.0	601.0	260.0
H. Dodge	3699.0	91.0	398.0	704.0	886.0	799.0	620.0	292.0
H. MacKellar	3852.0	93.0	401.0	704.0	915.0	880.0	620.0	298.0
C. McVicar	3311.0	93.0	333.0	638.0	819.0	728.0	534.0	259.0
A. Brown	3603.0	98.0	389.0	700.0	863.0	787.0	593.0	271.0
B. Grieve	3675.0	92.0	400.0	703.0	887.0	803.0	602.0	280.0
R. Willemse	3775.0	116.0	400.0	709.0	905.0	838.0	645.0	278.0
AVERAGE		87.1	392.4	690.2	878.5	798.2	602.3	

**ESCIA Annual Meeting AGENDA
Thursday, January 12, 2012
Shedden Community Complex**

- 9:00 Coffee and visit with Exhibitors
- 9:25 Welcome- Ed Roodzant
- 9:30 Jocelyn Smith U of G R Campus- "Insects on the Horizon"
- 10:00 Steve Redmond OMAFRA Nutrient Mgmt - NASM land application
- 10:45 Dale Cowan SCS - "Separating the Muck from the Magic in Soil Fertility"
- 11:15 OSCIA Report- Gord Green
- 11:30 Annual Meeting- minutes, financial, election of directors
- 12:00 Hot Roast Beef Dinner \$20.00 and visit with Exhibitors
- 1:15 "Precision junk on planters—does it pay??" Panel—Paul Sullivan, Greg Stewart,
Panel Discussion—bring your questions. Moderator Greg Stewart OMAFRA
- 2:30 Peter Johnson "The Wild and the Wonderful"

Elgin Rainfall Summary 2011

NAME	ADDRESS	TOTAL	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	HEAT UNITS
Tom Oegema	Sunset Road	519		170	49	56	110	134		
Doug Aldred	West Lorne	487		222	97	58	111			
Dana Porter	St. Thomas	793	152		73	55	188	141		
jamie Littlejohn	Wallacetown	666		160	113	56	108	126	103	3550
Keith Kelly	Rodney	627	136		105	112	115			
Nick Hoffsummer		476		147	40	42	131	116		
John E. Johnston	Wardsville	752	89	193	69	99	112	107	84	

Another photo
Submitted by MM
Thanks!!



Local OMAFRA News

Courtesy of: Vicki Luke, OMAFRA (stand-in) Regional Information Coordinator,
Woodstock Resource Centre 537-3896 vicki.luke@ontario.ca
And Valerie Clark, OMAFRA Regional Information Coordinator,
London Resource Centre, 873-4070 valerie.clark@ontario.ca

November 29, 2011 – Farm Credit Canada Learning Event – Woodstock, ON on Advanced Commodity Marketing. For more details on this program and others offered throughout Ontario in November, you can phone 1-888-332-3301 or go to www.fcc.ca/learning

November 29 & 30 - Sheep Infrastructure Workshops – 2011, Mount Forest. The Program is targeted toward people in the planning cycle for building large commercial-scale infrastructure as part of an expansion plan in their sheep enterprise. The workshop is intended to give ideas, show latest concepts, test out participants' ideas and examine relative costs, but not a financial recipe or exact expenses list as that is dependent on their personal situation. Participants will be sent home with some good ideas and the need to examine more options before committing themselves on any capital project. To register / for more information: Toll Free: 1-877-424-1300; Local: (519) 826-4047; E-mail: ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca

November 30, 2011 – Forage Focus 2011 Conference, Shakespeare Optimist Centre, Shakespeare, ON. Key Note Speaker: Michael C. Rankin of University of Wisconsin. Note that this conference is also being held on November 29 in Napanee, ON. For more details, check their website at <http://www.ontarioforagecouncil.com/>.

December 8, 2011 – Poultry Producer Update, Mount Forest. OMAFRA, in conjunction with the Poultry Industry Council, are running Producer Updates for the Poultry Industry. Details are available at <http://www.poultryindustrycouncil.ca/events/producerupdates.php>

January 4 & 5, 2012 – Southwest Agricultural Conference, University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus. Watch for details at <http://www.southwestagconference.ca/>

January 21, 2012 – Farm\$mart Agricultural Conference, Rozanski Hall, University of Guelph. Mark your calendar and watch for details at <http://www.uoguelph.ca/farmsmart/>.

January 21, 2012 – Beef Symposium in conjunction with Farm\$mart Agricultural Conference (above), University of Guelph, Guelph, On. More details are available at <http://www.uoguelph.ca/farmsmart/index.html> or email Brian.Pogue@ontario.ca

January 25 – 31, 2012 - Annual Centralia Swine Research Update, Kirkton-Woodham Community Centre, Kirkton. Watch for details at <http://www.centraliaswinereseach.ca/>

February 8, 2012 – Poultry Producer Update, London. OMAFRA, in conjunction with the Poultry Industry Council, are running Producer Updates for the Poultry Industry. Details are available at <http://www.poultryindustrycouncil.ca/events/producerupdates.php>. This update is also being offered in Belleville on February 7 and in St. Catherines on February 9.

February 22 & 23 – Ontario Cattlemen's Association Annual General Meeting and Banquet, "Celebrating 50 Years of Strength, Commitment and Determination", Doubletree Hotel, Toronto, ON. For details visit <http://www.cattle.guelph.on.ca/>

March 7 – 9, 2012 – Western Fair Farm Show, Western Fair Entertainment Centre, London, ON. Watch for details at <http://www.westernfair.com/shows/farm.html>

April 11 & 12, 2012 – Poultry Industry Show, Western Fair Entertainment Centre, London, ON. Check for details at <http://www.westernfair.com/shows/poultry.html>

NEW AGRI-TOURISM TOOLKIT

There are many different things that need to be considered when changing your focus from being solely a farm operator to becoming a tourism operator and welcoming visitors onto your farm. For more information, go to www.osw-agritourismtoolkit.com

2011 OXFORD RURAL GUIDE

This guide is now on the Oxford County Federation of Agriculture website. Here is the link:

<http://www.oxfordag.ca/index.php/CommunityGuide/Index> or you can go to www.oxfordag.ca and follow the links on the left.

BALE WRAP & PLASTIC GROUND MULCH FILM RECYCLING

Evolution Biopolymers Inc. (EBI), Cambridge, ON and Switch Energy, Clinton Ontario are ready for commercial scale collection and recycling of Agricultural Film Waste – Bale Wrap Silage Film and Plastic Mulch Film. Finding the proper avenue for the recycling of agricultural plastic films such as those used in bale wrap (used to protect livestock feed) and plastic ground mulch film (used in vegetable production) has long been an issue for farmers in Ontario striving to be more environmentally conscious. Now EBI will be able to provide a solution that is both simple and economic for farmers and at the same time produce recycled polymers for plastics manufactures here in Ontario. An elegant solution; turn a waste product from one industry into feed-stock for a different industry and at the same time build new jobs here in Ontario.

About EBI:

EBI has successfully developed a proprietary process for cleaning, grinding, agglomerating and extruding waste plastic Ag film. EBI is an innovative biopolymer manufacturing and marketing company based out of Cambridge ON and is an exclusive licensee of the Bio-products Discovery and Development Centre, University of Guelph, Ontario for biopolymer related formulations using recycled plastic streams.

About Switch Energy:

Switch Energy has developed a process for collection of such film, based on the pilot undertaken in Brant County. Switch Energy is based out of Clinton ON, in Huron County and has expertise in grinding and segregation of natural fibres and Ag related plastic film collection. Don Nott's contact number: + 1 519 482 7439.

Ready to Collect!

Following the launch of a pilot bale wrap collection project with eight farmers, in Brant County, launched about two month ago, we are now ready to engage with multiple farmers and Counties/Municipalities in Ontario to begin collection of bale wrap and plastic mulch film on a commercial scale.

We welcome the opportunity of meeting with:

- Municipal Environmental Specialists to discuss how EBI could work with the municipal collection centres to collect and pick up bale wrap.
- Leading dairy farmers, (users of bale wrap)
- Vegetable growers (users of plastic mulch film)

To further this initiative and explain how we will undertake the collection process. We have developed some training techniques to make it easy for farmers to participate in this collection program and are very open-minded in terms of how different municipalities and the different farming habits may call for more customized approaches for collection that make business sense for both partners.

Contact: Don Nott: 1-519-482-7439 for more information.

Spray boom used in the Newfoundland cranberry fields – 75' long with both liquid and dry capabilities





Oxford 1st VP Mark Kirwin, Provincial Director Gord Green and I travelled back To Newfoundland in early November to Give a presentation to Ag Ministry staff during their staff conference. They were very interested in learning more about Ontario Agriculture , including promotion and agri-tourism ideas that are popular here.

While there, we had the opportunity to visit the largest cranberry farm on the island as well as some scenic coastline villages.



Salvage, NL



View from hayfield of dairy farm near Terra Nova NL



And some plot photos of the Oxford “Is Manure Enough?” project near Burgessville
- courtesy P Johnson



THAMES VALLEY REGIONAL SCIA

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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

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

CATHY'S COMMENTS

Hi all! Well, the fall didn't turn out much better than the spring of 2011 as far as Mother Nature cooperating. What a challenging year. Thankfully many of us were quite surprised by the yields coming off the fields, which is good! From the reports I've been seeing, many producers are seeing the end of corn harvest in sight, if not completed already. For those of you who are still plugging away, good luck and work safe. Oxford and Elgin SCIA's are busy planning their annual meetings for the second week of January - hope to see you at one of these great events. We should have all the county and regional project reports wrapped up and will be included in the March newsletter as well as on the website by then. Don't forget to send in your plot data! We want it all - so send it on to your local county secretary, Peter J or one of your directors.



Another Dibble adventure - a 65 km trek from dealer to Drumbo turned into 4 days, 5 repairs, 7 rescue trips and 700+ km on my Dodge to get the silly thing home. Please don't ask why.....