

February 2010

NORTHWEST LINK

Thunder Bay - Rainy River - Kenora Districts

Northwestern Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Associations

New Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

On January 18th Premier McGuinty appointed the Honourable **Carol Mitchell** as Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

Ms. Mitchell was elected to the Ontario legislature in 2003 and re-elected in 2007. She first served as Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture. Subsequently, she served as Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal. She was appointed Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs in January 2010.

In her 12 years in municipal government, Carol was on Clinton council and was reeve of Central Huron. She was the first warden of Huron County to serve two terms in more than 100 years. Mitchell was the owner of clothing stores in Clinton and Bayfield. Born and raised in Clinton, she and her husband, Larry, have two children, Gabrielle and Jasmine.

Canada Post Publication Mail Agreement Number 1411225

Return undeliverable copies to:
Suite B012, 435 James St.
Thunder Bay, On. P7E 6S7

Northern Food Connections: Get Fresh, Eat Local, Go Wild, Thursday March 4 to Saturday March 6, 2010 at Lakehead University.

The conference will be a chance to showcase local food security projects and develop new skills, as participants work towards greater food security in the NWO region. Over three days, hands-on workshops, discussions, and displays will cover such topics as producer/ retailer/ consumer connections, small farm stories, do-it-yourself food production and preservation, indigenous food culture & knowledge, food justice, and sustainable food systems.

Stay tuned for the ***Taste of Northwestern Ontario Business Networking Event*** for farmers, chefs and retailers to be held the evening of Thursday March 4th.

The Food Action Network and the Food Security Research Network are coordinating this conference with partners from Thunder Bay Federation of Agriculture, Thunder Bay Country Market, Rainy River Federation of Agriculture, Northwestern Health Unit and Thunder Bay District Health Unit with generous sponsorship from FSRN, TBDHU and Thunder Bay Ventures.

Moving?

Please let us know your new address before you move so you will not miss a single issue of Northwest Link.

Food Safety and Traceability Initiative

The Food Safety and Traceability Initiative (FSTI) will be accepting applications on March 1, 2010 beginning at 9:00 am. The guidebooks and application forms will be available January 28, 2010. Applicants are encouraged to review the program guidelines before submitting their applications.

With the new window for submitting applications under this Growing Forward program soon to open information sessions are being offered at a number of Northwestern Ontario locations.

The 4 hour sessions are being offered on February 18, 2010 starting at 9:30 a.m. EST (8:30 CST) in **Dryden** at the Ontario Government Building, in **Stratton** at the Morley Municipal Building and in **Thunder Bay** at the Ministry of Labour Boardroom.

There is no cost for attending these sessions. To register please contact the Northern Regional Office 1 800 461 6132.

If there are not sufficient registrations at a site for a session to be held alternative arrangements may be made with Gary or Rudy.

Producers who attended a Food Safety and Traceability Initiative workshop in 2009 are not required to attend a new workshop. Producers who were not successful in getting a project application approved in 2009 will have to submit a new application on the revised application form.



Philpot & Delgaty
INSURANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICES

Insuring Farms since 1910.
Contact David Toivonen today!

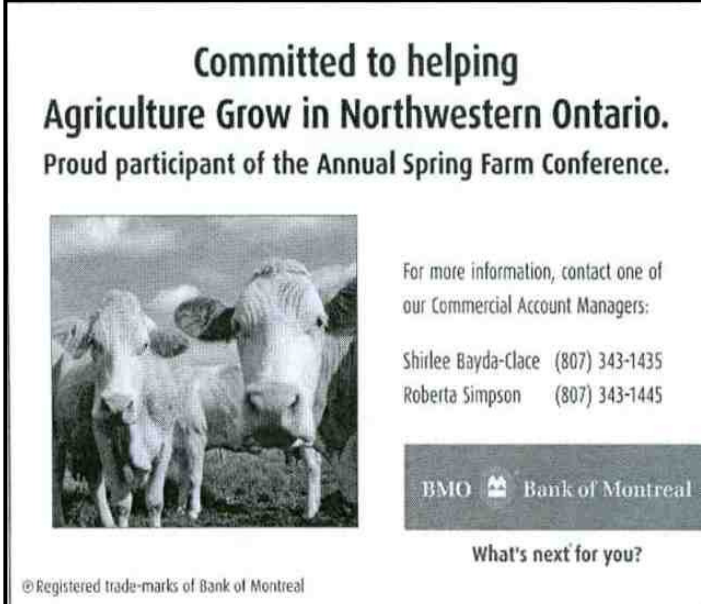
800 E. Victoria Avenue, Thunder Bay 807-623-9022

Resource for Leaders


Meeting and workshop leaders are often faced with the challenge of finding resources.

www.workshopexercises.com provides links to resources that may be helpful.

Check it out!



**Committed to helping
Agriculture Grow in Northwestern Ontario.**
Proud participant of the Annual Spring Farm Conference.



For more information, contact one of our Commercial Account Managers:

Shirlee Bayda-Clace (807) 343-1435
Roberta Simpson (807) 343-1445

BMO Bank of Montreal

What's next for you?

© Registered trade-marks of Bank of Montreal

Nutrient Management Software Training

How to Prepare a Nutrient Management Strategy and Plan (Using NMAN)

Learn the features included in the latest release of NMAN in this workshop March 23 & 24 in Thunder Bay.

To register (\$95 for producers, \$70 per person for additional members of farm or farm family) contact Nutrient Management Branch at OMAFRA 1-866-242-4460



KAEMINGH FUELS LTD.
ESSO Sales Agency
P.O. Box 236
Emo, ON P0W 1E0
Ph: 807-482-2390
Fax: 807-482-2635
1-800-465-7769

Arnold Kaemingh: 482-2311
David Kaemingh: 482-2468

Serving the Rainy River District
with Quality Esso Fuel & Lubricant Products

Precision Dairy Management Conference March 2 – 5, 2010

High tech comes to the dairy barn at a Conference planned for Toronto on March 2-5, 2010. Organizers expect this conference to attract speakers, and displays of leading edge technology applied to better managing and caring for dairy cattle from around the world.

The conference will focus on all aspects of precision dairy management including RFID, robotic milking, precision management of health, reproduction and nutrition, calf and replacement management, in-barn sensors and monitors, and herd management and information integration.

The First North American Conference on Precision Dairy Management will be held at the Doubletree Toronto Airport March 2 to 5, 2010. This event also includes the Second North American Conference on Robotic Milking and the Progressive Dairy Operators Triennial Symposium.

The conference will be a unique opportunity for producers and other dairy professionals to learn about and discuss the latest technical developments in a North American setting. Conference organizers have drawn on specialists around the world where precision technology is the best developed and involved researchers and developers who are leading the way in technology applications on dairy farms. Researchers, developers and producers will all have a part in the program that consists of oral presentations, posters and state of the art commercial exhibits.

The keynote speaker for the conference will be an address by Canadian astronaut Roberta Bondar. Exhibitors will feature world leading technology,



Farm Credit Canada - Financement agricole
Canada

Agriculture. It's all we do.
L'agriculture... notre raison d'être.

1-800-387-3232



DAVIES
Legacy Planning Group Inc.



**YOUR
FARM PLANNING SPECIALIST**

Len Davies CFP, CLU, CIP, EPC, CAFA, CDFA
15564 Muirkirk Line, Muirkirk, ON N0L 1X0
Phone: 519-678-3862 1-888-700-3915
email: len@davieslegacy.ca
website: www.davieslegacy.ca

Approved By OMAFRA'S
"Growing Forward" Program

including robotic milking, cow-side sensors and monitors, and cow management software. The conference finishes with a one day farm tour to view the new technology and equipment in action.

The Conference is being organized by a group led by the Progressive Dairy Operators and also includes OMAFRA, CanWestDHI, Dairy Farmers of Ontario and the University of Guelph. This group has organized highly successful conferences in the past including the first North American Conference on Robotic Milking which introduced automated milking to North America.

The program will be of great interest to dairy professionals, including producers, technologists, researchers and developers. The most profitable aspect of the Conference promises to be the mix of different sorts of dairy professionals from many different countries as they get together to discuss and improve on precision dairy management.

For more information go to the Conference website www.precisiondairy2010.com or telephone 1-519-826-4047 or 1-877-424-1300 within Ontario.

This newsletter is published monthly except for the months of April and December. Articles should be submitted by the 15th of the month prior to the publishing month. 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

Send your articles to: Jeffrey Burke, 50 Pokki Rd, RR 1 Kakabeka Falls, ON, P0T 1W0
Phone/fax 807-933-0570
Email: jjburke@lakeheadu.ca

PURITY SEEDS LIMITED

FOR ALL YOUR SEEDING NEEDS
SPECIALISTS IN FORAGES, CEREALS, AND SOYBEANS

Larry Lamb, P.Ag.

Box 555

Emo, Ontario

P0W 1E0

Phone : (807)-482-2420

Toll Free: 1-888-500-3159

We'll arrange delivery to your Farm, in
Ontario, Minnesota, or Manitoba.

Farmer/Chef Speed Networking Event Northern Food Connections Get Fresh, Eat Local, Go Wild Thursday March 4th, 6:00-10:00 pm Lakehead University Faculty Lounge

Featuring delicious locally produced appetizers prepared by our own farmers and chefs, outstanding speakers and great networking opportunities

6:00pm Welcome and opening remarks

6:15pm Peter Katona– Executive Director, Foodlink Waterloo Region Inc. *The Opportunities and Challenges of Creating Strong Local Food Business Networks*

6:45pm Farmer/Chef Speed Networking

8:30pm Margaret Webb– Author, *Apples to Oysters: A Food Lovers Tour of Canadian Farms Closing Remarks*

8:45pm Informal Networking

RSVP by January 29th to Marianne Stewart at mariannestewart@rogers.com or 622-7169 if you are able to take part in this great event



Dr. Bob Wright

Many of you in the horse industry will likely know of Dr. Bob Wright. After 31 years as a devoted civil servant, Dr. Bob retired from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs on October 30, 2009.

Bob began his career with the government in 1978, when, as a brand new graduate, he accepted the position of Lead Veterinarian in a government-owned, mixed-animal practice, North Cochrane Veterinary Clinic, in Kapuskasing. In 1986, Bob and his family moved to Guelph, where he began his new role as an equine extension veterinarian. Over the course of time, he added the alternate species portfolio, which included farmed cervids, rabbits, ratites, and mink.

During his career, Bob was a prolific author, preparing more than 150 factsheets and more than 500 snippets for his *Horse News and Views* columns. He also carried out research on alsike clover poisoning in horses; ergot alkaloid toxicity in pregnant mares; hay and mold evaluation in horse hay and Aleutian disease in farmed mink.

Bob was instrumental in developing sampling protocols to test for chronic wasting disease (CWD) in cervids, a disease which, to date, has not been found in Ontario herds. He was a popular speaker at equine, cervid and rabbit information meetings in Canada and internationally.

In his retirement, Bob plans to spend time with his family and continue some of his research projects, in addition to running his small animal practice and catching up on his riding.

Field Trial Ideas?

If anyone has ideas for field trials, or wants to do a particular project please contact Jeff Burke 933-0570 to find out more about OSCIA assistance.

Annual TBSCIA Spring Farm Conference

Save the date for the TBSCIA Spring Farm Conference April 6th to 8th at the Kakabeka Legion.

Recent Winnipeg Cattle Prices

As is usual for this time of year the volume of animals being sold is fairly low. Prices are similar to what they were in December. Following are the price ranges for steers for the past month at Winnipeg Livestock Sales to January 20.

Over 1000 lbs.	\$	NA	
900 – 1000 lbs.	\$	78.00 -	83.50
800 – 900 lbs.	\$	80.00 –	90.75
700 – 800 lbs.	\$	88.00 –	93.75
600 – 700 lbs.	\$	92.00 –	107.50
500 – 600 lbs.	\$	100.00 –	115.00
400 – 500 lbs.	\$	100.00 -	123.00
under 400 lbs.	\$	NA	

Slaughter cow and bull prices have been slightly higher over the past few weeks. Here are the price ranges for cows and bulls to January 20.

Choice Strs. & Hfr.	\$	70.00 –	74.25
Select Strs. & Hfr.	\$	NA	
Cows Age Verified	\$	33.00 –	49.25
Dry Fed	\$	29.00 –	39.00
Good Fleshed	\$	25.00 –	36.00
Lean	\$	20.00 –	32.00

Good Bulls \$ 42.00 – 56.00

Griffiths Country Meats

**Now Slaughtering
Processing Cutting Wrapping**

60 Griffiths Rd. Oxdrift ON
(807) 937-6716
Mon.—Fri. 9:00-5:00

EMO FEED SERVICE LTD. YOUR ONE STOP FARM SHOP

Box 26, Emo, Ontario P0W 1E0
Phone (807) 482-2017 Fax (807) 482-2207

**Feed – Seed - Fertilizer
Farm Supplies – Fencing
Gallagher Power Fencing**

Gencor

Committed to Serving our Members!

R.R. #6 Thunder Bay, Ont. P7C 5N5

Head Office: 1-888-821-2150

<http://www.gencor.ca>

Stratton Sales Barn Sale Dates

NEW SALE DATE

March 27, 2010

(Cattle will only be received on Friday March 26th)

April 24, 2010

September 4, 2010 (this date is still tentative)

October 2, 2010

October 30, 2010

Please Contact—Clayton Teeple

Sales Barn Manager For further information.

807-487-1465 (Home)

807-275-8188 (Cell)

The Rainy River Cattlemen's is pleased to offer Duflex RFID Combo XL Tags. You can choose from Blue, Green, White, Yellow, Red, Purple and Pink. Orange is available but we are reserving them to be used for our Protocol Calves. All tags come with our NEW Rainy River Raised Logo. These are a 4 part tag—(dangle tag with button and the RFID tag with button). The RFID # can be printed on the tag if you so desire. There is the option to have your management tag # imprinted or you can get them blank and you can print your on information. Normally the orders take approximately one week.

To order, or for further information, please give Kim Jo a call at 807-482-2863, 807-275-9706 or

kjherefords@xplornet.com

AGE VERIFICATION IS FREE AND A PART OF
OUR TAG SERVICE!

tags *MUST* be removed prior to Sale Time.

Lulich Implement, Inc.

64850 U.S. Hwy 63

Mason, WI 54856

715-745-2477

www.lulichimplement.net



Stratton Sales Barn— Vaccination Protocol

CALVES (1st shots in spring):

Ultra Choice 8 & Somubac OR Vision 8 Somnus
OR Coevxin Plus & Somubac

(2nd shot; minimum 3 weeks prior to the sale):

Resvac 4 Somubac & (either) Ultra Choice 8 OR
Coevxin Plus (Coevxin Plus should be used if you
need Tetanus coverage)

COWS & BULLS - (Annually):

Bovishield Gold FP5 VL5 & Ultra Choice 8

(When using a live vaccine for the first time, cows
should be Vaccinated non-pregnant and after that
they can be Vaccinated at any time of the year.

PURCHASED CALVES—(if they were not a
part of the Vaccination Protocol OR if you are not
aware of their prior vaccines, they need to be
given):

Resvac 4 Somubac & Ultra Choice 8 and then ap-
proximately 2 weeks later, they should be given a
Somubac booster. Vaccination Protocol calves
need only to have an Ultra Choice 8 shot the fol-
lowing spring prior to pasture.

Replacement Heifers should be included in the
Annual Cow Herd Vaccine regimen.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

Castration must be done a minimum of 3 weeks
prior to the sale.

Dehorning must be done a minimum of 3 weeks
prior to the sale.

Cattle must be identified with the **ORANGE
RAINY RIVER RAISED** ear tags. (Cattle partici-
pating from outside of the district will be required
to use these tags as well.) The **ORANGE** dangle
tag must be in the right ear.

Cattle must be Age Verified, and a copy of the
birth certificates be brought to the Sales Barn.
Cattle should be registered with the Sales Barn
Manager a minimum of 2 weeks prior to a sale and
can be a part of a pre-sort sale if desired or other
similar style of cattle present.

Receipts of vaccines must be submitted at Sale
Time, signed and dated by the Veterinarian
Clinic. This would also mean proof that the cow
herd was vaccinated as listed above.

*If the protocol is not followed the Orange Dangle
tags MUST be removed prior to Sale Time*

Ontario Hay Marketing Forum

The Ontario Forage Council (OFC) has recently de-
veloped and launched the Ontario Hay Marketing Fo-
rum. The purpose of the Hay Marketing Forum is to
provide a forum to exchange information and promote
the Ontario hay industry, with a major focus on Inter-
national market opportunities.

The OFC has been actively working with other re-
gions across Canada on the development of a National
Forage Association, with one of the objectives to pur-
sue and encourage export marketing opportunities for
the Canadian hay industry, of which Ontario has ma-
jor potential. An application for funding assistance for
a “Fact Finding Mission” to the Middle East has been
approved, as part of a “Long Term International Strat-
egy” (LTIS).

The Ontario Forage Council organized a session for
all members of the Ontario Hay Marketing Forum on
December 4th to seek pertinent advice and information
on developing the LTIS. Participants expressed very
positive comments on the meeting, and ongoing infor-
mation about the Middle East and other countries will
be shared with the members of the Hay Marketing
Forum as it becomes available. There has been a
growing awareness that exports into the US hay mar-
kets have become more challenging, due in part to the
higher valued Canadian dollar, low US milk prices
and the general economic situation in the US.

Since the demand is now moving to more alfalfa
based hay, Ontario certainly has much to offer. Agri-
culture Canada has also expressed keen interest and is
beginning to realize the tremendous potential for the
forage industry. The OFC is committed to providing a
complete update to the membership upon returning
from the “Fact Finding Mission”.

Ontario hay producers and marketers are invited to
become a member of the Ontario Hay Marketing Fo-
rum and take advantage of the two-year introductory
membership opportunity to keep abreast of the most
up to date market information. To date we have had
extremely positive feedback, and we fully recognize
this is an excellent opportunity to promote your busi-
ness, and be kept in the loop for the latest in export
opportunities.

To access an application form or obtain more infor-
mation, go to the OFC website –

www.ontarioforagecouncil.com or please feel free to
contact Ray Robertson at the OFC office 1-877-892-
8663 or 519-986-1484



Norlund Oil (2003) Limited

Paul Koomans
Petro Canada Distributor
6115 Hwy 11/71 Box 266
Emo, ON POW 1E0

pkoomans@bellnet.ca
807-482-2680 phone
807-482-2014 fax
807-275-5282 cell



Superior Beef Genetics
Bulls and Females for Sale
offering Polled Herefords, Red Angus,
F1 Females

Devlin, Ontario, P0W 1C0
807-486-3477

cornellfarms@tbaytel.net ; www.cornellfarms.ca

A Fifth Generation Family Farm in Northwestern Ontario

Agricultural Awareness 2009 Activities

Shirley Morrish and Kristine Carpenter

We look back on the 2009 year with a feeling of accomplishment, because it was pretty successful. Two little old ladies who still run their own farms and still do tons of other volunteer work managed to promote Herbs at the Farmers Market in Fort Frances on Mothers Day weekend. We gave seeds, herb plants in little pots and delicious recipes to the customers.

We were asked by a teacher in Fort Frances to give a presentation to two classes. They learned that every single ingredient in a pizza actually starts at a farm. We had all the ingredients there for the students to inspect. We talked about farm machinery, farmers duties covering vegetable growers, dairy, abattoirs, store keepers, truckers and consumers. We served fresh pizza to each of the students at the end of the presentation.

In the spring several schools asked for fertile eggs to hatch in incubators for a classroom activity. We provided the necessary equipment for their project.

During the months of April-May-June over 1000 visitors from local schools, nursery schools, day-care and individual family groups toured Willow-Mor Farms. Learning about 16 species of domestic farm animals in their natural setting along with a wagon ride to watch cows and their newborn calves, sometimes seeing a new calf being born is a much talked about activity for many. Safety is practiced at all times and questions answered. A snack is served before playtime in the Enchanted Forest. Agricultural fun activity handouts are presented to

each person as they leave the farm. Through the local Health Unit we showed a number of parents and pre-schoolers how to plant seeds in various recycled containers using what was readily available and teaching about care and nurturing of container gardens. Reports back were very successful.

During the Emo Fall Fair, we promoted vegetables that can be grown locally. We had a vegetable display with valuable information on growing, storing and cooking vegetables. Our free draw prize was a basket of locally grown produce. We also gave out carrot sticks as snacks and showed the participants how to make homemade vegetable soup.

In October, we created and stuffed scarecrows for the Clover Valley Farmers Market. Children had great fun building their own garden and flower patch inspirations. We also had hand-outs on growing your own garden as well as the benefits of the colourful scarecrow.

We will continue to assist teachers, local commodity groups, and the public to make them aware how important Agriculture and food production is to everyone.

Special thanks to Pat Clysdale-Cornell and Tom Morrish for all their extra assistance.



RAINY RIVER FUTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
A Community Futures Development Corporation



Jeannette Cawston
Rural Agriculture Co-ordinator

jeannette@rrfdc.on.ca
www.rrfdc.on.ca

Cell 807.275.8743
Alternate 807.482.3983

807.274.3276 - 1.800.465.8502 - Fax 807.274.6989
.608 Scott Street, Fort Frances, ON P9A 1H6

Alternate forages for dairy cattle

Dr. Tarlok Singh Sahota CCA

I was assigned this topic by TBSCIA to speak on at the 2008 Spring Conference. I wasn't told alternative to which crop; alfalfa or barley/within barley or corn or grasses/within grasses? It was interesting to evaluate various forage options that could be added to/or alternate current on-farm forage options:

Annual grasses: Michael Hunter of Cornell University, who has done a considerable research on **teff**, promotes teff as alternate forage for dairy cattle. It was adapted to a wide range of soils, tolerated dry soil conditions, emerged quickly and produced good yields of high quality forage (7.5 t/ha; 13-14 % protein, and 69.3% NDFd) in a short period of time. It could be harvested as both a high moisture forage crop and ensiled, baled as dry hay or grazed. At TBARS, during 2008, it produced a dry matter yield of 3.7 tonne/ha with 14% protein. In 2009 (cold and dry spring), it didn't even emerge after seeding. It likes heat; a constraint for our area. **Italian ryegrass** yield at TBARS in 2008 was only ~20 % of that from silage corn.

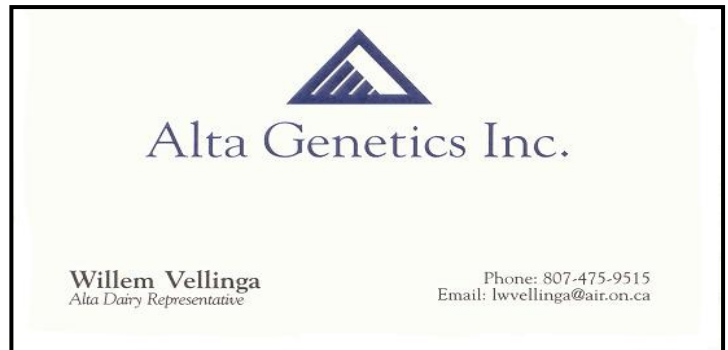
Perennial grasses: Multi year results from TBARS showed that orchardgrass, bromegrass, and timothy produced higher dry matter yield than reed canarygrass and tall/or meadow fescue. Bromegrass has been the best in producing high yield of second cut. Timothy (and also reed canarygrass) had done better in the warm years and orchardgrass had yielded better in the cold years. It is therefore advisable to grow more than one species of grass either singly or in mixture.

Winter cereals: Winter wheat/rye/triticale harvested at boot stage (late spring/early summer) could produce a dry matter yield of up to 6 tonne/ha with nearly as much protein as alfalfa, and leave enough room for production of another short duration annual forage crop such as oats. For maximum forage dry matter yield (~10 tonne/ha) however, these crops should be harvested three weeks after the boot stage. This will enable producers to raise turnips or radishes for pasturing after harvesting winter cereals. Timely seeded winter cereals could also be pastured in the fall. A 70 days winter barley crop at TBARS produced 2 tonnes dry matter/ha with ~28% protein.

Intercropping winter wheat with spring barley (both seeded in spring at about 75% of normal population): The practice could produce high quality forage without compromising much on forage yield. Winter wheat seeded in spring doesn't head and has a lot of foliage that contributes to increased protein content and palatability of the forage. It provides a grazing opportunity

after the initial crop is harvested, or alternatively, the winter wheat may be left to grow for feed quality grain production. An innovative Thunder Bay producer who grew winter wheat and spring barley together last season seems to be impressed with the feed quality from this inter cropping system.

Spring cereals/milletts: Triticale and wheat have given higher forage dry matter production than barley at TBARS in the past. For milk cows, wheat would likely provide the most palatable silage, followed by oats, then barley (US work)! Canadian work indicated that amongst wheat, barley and oats, oats had the poorest quality for silage. Barley has the best but it should be left until mid dough stage (at 60- 65% moisture); the grain will increase the yield and maintain the forage quality. At TBARS, two row barley varieties, such as Bentley, CDC Coalition and Millhouse (hulless food barley) produced higher forage yield (over 7 tonne/ha; 11-12% protein) than the six row barley varieties. Milletts (Proso/or Foxtail) with ~80% of forage yield poten-



tial of barley, have reportedly given some positive results when fed to lactating cows.

Intercropping barley and peas: Seeding peas with barley is considered good for dairy rations. Seed a normal rate of peas and 1/4 rate of barley. At higher seed rates, barley will "choke out" the peas. Yield from barley + peas is reported to be similar to barley alone but quality will be very high. Cut when the bottom pods are filled and may even start to turn. At this time the barley should be in the mid dough stage. We have tried intercropping barley with peas for grain production at TBARS. Average of two years' results indicated that barley + pea intercropping in alternate rows @ 20 or 40 Kg N/ha produced somewhat higher grain yield than barley alone and resulted in an economy of 20-40 kg N/ha. The economic value of produce from barley + pea would be more than that from barley alone.

Legumes other than alfalfa: At TBARS, RR Soybeans varieties harvested at green pod stage (bottom couple of

Jeffrey M. Jones

521 Memorial Avenue
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 3Y6
Office: (807) 343-9444
e-mail: jjones@jonesins.com

Direct Line: (807) 766-2086
Cell: (807) 476-8651
Fax: (807) 345-4955
Home: (807) 767-1556

leaves turning yellow) could yield 7-8 tonne dry matter yield with nearly or higher than 15% protein. **OAC Prudence**, a conventional soybean, produced 8.5 tonnes dry matter/ha with 13% protein. Soybean may have some digestibility issues and could be high in NDF. With the high price of RR soybeans it may be hard to justify growing soybeans for forage. Many of the approved soybean herbicides are limited to soybeans grown for grain and may not be allowed on soybeans grown for forage.

Berseem clover, a multi cut annual legume, might be an alternative to alfalfa. Seeded on May 20, it produced 6 tonne dry matter yield/ha (as much as from oats) with 21% protein content in all the cuts at TBARS during 2008. Forage yield from berseem and oats could be improved by a tonne/ha by their intercropping (berseem 100%, oats 50%); protein content will be higher than oats, but much lower than berseem alone. A Thunder Bay producer that grew berseem last year (not a good year for berseem due to dry spring) could take two cuts from it! Berseem may be seeded on/around May 10 and offers a good opportunity for grazing/or turning over as a green manure after the two cuts.

Forage yield from **galega**, a perennial legume from the Scandinavian countries, couldn't match with that from alfalfa, though at times it appeared to have a better forage quality. The crop stand in our trial wasn't all that good. We therefore need to try the crop at higher seed rates than before (20 kg/ha; galega seed size is much bigger than alfalfa).

Barley vs. Corn: Corn takes longer time to mature and has higher production cost as compared to barley, though it has the rotational advantage, and cows love to eat it! Silage corn should yield at least 12.5 tonne/ha to be economically competitive with barely. We can get up to 16 tonne/ha yield from corn at Thunder Bay. Barley has high % protein and nutrients content (except Mg/Mn-more or less the same as in corn), low ADF and NDF, as compared to corn, but equals corn in energy levels. And barley is a sure crop in areas with

short growing seasons.

Fenugreek - another option: Research at Lethbridge has found that one cut of fenugreek is equivalent in dry matter to two cuts of alfalfa, and that fenugreek silage has a similar nutrient content to alfalfa silage with superior digestibility, potentially reducing costs of protein supplementation. Medicinal value of fenugreek has the potential to make the cattle industry less dependent on synthetic steroids (hormones to promote rapid weight gain in cattle) that can contaminate water resources. We will evaluate fenugreek along with alfalfa and berseem at TBARS during 2010!

Thunder Bay producers may wish to try berseem or berseem + oats, winter wheat + spring barley, barley + peas, and two row barley varieties for silage production, keeping the six row barley for feed grain production. Peas at grain yield of 6 tonne/ha or higher offer good opportunity to replace both barley and soybean for feed production, at least partially, if not fully.

JOHN GEORGIU
Agent/Owner

JOHN GEORGIU & ASSOCIATES INC.
340 Second St S Kenora ON P9N 1G5
Bus: (807) 468-5588 Fax: (807) 468-2272 Toll Free: 1-800-387-6079
After Hours Emergency Service: 1-800-465-2667
e-mail: john_georgiou@cooperators.ca Internet: www.cooperators.ca
Home Auto Life Investments RSPs Group Business Farm

FarmOn Survey

As a mean to better serve new and transitioning farmers of the province FarmON developed a survey. Its purpose is to identify needs for agricultural training and educational resources in Ontario. Results will be summarized on the FarmLINK Ontario website (www.farmlinkontario.ca), and available on request from FarmStart (www.farmstart.ca)

Thank you for taking approximately 10 minutes to assist with this effort.

English survey: www.tinyurl.com/farmertrainingsurvey

French survey: www.tinyurl.com/farmertrainingsurveyfr

More information can be forwarded to Dave Banbury at: farmon@eatlocalsudbury.com

DAWSON RANCH SUPPLIES

-Kelln Solar 4 Season Livestock Water Systems
(for your Environmental Farm Plan project)

-Morand Cattle Handling Systems

-Super Trail Bale Feeders & Fence Panels

-Cypress Industries Creep & Bunk Feeders

-Electric Fencing Supplies

John (807) 483-5893 or Amos (807) 483-7717

Rotational Grazing

-Jack Kyle, Grazier Specialist, OMAFRA, Lindsay

What is rotational grazing? As I talk to farmers across the province about grazing management, I have come to realize that rotational grazing means different things to different people.

The dictionary definition of rotation is “to change or alternate in a particular sequence; regular variation”. To a crop producer, rotation means a different crop or sequence of crops in a field over a number of years. When we talk about rotation in relation to grazing, the most important factor is the state of the grass growth. The guiding principal of rotational grazing is to give the grass crop every opportunity to grow and produce forage for the livestock. The rotation refers to the movement of the livestock from one paddock to another during the grazing season.

According to the University of Guelph and OMAFRA Beef Cow-Calf Benchmarking Study, the biggest cost component is feed. When asked about grazing practices, over half of the participants reported that they were rotational grazing. However, there was a big range in the results that they were achieving.

Grazing & Rest Periods

The concept behind rotational grazing is to harvest the grass quickly and then give the forage time to recover and re-grow. This is accomplished by giving the livestock enough grass for the prescribed feeding period and then moving them to a new field. The more frequent these moves, the more productive the pastures will be. The maximum length of time in a paddock should be 5 days. Why 5 days? Grass starts to re-grow five days after it is harvested. When does a hay field begin to green-up after being cut? There is usually new growth started in 5-6 days. In a pasture, this new growth is candy to the livestock and they quickly re-graze it. This re-grazing depletes the root reserves of the plants, reducing plant vigour and subsequent growth.

An optimal rotational grazing system has the livestock moving to fresh grass every 1 to 3 days. If the grazing period is longer, there will be reduced performance by both the livestock and the grass. Think of the pasture field as a feed bunk. Would you expect livestock to perform well if the feed bunk was only filled every five days? Fresh feed encourages consumption and increased consumption means increased performance.

Number of Paddocks Required

For each group of livestock that you have on pasture, there should be a minimum of 10 paddocks to give the grass an opportunity to recover from the grazing. Twenty paddocks will go a long way to encouraging increased animal intake. Thirty paddocks will allow you to realize the full potential of both the pasture and the grazing livestock. This may seem like a lot of paddocks, but with the use of electric fence, including some temporary or portable fence, it does not need to be insurmountable.

Cattle trained to electric fence and accustomed to moving every 1-2 days to fresh grass will meet you at the gate for their next move.

Increased Season Long Carrying Capacity

Grass growth varies during the season. Rapid growth occurs in May and June. Much slower growth happens during July and August, when temperatures tend to be higher and moisture is less available. Pasture managers who use an effective rotational system find that they have increased grass growth and carrying capacity throughout the season and a dramatically reduced need for feeding hay.

Rotational grazing means fresh grass every 1-3 days and a sufficient rest period for the grass to grow to the optimum grazing height (20-40 cm). Rotational grazing at this level will provide the most high quality forage at the least cost. Refer to the following websites:

www.omafr.gov.on.ca/english/crops/field/forages.html

www.ontarioforagecouncil.com

www.foragebeef.ca

RED DIAMOND FARM

ANGUS
BULLSCHAROLAIS
BULLS

WE SELL BULLS TO EASTERN MANITOBA AND NORTH-WESTERN ONTARIO SINCE 1990

MICHAEL BECKER
WHITEMOUTH
MANITOBA**204-348-2464**
www.reddiamondfarm.com
just 90 minutes west of Kenora



Select Sires Canada Inc.
 P.O. Box 489, Kemptville, ON K0G 1J0
 Tel: 613-258-3800 Fax: 613-258-7257
 www.selectsirescanada.com

Ben Bilker
 Area Sales Representative

35 Deerfield Rd., R. R. #1
 Trenton, ON K8V 5P4

Cell: 613-847-6267
 Email: bbilker@reach.net

Wheat Stubble, Weeds and Red Clover

-Mike Cowbrough, Weed Specialist, OMAFRA

“Cheap nitrogen” seems like an oxymoron, unless you have a nice stand of red clover following wheat harvest. The challenge becomes getting as much growth, and therefore soil nitrate next spring from that red clover, while managing weeds, volunteer wheat and ultimately the red clover. Failure to do so will negatively impact planting, establishment and the yield for next year’s corn crop.

Managing the Red Clover

Fall plowing is the only effective tillage operation for managing red clover. If your preference is to use less aggressive tillage or no-till, then a herbicide burn-down is needed. Research conducted by the University of Guelph has consistently shown that the best and most cost effective herbicide for controlling red clover is dicamba (i.e. Banvel II or Oracle) at 250 mL/ac (refer to Figure 1). The application timing of dicamba in many of these trials has gone into to mid-to late-October. This is also an opportune time to manage perennial weeds (using a glyphosate + dicamba tank-mix). The key is to ensure that the air temperature at application is greater than 10 °C, and that the night time temperature after application stays ideally at 5 °C or greater.

Can I Reduce the Rate of Dicamba or Use 2,4-D Instead?

No. When dicamba rates were reduced to 125 mL/ac, red clover control was unacceptable (refer to Figure 2). 2,4-D (660 g/L) has never provided control of red clover in public research trials when applied at 500 mL/ac.

What About Volunteer Wheat?

Since dicamba won’t control any volunteer wheat, glyphosate will need to be tank-mixed. The lowest labeled rate of a glyphosate 540 g/L concentration (i.e. Roundup Weathermax) that can be tank-mixed with

dicamba for the control of volunteer cereals is 0.5 L/ac.

Managing Annual Weeds

Annual weeds will typically start to flower and set seed very shortly after wheat harvest. Some producers have successfully “clipped” the red clover to cut off the flowering annual weeds. The red clover then grows back and provides a cover that reduces the amount of annual weed re-growth and germination of new plants. Failing that, the next step would be a tillage pass or herbicide application to manage both.

So you will have to make a decision. Do you want to minimize weed seed return (i.e. manage now) or do you want to maximize red clover growth (i.e. manage late September, October)?

Source: Dr. Peter Sikkema, Dr. Clarence Swanton and Dr. François Tardif

* Control evaluated in April following the fall applications

Treatment	Rate	Control*	Price Index**
dicamba	250 mL/ac	99%	77
glyphosate + dicamba	500 mL/ac + 250 mL/ac	99%	133
fall plough		95%	177
Amitrol	1670 mL/ac	90%	97
glyphosate + amitrol	670 mL/ac + 1000 mL/ac	90%	134
glyphosate (540 g/L)	1000 mL/ac	85%	113
2,4-D Ester (700 g/L)	500 mL/ac	65%	44

**OSCIA WEBSITE
 VISIT US AT
www.ontariosoilcrop.org**

New or Revised Factsheets

The following new or revised products now available from ServiceOntario Publications at www.serviceontario.ca/publications

2010 FIELD CROP BUDGETS, Publication 60

09-053: Programs and Services for Ontario Farmers, Agdex 871; replaces 08-037

09-057: Manure Agreements with Brokers and Neighbours, Agdex 750/538; replaces 06-041

09-059: Nutrient Management Act, 2002, Local Advisory Committees, Agdex 720/876; replaces 06-043

Guide to Weed Control 2010-2011, Publication 75; the cost is \$15.00. [Agdex is 640.]

09-073: Starting an Organic Farm, Agdex 100/10; New.

09-077: Introduction to Organic Farming, Agdex 100/10; replaces 06-103.

For a complete listing of OMAFRA products, see our catalogue at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/products/index.html>

Thunder Bay Vet Services Annual Meeting

It is again time for our annual meeting. Meeting will be held on February 18th at 8 p.m. at the Rosslyn Community Centre.

If anyone has any questions please do not hesitate to contact Carol Maki (phone 625-0030) or Peter Aalbers.

OSCIA WEBSITE
VISIT US AT
www.ontariosoilcrop.org

USEFUL CONTACT INFO

CROP RESEARCH STATIONS

Emo Agricultural Research Station:
807-482-2354 (telephone & fax)
Email: kbliss@uoguelph.ca

Thunder Bay Agricultural Research Association
Director of Research and Business
Dr. Tarlok Singh Sahota, CCA
Telephone 807-475-1373 Fax 807-475-1313
TBARS website (www.tbars.net)
Email: tarloksahota@tbaytel.net

NORTHERN ONTARIO REGIONAL OFFICE

Caldwell Township Hall Building
Hwy 64, Box 521, Verner P0H 2M0
Telephone: 1-800-461-6132 Fax: 705-594-9675
Mary Ellen Norry Car, Regional Manager,
North
Email: maryellen.norrycar@ontario.ca

EMO OFFICE

P. O. Box 210, Highway 11, Emo P0W 1E0
Telephone: 1-800-461-6132 Fax: 807-482-2864
Gary Sliworsky, Agricultural Representative
Email: gary.sliworsky@ontario.ca

THUNDER BAY OFFICE

Suite B012, 435 James Street, Thunder Bay, P7E 6S7
Telephone: 1-800-461-6132 Fax: 807-475-1313
Rudy Buitenhuis, Agricultural Representative
Email: rudy.buitenhuis@ontario.ca

NORTHERN ONTARIO SPECIALISTS

Barry Potter, Livestock Specialist, New Liskeard
Telephone: 1-800-461-6132
Email: Barry.Potter@ontario.ca
Julie Poirier Mensinga, Ag Business Management Specialist, Verner
Telephone: 1-800-461-6132
Email: Julie.Poiriermensinga@ontario.ca

Visit OMAFRA on the internet at www.ontario.ca/omafra