



## ONTARIO SOIL AND CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

1 Stone Road West, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Guelph, Ontario N1G 4Y2  
Toll free: 1-800-265-9751 Tel: 1-519-826-4214 Web: [www.ontariosoilcrop.org](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org)

### Media Release Algoma Beef Producer Heads Up OSCIA for 2009

For immediate release  
February 9, 2009

Guelph, ON Murray Cochrane, an Algoma District beef producer near Thessalon, has taken over as the President of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) for 2009. OSCIA held its annual meeting recently to bring delegates together from across Ontario.

“I am very keen to engage our local and regional associations in working closely with research and extension to advance new market opportunities at our doorstep”, says Cochrane. “OSCIA has been in regular contact with the new Dean of the Ontario Agricultural College, Dr, Rob Gordon and we share his vision of expanding scientific work to fully engage producer members through OSCIA’s provincial network of associations.”

OSCIA’s annual meeting was an opportunity to explore technology that is on the horizon. Dr. Chris Young, Vice-President–Fossil Projects, Ontario Power Generation, outlined the future vision of replacing coal with renewable and cleaner burning fuel stock supplied by Ontario forests and farms. Dean Tiessen, Pyramid Farms Ltd., a greenhouse operation near Leamington, Ontario, is already well on the way to heating their greenhouses with biomass production, and screening the most suitable varieties of Miscanthus as a biomass source for Ontario.

“Our farm community is eager to contribute to the sustainability of our rural communities”, says Cochrane. “We have the resources to produce food, fuel and fiber and OSCIA’s rural network is constantly seeking out new opportunities.”

Murray Cochrane and his wife Norma operate a beef and cash crop farm in Central Algoma called ‘Scattered Acres’, a third generation family farm established in 1916.

OSCIA works closely with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) extension staff to conduct on-farm applied research trials, field days, conferences and workshops. The ‘Environmental Farm Plan’ and ‘Growing Your Farm Profits’ are two key training and awareness programs delivered by OSCIA in cooperation with the Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition and Agricultural Management Institute with funding provided by both OMAFRA and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

– 30 –

For more information, contact the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association at 1-800-265-9751.