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Secretary / Treasurer, Essex:

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Lambton County:

Allan Butler.....519-692-5399

## Memberships

Annual Memberships are available through  
your Treasurer

## Regional Coordinator

Krista Gladstone.....519-674-1597  
.....Fax 519-674-1512

Email [kgladsto@ridgetownc.uoguelph.ca](mailto:kgladsto@ridgetownc.uoguelph.ca)  
Submissions and advertising welcome.

## OMAFRA Field Crop Advisory Staff

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Tracey Baute—Entomology—519-674-1696

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Horst Bohner.....Soybean Specialist

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# ST. CLAIR REGION SOIL & CROP NEWS



Southwestern Ontario

**NOVEMBER 2010**

Serving Kent, Essex and Lambton County Soil & Crop Members since 1939



(photo courtesy of H. Denotter)

## AN ESSEX SCIA SOYBEAN VARIETY PLOT IS HARVESTED

A lack of August rainfall in most of the region reduced soybean yields but the fall harvest went well.  
- Read more on Page 4

### Upcoming Events:

**The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair**, November 5 –14, 2010; Exhibition Place, Toronto, ON; <http://www.royalfair.org/>

**Essex SCIA Annual meeting**, December 2, 2010, 9:00 a.m.; St. John's Hall, Woodslee, ON

**Kent SCIA Annual meeting**, January 2011, For Details, Contact Janet Campbell @ 519-352-2950 or email [paulandjanet.campbell@sympatico.ca](mailto:paulandjanet.campbell@sympatico.ca)

**18th Annual Southwest Agricultural Conference**, January 5 & 6, 2011; Ridgetown ON; <http://www.southwestagconference.ca/>

**Lambton SCIA Annual Meeting**, January 14, 2011, 9:00 a.m.; Brooke Alvinston Community Centre, Alvinston, ON

**Farmsmart Agricultural Conference**, January 22, 2011, Rozanski Hall, University of Guelph, Guelph, ON; <http://www.uoguelph.ca/farmsmart/>

**OSCIA Annual Meeting**, February 8 & 9, 2011, Sheraton Fallsview Hotel and Conference Centre, Niagara Falls, ON





## St Clair Region—A Note from the Chair

Well folks, here we are at the end of the crop season again and it is now time to count the beans.

This issue of the newsletter is focusing on plot results and doing trials. These independent corn and soybean trials give us as producers a perspective of what is working and what new technology is doing for us.

Across the three counties, we have seen diverse weather conditions and that has a direct effect on our yield. Whether it be rain, drought, tornados, wind, heat (the lack of or excessive amounts), the crop for the most part made average this year. On the flip side, it sure has been a great fall for harvest and planting wheat.

Once again, we come back to the same old story. Every year is a new challenge and that's what makes this business interesting!

I would like to thank all of the co-operators who helped put the plots together this year and who gave us these results to look at.

Have a safe and happy winter!

**Henry Denotter, St Clair District Chair & Provincial Director**

### Who is Ontario's Outstanding Young Farmer for 2011?

Here's your chance to recognize someone with the title of the 2011 Ontario Outstanding Young Farmer. This award will be presented at the Regional Conference to be held next March 10-12 in Ajax, Ontario.

They are seeking people who contribute to the community, who seek new opportunities and who generally are assets to Ontario's agri-food industry. Anyone can nominate a young farmer/farm couple/farm partnership for the award.

The eligibility requirements are simply:

- must be between the ages of 18 and 39
- must operate a farm
- must derive a minimum of 2/3 of their income from farming



Nomination forms (found at <http://www.oyfontario.ca>) by **December 15, 2010**.

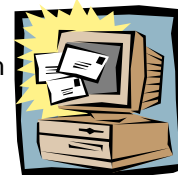
If you have any questions about the nomination process, please contact Karen Daynard at [kdaynard@sympatico.ca](mailto:kdaynard@sympatico.ca) or 519-836-2583. If you know an outstanding young farmer, please nominate them today!

### **TIMESAVING TIPS FOR EMAIL USERS:**

Is Email becoming a major chore for you? Are you afraid to turn on your computer knowing that you will have 100's of emails to deal with? Email is a non-urgent form of communication that's weaseled its way into becoming a daily obligation in our lives. Don't let email become the boss of you!

Here are some handy timesaving tips to make better use of your computer time:

1. Set a time to check your email only once or twice a day maximum. (Less distraction = More productivity)
2. Process all emails in one sitting. (Sit down, open up your email and process every email until your Inbox is empty in one sitting. Reply, Delete or Create a Folder and file the message away.)
3. Respond to most emails with only 2-3 sentences.
4. Be conscientious about who you give your email address out to. Only share your email address with reputable organizations to eliminate excess 'Junk Mail'.
5. Be strict with yourself and your own schedule!



## Essex Soil & Crop Improvement Association

### President's Message

Well, the glorious fall weather has put most of the crop into the mills and bins across Essex County. A very dry August left a lot of guys wondering where the bushels may have went, especially in the soybean crop. Ideal growing season up till then had many of us thinking record yields. But prices are solid so we cannot complain too much.

A lot of the corn has either been shelled or is in the final stages of being taken off. The one word I keep hearing around town is dry. The corn moisture is the driest it has been in recent memory with guys still getting decent yields. Ya' win some ya' lose some but with next to no drying charges and a good price at harvest many guys are finding a little bit of money for themselves.

The twilight tour was a success despite the cold rain that decided to rear it's ugly head after the dry August. Too little to help and just enough to try and spoil our fun. Try it might but to no success. A great crowd turned out to learn about local farmers who are selling their products to the general public. Buy local when you can and support our farmers!

Our annual meeting will be taking place on December 2nd, 2010 and I encourage all of you to make it out and to bring along a neighbour or two. No late harvest this year to attend to means you can all make the time to come out and learn a few things and socialize with a great group of guys.

I believe that this will be my last President's report as my term will now come to an end. My involvement in the organization will not as I very much enjoy our group and the positive attitudes and perspectives on farming that are brought forward. When I was originally asked to join it was by Eric Olson who simply said you've got to get involved some time so why not now. I say the same to those of you out there...get involved, no better time than now!

I thank you for reading and wish all of you a safe finish to the season and a very Merry Christmas. Cheers!

### Brendan Byrne, President ESCIA



### 'From Field to Fork' - ESCIA Twilight Tour 2010

The Essex Soil and Crop Improvement Association held their annual Twilight Tour on September 11, 2010. Conservation Farm Award Winner for 2009, Richard Thibert was the host of the event and he runs a farm that is an ideal model of this year's Twilight Tour's theme - 'From Field to Fork: A Farmer's Perspective'.

The Thibert Farm includes a stone flour mill and a farm gate store that sells beef, pork and baked goods; all products of the farms naturally produced livestock and grains.

Photos courtesy of H. Denotter



The hosts of the 2010 ESCIA Twilight Tour - Richard Thibert & sons (centre) along with Brendan Byrne, President (left) and Michael Dick, Secretary of the Essex SCIA

The main focus of this year's event was to allow local farmers to discuss their experiences and challenges in bringing their product to market. The speakers (including Richard Thibert, Joe Byrne, Vegetable Farmer and Chair of the Windsor Essex Economic Development Commission's Agri-Business Committee and Brian Hyland of Hylander Farms in Essex) also addressed ways for farmers to get started in marketing food locally. Approximately 70 people came out for the meeting.



Speaker/BBQ Chef, Brian Hyland served beef from cattle he raised himself. The beef was much better than the weather!

## Lambton Soil & Crop Improvement Association

### President's Message

It is hard to believe that another crop year is almost gone. Spring 2010 started out so promising and as the season progressed, it seemed as though Mother Nature was really going to deliver this time. A bumper wheat harvest filled our bins and nothing could go wrong...right? Then, August arrived and as the heat and drought intensified, it became apparent that dreams of record corn and bean yields were just that, simply dreams. But that is all behind us now and the harvest across the country is close to complete. This is probably a first in everybody's farming lifetime when we have been able to combine the corn straight into the bin! Drying costs are virtually nothing so that certainly contributes big time to the bottom line. After all, it is the dollars made when the crop is fed or sold that really counts.

Another winter wheat crop is planted and looking very good. While driving through Lambton and our neighbouring counties, it appears that every acre that was intended got planted. For the third year now, Smart Wheat participants have their plots in the ground. The plan this time around is to determine if higher seeding rates and various rates of N can deliver better and more economical yields. The results of the last two years have shown that we can raise yields but the jury is still out as far as more profitable yields are concerned.

As the harvest comes to a close, I hope that you will take the time to reflect on the cropping choices that you made this spring or even last fall. Probably most of us changed something somewhere along the way. Maybe it was the switch to different tillage in the wheat stubble or possibly it was no-till coulters added to the row crop planter. Sometimes when we spend quite a few dollars on new equipment, our objectivity goes out the window. It really should work the other way but maybe it is too difficult to admit to ourselves when we do make a mistake. Hopefully, those small or large management decisions were successful and make you a better steward of the land. That is what being a Soil and Crop member is about; becoming better at what we do. So, take the time to look back and maybe the road ahead of you will be a little easier.

I look forward to seeing many of you again at the meetings this winter.

Regards,

Fraser Hodgson, President LSCIA

## Kent Soil & Crop Improvement Association

### President's Message

Wow! Another year is almost finished. It seems that more crops are off and fields prepared than normal.

The crops went in early and everything seemed to be moving quickly. All were in good shape until the lack of rain hit in August. It will be interesting to see how the final yields turn out and how the corn trait trials have responded to the exceptional weather.

Now that many farmers have finished their field work, don't forget to attend your area's annual soil and crop meeting as well as any of the other informative seminars over the winter months.

Don't forget to send in your nominations for Chatham-Kent's Conservation Farmer of the Year Award 2010! Nominations will be accepted for any farm operator within the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. To nominate an individual or a family, contact Janet Campbell by November 12th at 519-352-2950 or email at [paulandjanet.campbell@sympatico.ca](mailto:paulandjanet.campbell@sympatico.ca). The presentation of the award is to be made at the KSCIA annual meeting.

I hope that everyone has a safe and successful harvest!

Dave Derynck, President KSCIA

Photo courtesy of H. Denotter



**Nothing But Blue Skies!**  
*Great weather made for a fast harvest in 2010*

## Essex SCIA Independent Soybean Performance Trials 2010

Adam Hayes, Soil Management Specialist – Field Crops OMAFRA

(continued from the front cover)

Individual Plot Yields				1		2		3		4		Average		
Company	Variety	Traits	CHU	Hylander Farms		Essex Demo Farm		Denotter Farms		Marc Rivest		% M	Yield bu/ac	Yield Index
				Essex		Amherstburg		Kingsville		Comber				
Country Farm	CF61GR	RR2Y	3200	12.8	46.4	11.7	39.6	10.5	66.8	13.2	50.4	12.1	50.8	102%
Dekalb	32-60RY	RR2Y	3225	12.5	48.3	12.5	41.6	10.6	65.3	<b>13.4</b>	<b>48.9</b>	12.3	51.0	102%
Hyland	HS24RYS01	RR2Y	3175	<b>12.6</b>	<b>51.3</b>	12.0	41.2	10.0	72.5	12.9	51.0	11.9	54.0	108%
Maizex	5221RR2Y	RR2Y	3150	12.7	44.5	12.3	37.6	10.0	60.5	13.0	47.5	12.0	47.5	95%
Pioneer	93Y20	RR	3300	12.7	45.1	<b>12.1</b>	<b>40.7</b>	10.9	65.6	13.2	46.7	12.2	49.5	99%
<b>Planting Date</b> <b>Harvest date</b> <b>Soil Type</b> <b>Tillage</b> <b># of Rows &amp; Row Width</b> <b>Row length (ft)</b> <b>Previous Crop</b>				May 25, 2010 October 6, 2010 Clay loam Conventional 17, 15" Corn		June 18, 2010 October 13, 2010 Clay No-till 15" 930 Corn		May 25, 2010 October 10, 2010 Loam No-till 6, 20" 425 Soybeans		May 29, 2010 October 8, 2010 Clay No-till 33, 7.5" 960 Winter wheat				

Notes: RR2Y = Roundup Ready 2 Yield                      Bold = check variety

Essex SCIA once again conducted a soybean variety trial. Four cooperators participated. The soybean plots were generally planted later this year due to the cool wet May we experienced.

second and third overall. The individual plot data is available on the ESCIA website and the corn trials will be posted when available as well.

Four of the five varieties tested had the Roundup Ready 2 Yield gene. Yields were reasonable considering the lack of moisture and the very late planting date at the demo farm. The Kingsville site received timely moisture in August producing excellent yields. The Hyland variety topped all the plots. The Dekalb and Country Farm varieties ranked

ESCIA hopes you find this information useful. If you have comments or wish to participate in the trial next year, contact Michael Dick (519) 776-5209 ext. 369 or email [mdick@erca.org](mailto:mdick@erca.org).

### NOTICE EFP DEADLINES!

#### Kent County:

Project application forms for year three of the COFSP will be available on November 15, 2010 from Ron Faubert (contact information below). Funding is allocated on a first come first served basis and all project invoices must be dated after September 15, 2010 to qualify. Project claim submission deadline date is January 15, 2012. The new Project Eligibility Policy and Procedures booklet is also available upon request.

Ron.Faubert@ontariosoilcrop.org  
 OSCIA Program Representative - Kent County  
 24628 Bearline Road, RR#8  
 Chatham, ON N7M 5J8  
 Phone: 519-352-1285 Fax: 519-355-0262

#### Essex County:

Application sessions will be held on November 15, 2010. Anyone who has approved 3rd addition EFP workbook is eligible for funding. To access that funding, you will need to contact Ernie Konrad as soon as possible to register for the November 15th sessions (spaces are limited and registration is required). Any listed projects that farmers have started after September 15, 2010 will be eligible for funding.

Ernie.Konrad@ontariosoilcrop.org  
 OSCIA Program Representative - Essex County  
 Phone: 519-825-4588

#### \*CHECK IT OUT\*

<http://scscia.wordpress.com/>



The St. Clair Region Soil & Crop Improvement Association has joined the world wide web. We now have a website for you to enjoy. Please check it out and let us know what you think. If you want anything added to the website, please contact Krista Gladstone at 519-674-1597 or email [kgladsto@ridgetownc.uoguelph.ca](mailto:kgladsto@ridgetownc.uoguelph.ca).

**ALSO** - Have you been seeing some strange weeds this summer? Check out the Ontario Invasive Plants website to identify what you have been seeing! - [www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca](http://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca)

## SOYBEAN CROP BIGGEST AND BEST IN RECENT MEMORY- OMAFRA

Horst Bohner, Soybean Specialist OMAFRA

Soybeans were the largest row crop in the province again in 2010 with about 2.4 million acres seeded. That word coming this week from OMAFRA's soybean specialist, Horst Bohner.

He says for the most part this has been one of the most favourable growing seasons in recent memory. Early planting was achieved and the growing season was very favourable in most areas of the province. Some areas did receive too little moisture while others received too much. The majority of the province was affected by a dry August which robbed yield potential. Many areas of the province saw the soybean crop mature 2 weeks earlier than normal; this allowed for harvest to begin in September, especially for those that were able to plant early. Yields were higher than average and in some cases were outstanding. 2010 will likely be a record yielding crop for Ontario once all the yields have been reported.

### Planting:

The spring was favourable to timely planting in 2010. Some of the crop was planted in the first two weeks of May but the majority of seeding took place during the last two weeks of the month. Some fields were planted in the last week of April. Short periods of rain during May delayed planting for some areas, but for the most part the delays were not extended. Soil moisture was good through the planting season, and seeding depths of 1.0" were not uncommon.

### Growing Season:

For much of the province the growing season was excellent. There were few issues with emergence because the soil was warm and moist and allowed for easy breakthrough to the surface. There was a significant frost on May 10th but most planted fields had not fully emerged and reseeding was minimal. Timely rains went along with a hot June and July, precisely what soybeans need. Soybeans will maximize their yields in these types of conditions. A tremendous number of flowers were observed this year. In some cases over 10 open flowers could be counted on a single node. These good growing conditions led to large plants which in some cases resulted in lodging. Plant development was ahead of normal by up to 2 weeks. Some areas, such as Bruce County, received too much moisture and there were areas with standing water. Meanwhile, other regions to the south, such as Lambton County, received insufficient moisture during critical times of the growing season.

This resulted in lower yields. The majority of Ontario experienced a hot and dry August, which is a critical time for pod setting and seed filling. This resulted in yield losses compared to the potential that was set in June and July. Green stem disorder could be

observed at harvest time largely due to this rapid dry down and excess plant size compared to the number of seeds.

### Soybean Pests and Diseases:

Soybean pest and disease levels were lower than normal. Some aphids were reported in the Eastern Ontario, but numbers never reached economic thresholds. The rest of the province did not see significant aphid numbers.

Even with the warm, moist weather, along with advanced plant development and lush canopies, disease losses were lower than might have been expected. White mould was present but not at high levels.

Septoria Brown Spot was prevalent again this year but it is not considered a disease that causes much yield loss.

Sudden Death Syndrome was observed in areas to the south because of dry conditions and traditionally higher levels of Soybean Cyst Nematode.

IP Soybeans continue to need effective early season weed management to assure quality at harvest time.

Eastern Black Nightshade berries caused problems for some IP growers.

### Harvest:

Harvest progressed well, especially in late September and early October. Due to early planting, a good growing season, and advanced plant development, harvest was able to get under way earlier than normal. A couple weeks of wet weather at the end of October delayed finishing harvest until November. Yields were reported from as low as 28 bushels in dry areas to as high as 70 bushels in areas with good moisture. Even with the dry weather during pod set and seed fill in August most areas achieved above average yields.

### Challenges and Opportunities for 2011:

Although Ontario soybean growers enjoyed a respite from disease and insect problems this growing season, these problems will need continued management in the future. One of the best management strategies to fight pests and diseases is to have a good crop rotation. Soybeans should only be grown one in three years if possible. Residue management, crop rotation and spray programs will all need to be ready for implementation should the need arise next season.

*(Article Courtesy of AgriLink News - A free weekly report of current agricultural news and coming events available on-line or by free email subscription at <http://www.ridgetownc.com/agrilink/>)*

WEATHER SUMMARY (Total Since May 1, 2010):			
Location	Accumulated Rainfall (mm)	Crop Heat Units	Growing Degree Days
Chatham-Kent	557.6	4209	2734
Windsor-Essex	599.4	4020	2734
Sarnia-Lambton	459.4	3558	2282

## CORN STALKS - WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THEM THIS FALL?



Photos courtesy of H. Denotter



## SWAC IS COMING...ARE YOU?

The 18th Annual Southwest Agricultural Conference will be held on January 5th and 6th, 2011. Registration starts on November 8th. **(Register by December 3rd to get discounted registration rates and be eligible for Early Bird Prizes!)** Check out [www.southwestagconference.ca](http://www.southwestagconference.ca)

### Trait Stewardship Responsibilities Notice to Farmers

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