



THAMES VALLEY REGIONAL SOIL & CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Oxford

Middlesex

Elgin

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COMING EVENTS....

NOVEMBER

4-13 Royal Winter Fair, Toronto, www.royalfair.org

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

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



OSCIA and OMAFRA partnering up every year at Canada's Outdoor Farm Show to bring our members plenty to see and do as well as the opportunity to speak one on one with local and provincial OSCIA staff and OMAFRA Field and Hort Crop Specialists

From our Provincial Director

As I write this, it is raining outside again. We are poised to start harvesting corn silage as most other dairy producers are. We would have been ecstatic to have gotten this rain back in July – not so much now. Interesting how you can count on rain at certain times of the year to make things difficult such as wheat harvest, silage harvest and hay making. These are the issues that make farming challenging.

The crops generally looks good given what Mother Nature has dished out this year. The prices are even better. Fall harvest is upon us so please remember to get those plots harvested and to share the information.

All the counties in Thames Valley put on good summer events that were well attended. These included meetings, car tours, bus trips, conservation days and vertical tillage demos. The local directors deserve our thanks for their efforts. Soil and Crop in conjunction with OMAFRA put on an excellent display again at the Outdoor Farm Show.

The Environmental Farm Plan cost share was dispersed in 1hour and 40 minutes on Sept. 15. This was a prime example of farmers' dedication to the environment. Thanks to Margaret and Cathy for handling the flood of applications. My apologies to all who tried to apply but missed out. We need more money for this program.

Please be safe out there and have a successful harvest. ~ Gord Green



The OMAFRA Field Crop Specialists are always in demand for visitors to chat with at the Outdoor Farm Show



Field-scale Agricultural Biomass Research and Development

The Field-scale Agricultural Biomass Research and Development project is a 4-year component of a comprehensive pilot research project to determine whether purpose-grown agricultural biomass is an economically sustainable and environmentally alternative to coal and non-renewable fuels. The purpose of establishing field-scale biomass plots is to give producers and researchers the opportunity to develop a scale-up infrastructure. This research will provide the initial steps of the comprehensive project that includes life cycle analysis, industrial manufacturing, power generation, and the field trials associated with agricultural biomass production. The anticipated outcome includes commercialization of agricultural biomass, enabling a diversification of producers' crop options and associated income leading to a new crop with potential farm-gate values over \$100 million, in five years. This project is studying, with the assistance of farm cooperators and researchers, options in Ontario for growing purpose-grown energy crops sustainably and economically on a field-scale. Applications will continue to be accepted on a 'first come, first serve' basis, provided the applicant meets all project criteria and objectives. Successful Applications of Interest for this ongoing intake will have side-by-side crop comparisons of (a) two varieties of miscanthus or (b) a miscanthus variety and a switchgrass variety. These plots will contain 10-20 acres of EACH variety. This criteria is being imposed to maximize the research quality of the project by creating a comprehensive, inclusive experimental design. *(from OSCIA website)*

This fall the Ontario Field-scale Agricultural Biomass project coordinated several regional field days across the province giving producers an opportunity to learn more about purpose-grown energy crops and the industrial market opening up for producers. In our area, the tour visited the new facilities at Canadian Biofuels in Springford – a large scale biomass pelleting facility, the farm of John Maleki at Drumbo – grower of miscanthus and Switchgrass, and Quality Fertilizers (Charlie Dunsmore) in Shakespeare – another pelletizing plant considering biomass pelleting.



The wood stock for pelleting at Canadian Biofuels in Springford now accepting material from producers to begin pelleting soon. Wood scraps must be clean and contaminant free. When the facility is up and running at full production, hopefully by the third week of October, it will have the capacity to produce 8 tonne/hour each of pellets and briquettes.

Below, the miscanthus plots at John Maleki's. First year plantings (2011) on the left,



Oxford Rainfall (mm) and Heat Units

										To August	To August
	RR	ADDRESS	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Total'11	2010
Arthur	4	St Mary's	100	125	85	111	93			414	434
Dibble	2	Drumbo		123	78	51	68			320	501
Haley	1	Otterville		109	54	39	115			317	353
Johnson		Ingersoll		128	74	37	104			343	393
Landsell	2	Thamesford		128	86	72				285	579
Matheson	3	Embros		129	92	83	82			386	448
Orth	1	Burgessville		173	83	64	79			400	472
Van Dorp	1	Woodstock		120	75	58	79			332	483
Wilson	1	Salford	73	141	54	40				235	362
OutdoorFarmShow	3	Woodstock		105	83	24	82			294	n/a
HEAT UNITS											
Dibble				325	618	802	754			2499	2854
Haley				243	697	847	779			2566	2709
Matheson				302	616	802	731			2451	2626
Outdoor Farm Show				312	628	807	728			2475	n/a

From our President:

Greetings. It's to be hoped that we have some nice weather this fall after such a challenging spring. I think most had a good wheat crop. The soybeans and corn will be the crops that have unfortunately suffered the most. We must keep in mind not to compare this year with last year, the nearly perfect year. Best wishes to all for a successful and bountiful fall harvest. Arnold Haskett

Oxford Stewardship Award 2011

Congratulations to Tom & Wendi Jackson of Thamesford, winners of the 2011 Stewardship Award chosen by Stewardship Oxford and Oxford SCIA. Congratulations to the other nominees, Alan Dale of Curries and Dan & Diane Vermeersch of Norwich. It's great to see we have so many eligible nominees to choose from each year of the award. Thanks to Oxford SCIA Director Ian Mayberry for representing the association, and acting as judge once again this year

Oxford Fall Meeting

Thanks to everyone who came out to our fall meeting at the Outdoor Farm Show site before opening day of the show. OMAFRA's Peter Johnson, Victor Aideyan of HISGrains and Evert Veldhuizen Jr gave excellent, interesting presentations. Thanks to RBC for generously sponsoring our refreshments for the evening, to FCC for enabling us to bring in Victor, and to the Outdoor Farm Show for letting us use their site each year.

Forage Masters Competition

Congratulations to the Oxford winners this year: 1st John & Gerry Pynenburg, 2nd Dwight Hargreaves, 3rd Roeland Van Oostveen. The OSCIA Website will be updated with provincial competition information at the Royal Winter Fair. The provincial winner may then travel to Indiana to enter the American Forage Spokesperson Competition. Thanks to our judges OMAFRA's Chris Brown and Paul Wight of Pickseed for their time involved in assessing the forages.

Oxford Tillage Demo

Thanks to Kevin, Arnold and Evert for once again organizing another successful tillage demo on Aug 29. Thanks to HJV for sponsoring the event, and a HUGE Thanks to the Chesney Family and Thames River Melons for providing us with a sweet corn field to use for the demo. This event was held in conjunction with an OMAFRA Soil and Water Quality Workshop. Thanks to the Sweaburg Lions for putting on a very tasty and speedy lunch for all those in attendance.



Tire compaction demonstration with Greg Stewart



OMAFRA's Adam Hayes talking erosion



Evert thanking the Chesney Family for hosting the day



In the Soil Pit looking at structure

Oxford Bus Trip

51 Oxford, Middlesex and Elgin members joined up in St John's, Newfoundland for a whirlwind 3 day tour of agricultural and tourist stops in and around the city. Thanks to Mark & Janice Kirwin, the rest of the tour committee and our great hosts from the Ministry of Agriculture in Nfld who organized such a great trip. All our host farmers were so welcoming and friendly. Some photos from the trip below and also on our website. Special thanks to Sylvite for sponsoring one day of the bus costs, Belmont Farm Supply, Burgessville Grain & Feed, Great Lakes New Holland, ProRich Seeds, Quality Seeds and Pioneer Hibred. This trip was also made possible in part by an OSCIA Education Grant.

*Ready to ship out on a whale
Watching cruise*



*Land reclamation projects are
Underway in many areas, putting
more land into production. No
wonder it's called "The Rock"*

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

Middlesex News

MIDDLESEX RAINFALL SUMMARY 2011

NAME	ADDRESS	TOTAL	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT
N. Stokman	R. 7, Strathroy	512.0	106.2	132.6	98.6	47.2	127.4		
H. Aukema	R. 6, Strathroy	479.5	81.5	168.0	89.5	40.5	100.0		
L. Whiting	R. 5, Mt. Brydges	472.0	119.0	141.0	53.0	56.0	103.0		
J. Robinson	R. 5, Mt. Brydges	483.1	114.1	133.4	68.9	62.6	104.1		
G. Richards	6879 Longwoods Rd.	486.0	95.0	144.0	98.0	83.0	66.0		
G Cornelis	R. 1, Ailsa Craig	457.0	84.0	112.0	106.0	57.0	98.0		
E. Fox	R. 5, Parkhill	472.0	89.0	107.0	116.0	66.0	94.0		
W. Mollard	R. 4, Parkhill	497.6	101.0	107.0	129.0	61.0	99.6		
M. Robb	R. 1, Ilderton	494.7	81.0	183.7	90.0	48.0	92.0		
R. Heard	Fanshawe Rd., London	493.5	122.0	137.5	71.0	43.5	119.5		
J. Duynisveld	R. 1, Ilderton	626.9	122.0	183.7	145.5	68.5	107.3		
D. Denys	R. 8, Parkhill	542.5	122.0	98.5	153.0	59.0	110.0		
F. Vanneste	R. 2, Lucan	546.0	112.0	105.0	130.0	77.0	122.0		
H. MacKellar	R. 2, Glencoe	530.5	60.0	137.0	96.5	128.0	109.0		
C. McVicar	R. 1, Newbury	601.0	106.5	172.5	96.5	95.5	130.0		
B. Grieve	R. 2, Dorchester	572.1	107.5	193.6	62.0	84.0	125.0		
A. Brown	R. 2, Belmont	524.5	101.5	137.5	67.0	96.5	122.0		
A. White	3739 Harry White Dr., London	554.0	93.0	186.0	48.0	87.0	140.0		
D. Murray	4598 Murray Rd, London	486.0	123.0	121.0	85.0	61.0	96.0		
R. Willemse	R. 4, Parkhill	521.0	124.0	100.0	152.0	56.0	89.0		
Average Rainfall 2011		517.4	103.2	140.0	97.8	68.9	107.7		

MIDDLESEX CROP HEAT UNIT STATIONS 2011

	TOTAL	MAY		JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT
		Before May 10	After May 10					
N. Stokman	2765.0	97.0	401.0	692.0	882.0	790.0		
H. Aukema	2780.0	93.0	393.0	698.0	889.0	800.0		
J. Robinson	2796.0	87.0	406.0	695.0	892.0	803.0		
G Cornelis	2808.0	82.0	407.0	692.0	898.0	811.0		
E. Fox	2787.0	56.0	363.0	709.0	908.0	807.0		
R. Heard	2729.0	92.0	397.0	682.0	864.0	786.0		
J. Duynisveld	2688.0	84.0	407.0	670.0	842.0	769.0		
D. Denys	2631.0	80.0	367.0	637.0	861.0	766.0		
F. Vanneste	2817.0	82.0	424.0	720.0	867.0	806.0		
H. Dodge	2787.0	91.0	398.0	704.0	886.0	799.0		
H. MacKellar	2900.0	93.0	401.0	704.0	915.0	880.0		
C. McVicar	2518.0	93.0	333.0	638.0	819.0	728.0		
A. Brown	2739.0	98.0	389.0	700.0	863.0	787.0		
B. Grieve	2793.0	92.0	400.0	703.0	887.0	803.0		
R. Willemse	2852.0	116.0	400.0	709.0	905.0	838.0		
AVERAGE	2759.3	87.1	392.4	690.2	878.5	798.2		

Middlesex SCIA held their annual conservation tour at Hyland Dairy Farms on August 16. Featured stops included a GPS demo, storm water management and grassed waterways, green manure bedding and manure separation and handling. After an excellent bbq dinner, Peter Johnson answered questions from the crowd. Congratulations to the organizers!



Mike Wilson, Ausable- Bayfield CA talking waterways



Taking a break from the day's activities



The GPS Technology Demo



Watching the in-field demos across from the dairy barn at Hyland Dairy Farms

Elgin News

Elgin SCIA held their annual car tour in the west end of the county on August 9. Great stops included Van Brenk's Fruit Farm, Lavender Sense, a Vertical Tillage equipment display at Dieleman's Farm Equipment, Grain Drying and Handling Facility at Prey Farms, and Solar Panels and Pioneer Test Plots at the farm of Jamie & Teena McCaffery. After a great dinner, OMAFRA Entomologist Tracey Baute talked about "Those Darn Bugs!!" Thanks to Krin D for heading up the tour and keeping everything on track!



The Orchard at Van Brenks

*Some of the lavender goodies available for purchase
At Lavender Sense*



*Tillage equipment on display – the tillage demo had to be
cancelled due to rain that morning.*

Elgin Rainfall Summary 2011

NAME	ADDRESS	TOTAL	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	HEAT UNITS
Tom Oegema	Sunset Road	385		170	49	56	110			2763
Doug Aldred	West Lorne	487		222	97	58	111			2684
Dana Porter	St. Thomas	279	152		73	55				
jamie Littlejohn	Wallacetown	437		160	113	56	108			2790
Keith Kelly	Rodney	468	136		105	112	115			
Nick Hoffsuemmer		229		147	40	42			(to July)	2103
John E. Johnston	Wardsville	561	89	193	69	99	112			
Totals	2011		125		78	68	111			

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 2 - 6 - 2011 International Goat Symposium, Orangeville Fairgrounds. <http://www.ogba.ca> .

November 30 - Forage Focus 2011 Conference Shakespeare, ON. Key Note Speaker: Michael C. Rankin of University of Wisconsin. Also on Nov 29 in Napanee, ON. More details, check their website at <http://www.ontarioforagecouncil.com/>.

January 4 & 5 - Southwest Agricultural Conference, University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus.
<http://www.southwestagconference.ca/>

January 21 - Farm\$mart Agricultural Conference, Rozanski Hall, U of G
<http://www.uoguelph.ca/farmsmart/>.

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

March 7 - 9 - Western Fair Farm Show, London, ON. <http://www.westernfair.com/shows/farm.html>

April 11 & 12 - Poultry Industry Show, London, ON. <http://www.westernfair.com/shows/poultry.html>

SUPPORTING FARMERS AFFECTED BY WILDLIFE DAMAGE

Through the new Wildlife Damage Compensation Program livestock producers will receive improved compensation when their livestock or poultry are injured or killed by predatory wildlife or when bee colonies, beehives or beehive equipment are damaged by wildlife. The new program expands the current list of wildlife species and variety of livestock that farmers can be compensated for, and increases the maximum compensation rates for farmers. It also provides a \$30 reimbursement for each claim a municipality processes, a \$50,000 fund for strategic investments with industry to better understand how to prevent agriculture-wildlife conflicts; and commits to reviewing the program every two years to ensure it is up-to-date. The Wildlife Damage Compensation program is part of Growing Forward, a joint federal-provincial-territorial initiative. Guidelines and applications are available at www.ontario.ca/predation .

CLEAN WATER PROGRAM: ENVIRONMENTAL FARM GRANTS 2011

The Clean Water Program (CWP) is a rural water quality initiative that provides technical assistance and financial incentives to improve and protect water quality on your farm.

Local municipalities (London, Middlesex, Stratford, Oxford, St Marys and Perth) are offering cost-sharing grants to qualified landowners for best management practices that improve ground and surface water quality. The grant rate for all projects is 50% and range from a maximum of \$500 - \$5,000, depending on the project type.

For complete details and how to apply, contact your local Municipality or Conservation Authority. Check the website at www.cleanwaterprogram.ca where you can find more specific information for the following:

- Clean Water Diversion
- Erosion Control Structures
- Fragile Land Retirement
- Livestock Access Restriction to Watercourse
- Milkhouse /Milk Parlour Washwater Treatment and Disposal
- Nutrient Management Plans, Wellhead Protection, Decommissioning Unused Wells, and Fertilizer, Chemical and Fuel Storage or Handling
- Septic Systems; and
- Woodlands/Wetlands Conservation/Enhancement (for Oxford County only)

PASTURE COMPETITION

Mapleseed Canada is pleased to partner with the Ontario Forage Council and the Ontario Cattleman's Association in sponsoring the "Mapleseed Pasture Award 2012". This is an excellent opportunity to recognize individual producers who are doing an outstanding job of pasture management. The winners will be announced at the Annual Meeting of the Ontario Cattleman's Association in Toronto which will take place in Feb. 2012. To submit a nomination for this award, complete the application form found at the link below: [Pasture award 2011 revised application form](#) and submit to the Ontario Forage Council by Nov. 25, 2011 at P.O. Box 463, Markdale, ON, N0C 1H0.

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.

PREMIER'S AWARD FOR AGRI-FOOD INNOVATION EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

Applications are now being accepted now until November 14, 2011. The program recognizes innovators who contribute to the success of Ontario's agri-food sector. Eligible applicants could receive:

- Premier's Award of \$75,000
- a Minister's Award of \$50,000
- new this year, one of three Leaders in Innovation Awards, of \$25,000 each; or,
- one of 45 regional awards of \$5,000 each

Program applications will be reviewed by two independent panels made up of representatives from across Ontario's agri-food industry. Eligible applicants include primary producers / farmers, processors and agri-food organizations. Unlike previous years, applications to the permanent program will be accepted direct from processors and agri-food organizations.

Submit your application postmarked by 5 p.m. on Monday, November 14, 2011 to: Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, 1 Stone Road West, 3rd Floor SW, Guelph, Ontario N1G 4Y2, Attn: Premier's Award, On-line at: www.ontario.ca/agrifoodinnovation

E-mail: premiersagrifoodinnovationaward@ontario.ca

Fax: 519-826-3442

For more information, contact the Agricultural Information Contact Centre at 1-877-424-1300.

From the Outdoor Farm Show



Chris and Bruce putting up banners at our tent



OSCIA's Joanne and Ron deep in conversation

From the Elgin Tour



Jamie McCaffrey talking about his solar panel



In the lavender field at Lavender Sense

From the Middlesex Tour



Ken Nixon talking GPS in the demo field

And the Oxford Tour



Typical Newfoundland Soil - very, very stoney!

**THAMES VALLEY
REGIONAL SCIA**

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**REGIONAL COMMUNICATION
COORDINATOR**

The Thames Valley Regional Soil & Crop Improvement Association newsletter is produced by Cathy Dibble, (519) 463-6374, 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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EFP/GYFP PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVES

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

CATHY'S COMMENTS

Hi all! I hope most of you were able to get out to the Outdoor Farm Show this year. It was great to see many of you at the OSCIA member brunch sponsored by Syngenta. The OSCIA/OMAFRA organizing team did a great job on all the plots and displays at our site again this year. Congratulations to the two winners of our DeWalt power tool draws too! Because Margaret and I were otherwise occupied on the last day of the show, we need to send a huge thank you to Gord, Gerhard, John and the OMAFRA crew for pitching in to help tear down and pack up our portion of the exhibit. Thanks everyone!

Remember to check out the new online membership administration service that the region is participating in testing for the provincial board. Go to oscia.cloverpad.org where you can update your mailing information, subscribe to receive this newsletter via email, renew your membership and sign up for coming events. For more information or questions, contact myself or your local county secretary.

August was a busy month in the Thames Valley Region, with all three counties holding some great events – see pictures scattered throughout the news and plenty more on the website too.

Best of luck to all of you for a successful and safe fall harvest. Feel free to send in any photos you snap this fall. The next regional newsletter will be published in November.

Lots of help at the OSCIA/OMAFRA site getting ready for the farm show.....

