Greetings fellow members!

It’s hard to believe that the Fall is going by so quickly. It has been another challenging growing season. The variability in crops throughout the region is tremendous. We can do our part as far as crop rotation, cover crops and input management but ultimately Mother Nature is the most decisive factor in our strive to produce a bountiful harvest.

Hopefully you have all had a chance, this summer, to gain some insights at local plot tours and farm shows. There is always something to learn at these events whether it be gaining knowledge on the latest genetics, cropping practices or management techniques.

I encourage members to attend a farm show or plot day this fall. See what’s new and gain some knowledge on the latest genetics, practices and management techniques.

As I close my comments to my fellow members, I would like to wish all of you a safe harvest!

Allen Booker
President
Eastern Valley Regional Soil and Crop Improvement Association
EASTERN VALLEY SOIL AND CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Meet your Eastern Valley team 2016

President: Allen Booker 673-2996
Past President: Tyler Hoy 229-6566
Vice President: Vacant
Secretary: Tracy Myers 874-1046

Directors:
- **Dundas**: Warren Schneckenburger 330-9787
  Mike Roosendaal 774-2064
- **Glengarry**: Mark Fraser 527-5284
  Donald MacLachlan 347-7508
- **Prescott**: Allen Booker 673-2996
- **Russell**: Réjean Pommainville 443-2849
  Robert Dessaint 835-2608
- **Stormont**: Henry TePlate 984-0051
  Alan Kruszel 346-0420

**Eastern Valley Soil and Crop Improvement Association**
c/o Tracy Myers
Regional Communication Coordinator
R.R.# 1
22200 Ste Anne Rd.
Glen Robertson, ON
K0B 1H0
Phone: 613-874-1046
Fax: 613-874-1047
Email: tracy.myers@live.com

OSCIA Provincial Director:
Warren Schneckenburger 613-330-9787

Crops Emerging Specialist:
Scott Banks 258-8359

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TO COMMUNICATE AND FACILITATE RESPONSIBLE ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT OF SOIL, WATER, AIR AND CROPS

Canada Post Publications Agreement #40799517
Greetings from OSCIA!

Here we are again. Harvest is upon us again after a very challenging year of drought, drought and more drought. With corn silage coming off and the first of the beans in the bin it is beginning to look like yields might not be the disaster that was feared only weeks ago. I believe a lot of our resilience to drought has come from the great workshops and meetings our regions SCIA’s have put on over the years to bring the latest and greatest information to our members.

As is custom of the OSCIA, the summer meeting was held in the region of the President-Elect, this year Mack Emery up in North Eastern Region. The entire board made the trek up to Sudbury for 3 great days of tours and meetings. Tours ranged from the Vale Nickel mine, a Haskap winery, Native art displays and the home farm of Mack. Even a 1200 acre potato farm.

I’m very proud to be the director for the Eastern Valley Soil and Crop Improvement Association. Once again a roster of top notch summer activities were put on for our members to benefit from. Bus trips to destinations near and far, car tours, twilight tours and guest speakers held in all corners of the region. These events are crucial to helping OSCIA meet its 5 year goal of increasing membership by 10%. Next event your county hosts consider inviting a neighbor who isn’t a member yet.

As you’re in your fields harvesting crops do remember to take time and collect samples for the many seed fairs this winter. It is a really small gesture to make the county seed shows a success. Historically counties in our region place extremely well at the Ottawa Valley seed show in March. If your county does one make sure to enter the high yield contest. Great fun and competition drives innovation!

The Soil Champion nominations have been extended to November 1st. If you know anyone who really takes soil health to heart and puts their money where their mouth is in your area fill out an application and send it into the head office. It would really shine well on the Eastern Valley to have a winner come from the east.

Have a safe and profitable harvest season. See you all at the AGMs!

Warren Schneckenburger
OSCIA Provincial Director
Eastern Valley Regional Soil and Crop Improvement Association
Food for thought …

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2016 the “International Year of Pulses”. Canada is one of the main producers and exporters of peas, lentils and beans, which are fiber- and protein-rich. Saskatchewan is the largest producer of pulses among all pulse producing-provinces due to its ideal climate for this type of production. We know these facts and much more because of farm operators’ participation in the many agriculture surveys we conduct in Canada.
DUNDAS COUNTY ANNUAL MEETING
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2016
CHESTERVILLE LEGION HALL

- Farm Safety Association presentation
- Review of the year’s projects, by Gilles Quesnel
  - AGM Resolutions (if any)
    - Elections
    - Lunch

**Invite a neighbor to become a member!**

All brand new members to DSCIA will get their lunch for free!

- Keynote speaker

- Awards presentations:
  - Farmer of the year
  - Innovative farmer
  - Forage Master Winners
  - Award of Merit
  - Conservation Award
  - High yield competition winners presentation

Watch for more information in November via membership mailout

When harvesting your 2016 crops remember the 2017 Dundas Soil and Crop Improvement Association Seed and Agriculture Show Early March 2017

Please visit the following web site for the most recent class listings for entries as per the Ottawa Valley Farm Show

http://www.ottawafarmshow.com/2016-SeedShow-Pgm.pdf
Dundas SCIA Summer Activities

Bus Trip 2016 - Saskatchewan

On Sunday July 17, 2016 56 members of DSCIA flew out to Saskatoon Saskatchewan for 5 days taking in 18 stops, 2 city tours and guest speakers representing ag businesses.

The group learned about crop irrigation from a water co-operative in the Lake Diefenbaker area and also discussed lentil, pinto bean, canola and flax crops that are not traditionally grown in eastern Ontario. There was a visit to a 5000 ac ranch grazing 2000 head of cattle in the Moose Jaw area. A stop for lunch at a Hutterite Colony and the group photo was taken in front of the set of the former CTV hit show Corner Gas. The farmer that also owns the Elevator at Rouleau aka Dog River toured us through the elevator and showed how it works. In Regina the group took in a city tour, RCMP training academy, Depot Division, and a location of Ritchie Bros Auction site.

Back in Saskatoon we got to visit the Canadian Light Source which houses the latest particle accelerator, Saskatoon Colostrum Company which area farmers send colostrum too. Case New Holland plant where air seed carts/planters, corn heads are made. The group also got to see $11.5 million dairy research barn built for U of Sask.

On the last night a picture perfect garden supper took place at Black Fox Farm and Distillery. Here they try different ideas such as hascap berries, cut flowers for weddings, lily and pumpkin festivals, different tastes of gin and vodka just to name a few.

All in all the group came home grateful for the openness of fellow farmers and industries in Saskatchewan and more than ready to do it again next year.

Summer Activity - 2016

This year’s Dundas summer activity kicked off at Ottawa Valley Grains in Carp, where the group learned about differences in small grain milling types and specialty corn for various end uses. Then it was off to Tomlinson’s new waste recovery site in Carp where we got a very detailed tour of the facility and heard about the products recovered and destined for new end uses. Special thanks to Thomlinson’s for providing lunch for the day! The day finished off with a brewery tour of Kitchissippi Brewery in Ottawa.
Growing Your Farm Profits
Planning for Business Success
Start the business planning process by attending this FREE two-day interactive workshop.
You will:  • Assess business management practices  • Determine priorities and key goals  • Develop realistic action plans  • Learn about cost-share funding opportunities

Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)
Producers are invited to attend FREE EFP (Fourth Edition) Workshops to:  Learn about best management practices  Develop an action plan for their farm  Learn about cost-share funding opportunities

Biosecurity Workshop
At this one-day workshop, an experienced veterinarian or certified crop advisor will show you the benefits of having an on-farm biosecurity program, and identify key practices which will enhance biosecurity measures on your farm.

Maximizing Your Traceability Investment Workshop
This in-class workshop will focus on how you can gain a competitive advantage and improve your bottom line with your traceability system. Real life examples and business profiles focused on traceability best practices will be examined throughout the workshop.

Food Safety Workshops/Webinars
Looking to keep up to date on the latest food safety practices and help strengthen your Growing Forward 2 application? The Food Safety Workshop is a two-day in-class workshop to help you formalize your food safety program, or you can take advantage of a series of six, 1.5 hour webinars which cover the same topics (see schedule online).

GYFP Workshop Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Day 1</th>
<th>Day 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elgin</td>
<td>Nov. 3</td>
<td>Nov. 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roblin (Napanee)</td>
<td>Nov. 22</td>
<td>Nov. 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casselman (French)</td>
<td>Jan. 31</td>
<td>Feb. 7</td>
</tr>
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EFP Workshop Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Day 1</th>
<th>Day 2</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sharon (Mt Albert)</td>
<td>Nov. 18</td>
<td>Nov. 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brighton</td>
<td>Nov. 30</td>
<td>Dec. 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Renfrew</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Casselman (French)</td>
<td>Jan. 18</td>
<td>Jan. 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kemptville</td>
<td>Jan. 19</td>
<td>Jan. 26</td>
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</tbody>
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Biosecurity workshops

- Generic Livestock: November 2 Nestleton (Port Perry)
- Bee: November 17 Kanata

Traceability workshops

- Port Perry: November 9 Nestleton (Port Perry)

Food Safety workshops

- Milton: November 2
- Colborne: November 14

Food Safety Workshops

- Dates to be announced

Growing Forward 2 Program Information and Application

- Dates to be announced

Register Online at www.ontariosoilcrop.org
President - Murray Dunbar  Ppres - Bill vanLoon  Vice-President - Kevin Winters  
Annual Mtg / Events - Murray Dunbar, Alan Kruszel, Henry TePlate, Gaeten Martin  
Seed Show / Farm Safety - Henry TePlate, David Z., Jeff Waldroff, Murray Dunbar, Bill vanLoon  
OVSS Dir - Jeff Waldroff  
High Yield - Kevin Winters, David VanderWeilen, Tanya Legault, Charles Sabourin  
Crop Advisor Committee - Paul VanderWeilen  
EVSCI Directors (2) Henry TePlate, Alan Kruszel  
Advisors - Barton Simpson, Scott Fife

2016 High Yield Corn Competition
Fee- $50  Deadline December 15 for harvest and entry fee.
Prize: Trophy & 50/50 to 1st place, Bag of seed to 1st, 2nd & 3rd; need to have 10ac of 1 hybrid, have an outside person onsite to do the yield on 1 acre, use weigh wagon/elevator for weight corrected to 15.5%. SAMPLE to be tested on a certified scale. Harvested weight is used. See form on next page.

The annual meeting is being planned for the 1st or 2nd week of January, 2017 10am. Place to be announced. Stay tuned for the results of the High Yield Corn Competition in Stormont County.

Just a reminder to all members to keep some samples of the crops you are harvesting, so you have step 1 done in getting your entries ready for the Seed and Forage Show March 3, 2017. Entries March 1, 2017.

If your email has not been submitted to SSCIA Secretary and you would like to be on the email listing for SSCIA updates, please send your email address to the SSCIA Secretary. Membership is $20/y; $55/3y; Business $50/y
2016 Corn Yield Contest

This is meant to be FUN!

Rules

1. You must be a **PAID** member of Stormont Soil & Crop for 2016.
2. Minimum field is 10 acres (4 ha) with 1 acre of the field to be harvested.
3. Entry Fee $ 50.00 – Payable by December 15 to SSCIA Secretary.
4. Harvest/Yield Check – MUST be done by and signed by a person that **does not** have any financial gain or interest in the outcome of the Contest.
5. Stormont Soil & Crop reserves the right to validate any questionable results.
6. The Winner will receive a Trophy with name, year and yield displayed at the annual Stormont Forage and Seed Show in Crysler the following spring, plus 50/50 prize money or equivalent value on the entry fees received. 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 3\textsuperscript{rd} Place awards will be issued as well(approx value $200.00 each).

ENTRY INFORMATION

Name ____________________________________________

Farm Name _______________________________________

Address _______________________________ Home Phone _______ _______ _______

_________________________ Cell Phone ______________________

**Contest Field** (minimum 10 acres of corn of one hybrid)

Hybrid Brand ______________________ Hybrid Number _______

Field # __________ Acres _______________________

Planting Date ___________ Row Spacing ___________

Plant Population __________ Seed Treatment _______________________

Tillage (check one)

Reduced _______ Conventional _______ _______

**Harvest**

Harvest Supervisor Name ___________________ Contact # _______ _______

Employed by _______________________________

Hybrid Harvested _______________ Harvested Weight _______

# Rows Harvested _______ Harvested Moisture _______

Row Length _______ feet/meters (circle one) Harvest Date _______

All harvested weights will be corrected to 15% moisture by the committee using a standard formula.

All harvested areas will be corrected to 1 acre by the committee.

I hereby certify that the yield recorded is correct and is in compliance to the 2016 Entry rules.

Grower ___________________ Supervisor __________________
New and revised factsheets

*Available online or from Publications Ontario*

16-001  Temporary Field Storage of Non-Agricultural Source Material (NASM)
16-003  Being an effective leader for your organization
16-011  How to form a Co-operative
16-013  Dairy Housing:  Developing the plan/procuring services/materials for constructing an new dairy barn
16-023  Lease agreements:  land leases

**Can Grow Crop Solutions Inc.**, a modern fluid fertilizer facility, is one of the most visible and most progressive independently owned fertilizer companies in South Western Ontario. What sets **Can Grow** apart is our ability to custom blend all fertilizer elements on a crop, farm, and field basis, and deliver the finished product to the customer quickly and timely.

Technology offers farmers more opportunities than ever to improve their returns on investment, but crops utilizing 21st century genetic technology will not reach their full potential with a 20th century fertilization program. Call us or visit our website for more information.

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Alvinston, Ontario, Canada
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**Toll Free: 1-800-353-3086**
Fax: 519-847-5878
www.cangrow.com
September 2016
For immediate release

Sudbury District Dairy Producer Acclaimed as OSCIA President Elect

August 14, 2016 -- Sudbury, ON. The annual summer directors’ meeting of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) was held in Sudbury District, starting at the Emiry Family farm, in Massey, Ontario. Mack was the 1st Vice President of OSCIA and has been acclaimed as the President Elect, setting the stage to be named President in 2017. He represents the Districts of Algoma, Cochrane, Manitoulin, Muskoka, Nipissing, Parry Sound, Sudbury, and Temiskaming in the North Eastern Ontario Region. Emiry Farms, is a family run farm operated by Mack, his wife Beth, along with their sons Keith and Alan, as well as Mack’s brother George and even some grandchildren.

Emiry Farms operates an 800 acre farm in the Massey area, and their property became a “Century Farm” in 2013. The Emiry family milk approximately 110 cows in a free stall barn using robotic milking technology. Crops are planted using reduced tillage where possible. They grow forages, silage corn, barley and soybeans. Soybeans and some dry hay are sold as cash crops and the rest of the production provides the feed requirements for their 200 head of animals on the farm. The farm also provides the land base for a 10 acre pick-your-own/ready pick strawberry operation, owned by Alan and Joanne Emiry. “Emiry Farms makes a strong effort in treating our land with respect and leaving it in better health for future generations” says Mack Emiry. “We are assisted in doing this through the opportunities provided by OSCIA such as Environmental Farm Plan Workshops and Growing Your Farm Profits Workshops. Field trials, demonstrations, information days and bus trips are the type of activities provided through OSCIA from which we derive great benefit.”

Mack Emiry is the first director from Sudbury to become the OSCIA President Elect. The last OSCIA President from the North Eastern region was Murray Cochrane in 2009, who farms in Algoma. Murray and his wife Norma were able to join in on the Summer meeting tours and commented that “The summer meeting in the Sudbury district showcased the diversity of agriculture in the North along with the challenges and opportunities that exists. By focusing on the opportunities, Emiry Farms have proved that farming in the North has a bright future.” OSCIA’s President Gord Green commented that “Mack and Beth, along with their family did a great job in presenting the diversification of North Eastern Ontario agriculture to their fellow directors, past presidents, their families and guests.”

OSCIA’s mission is to facilitate responsible economic management of soil, water, air and crops through development and communication of innovative farming practices.

For further information, contact:
Mack Emiry, President Elect (705-865-2249) or Andrew Graham, Executive Director (519-826-4216)

For pictures of the event please contact: avandepeer@ontariosoilcrop.org
OSCIA MEMBERS:

Receive 10% off of soil analysis fees!

- 10% off of soil analysis (not including non-soil samples such as manure, feed, tissue etc.)
- 10% off of a complete soil analysis package, including basis plus micronutrient analyses (S1B = S7)
- 10% off of all soil analysis packages
- 10% off of all surface, subsurface and plant tissue packages

Valid for all current OSCIA members only until December 31, 2016.

Contact your local secretary/treasurer or Regional Communication Coordinator for more information

Discount applies to regular priced fees only, on applicable tests and services listed. Not available in conjunction with other discounts or programs or retailers. Consultants may offer other discounts. Discount applicable to all samples received on a single submission. No cash value. Discount coupon must be submitted with samples and grower/field information

Ontario Forage Masters

The Ontario Forage Masters is a program promoting excellence in the growing, harvesting and storage of forages by acknowledging outstanding producers that employ winning management practices.

The program is currently under review with hopes of a refreshed version being introduced in 2017.

For more information, contact Amber Van De Peer amber.vandepeer@ontariosoilcrop.org or 519-826-3152
Creating a Soil Strategy for Ontario

Ontario is working with farmers to create a soil strategy to grow and sustain its strong agricultural sector while protecting the environment and helping fight changing climate. A Soil Strategy Discussion Paper has been posted on Ontario’s Environmental Registry and engagement sessions will be held through the fall and winter of 2016. The final Provincial Soil Strategy is expected to be released in late 2017. The Environmental Registry posting can be found at this link: www.ebr.gov.on.ca or search for registry number 012-8468. The draft discussion paper can be found at the following link: www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/landuse/soilhealth.htm. The EBR posting period closes November 27, 2016.

Free training for Integrated Pest Management courses extended

Ontario will continue to offer the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) course for corn and soybeans for free until April 20, 2017. The course is now required for anyone to buy and use neonicotinoid-treated corn or soybean seed. Offered by the University of Guelph Ridgetown campus, the course covers corn and soybean pest identification, planting best management practices, the new regulatory requirements for Class 12 pesticides, and pollinator protection from neonicotinoid exposure. The course is taught by experienced instructors, many of whom are farmers.

The Glengarry Soil and Crop Improvement Association will be holding their County annual meeting in January 2017. Look for the details in your November newsletter.
Media Release

Soil Champion deals with drought conditions

Effective soil management pays off when the rain does come

August 22, 2016
For immediate release
By Lilian Schaer, for Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association

Innerkip, Ontario - Even when you do all the right things, there are no guarantees that everything will go as planned. That’s certainly been Tyler Vollmershausen’s experience in this tough cropping year.

The young Oxford County cash cropper and his family were named the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association’s (OSCIA) 2016 Soil Champion at the organization’s annual meeting this past February. The recognition is handed out annually for excellence in soil management. They won the award for their strip tillage practices, implementation of Greenseeker technology for variable rate nitrogen application, and innovative use of cover crops on their operation near Innerkip. But despite all good intentions, Mother Nature is still in charge—and when there’s no rain, plans can change quickly.

“We only had small amounts of rain in May and June—one tenth to two tenths of an inch at a time mostly—which stunted the growth of our early edible beans,” says Tyler, adding that a crop-saving rain of an inch and a half finally fell on about two thirds of their crops during the last week of July. In ideal conditions, Greenseeker uses sensors to detect where additional nitrogen should be applied to corn, but the Vollmershausens’ corn was so stressed and wrapped from drought this year that they weren’t able to use the technology for a variable rate nitrogen application. Instead, they opted for a very conservative flat rate application.

The lack of rain has also brought other challenges this year. Their corn stands suffered from considerable insect pressure in early May, and Western Bean Cutworm problems in their corn and edible beans are the strongest they’ve seen. In fact, provincial insect experts will be coming to the farm in August, according to Tyler, a delegate with the Ontario Bean Growers, for some work to help establish edible bean thresholds for cutworm to help growers better manage the pest in their crops.

Although cover crops did nothing to alleviate extreme drought stress for the Vollmershausens this year, their biggest benefit actually comes when there is rain as they help the soil absorb and retain moisture. And by coincidence, the large rainfall at the end of July helped illustrate that benefit and validate the Vollmershausens’ cover cropping and strip tilling approach to soil management.

“A piece of one of our fields was plowed this spring for a Union Gas project, essentially destroying everything we’ve been doing with strip tillage and cover crops in bringing up weeds and creating a pan in the soil that impacts drainage,” explains Tyler. After the heavy downpour, the water hadn’t yet drained from the plowed ground after two days, whereas a field a couple hundred meters down the road that had been strip tilled and cover cropped was nicely drained – and shows less weed pressure too.
The Vollmershausens preferred cover crop continues to be cereal rye as it grows well and is excellent at choking out weeds; they’ve had less success with ryegrass and oats. “Rye works well for us and we’re comfortable with it; it’s not an expensive cover crop,” says Tyler, adding that they’re now experimenting with thinner stands and using fewer seeds so the crop is easier to burn off in the spring.

Although Tyler is very active on social media and had previously done a bit of speaking about his soil management approaches, the Soil Champion award garnered him more speaking invitations this past winter than he’d ever had before, including being part of Farm & Food Care’s Soil Health Road Show. Sharing knowledge is something he enjoys and says is important for continued progress with cover crops and tillage strategies. “Others are doing interseeding now too and I’m looking forward to seeing other growers’ results this year,” he says. “It’s better for success when people share their Results and use a collaborative approach.”

The Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association is accepting nominations for the 2017 Soil Champion Award until November 1, 2016. More details concerning eligibility and how to make a Nomination are available at http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/association/association-soil-champion-award/.

*Tyler Vollmershausen in a field of later planted beans that received some rain.*
2017 Nomination Form

The annual award recognizes strong advocates of sustainable soil management. Individuals from one of two general groups can be nominated:

- Those engaged in practical agriculture in developing, using and promoting management that contributes to the sustainable productivity of the soil; or,
- Research or extension professionals whose work demonstrates a commitment to advancing soil health and productive sustainability.

One Soil Champion winner will be declared for 2017 by the selection committee and announced at the OSCIA Annual Meeting in February.

An individual may nominate him/herself or be nominated by a third party. If you are nominating someone else, please ensure he/she is informed of your intentions and is a willing participant.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for the Soil Champion Award, an individual must be a resident of Ontario and/or have contributed to soil management in a way that improves soil health, and supports sustainable crop production and is environmentally friendly.

Practices that may be considered include:

- Minimal use of tillage – primary tillage is not eligible
- Protect and enhance organic matter, soil biota and soil aggregation
- Efficient and careful use of nutrients
- Effective surface water management
- Windbreaks and land retirement
- The advancement of science and advocacy for soil care

To typically accomplish these objectives in most cropping systems, full-surface non-inversion tillage must be limited to a two inch (51 mm) depth or less, and practiced no more than once every three cropping years. No primary tillage across the full working width of the equipment would be permitted.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS NOVEMBER 1, 2016
Year 4 of the Growing Forward 2 program continues offering farmers great free workshops and cost-share grants!

Great Workshops?
If you have not attended previously, or your workshop is over five years old, or you could benefit from one of the updated workshops now offered. The workshop information saves you time in learning the latest best management practices and are a critical requirement for applying for most cost share grants.

- EFP - Environmental Farm Plan
- GYFP - Growing Your Farm profits
- Bio-Security for crops, plants and livestock are offered
- Traceability
- Food Safety

* See the workshop listing for Eastern Valley and beyond in this newsletter