

Canada's Outdoor Farmshow 2014

This year's theme "*Expanding Opportunities for Diversity*" allowed OMAFRA staff from the field crop and horticultural crop units, in partnership with OSCIA field staff to provide visitors with some new ideas and a hands-on look at diversity in crop production and diversity for the soil.

"The place where farmers meet", Canada's Outdoor Farm Show offer visitors an opportunity to see and learn about innovative advances in farm equipment, agriculture technology and agriculture sector initiatives. Each year since the farm show started, the Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) and OMAFRA Crop Technology staff collaborate to prepare and participate in an interactive demonstration site.

Displays aimed at managing for 30 percent soil cover 100 percent of the time showcased cover crop mixtures and mid-summer inter-seeding into corn; residue management and strip tillage using GPS to run along the slope contour; biomass and new crops for industrial use with a soil pit comparing the root systems of miscanthus and switchgrass, and a manure application toolbar designed for uniform application into growing crops. Other plot displays included new varieties of edible beans, woodlot management / tree crop options and additions of organic amendments for building soil organic matter.

Inside the tent displays, publications, and posters provided information about OSCIA membership opportunities, provincial growing season weather data, crop heat unit data, management strategies to control insect pests, and hands-on travel using the Ag Info Atlas (Ag Maps), as well as materials detailing current programs and cost share opportunities.

Over 42,000 visitors from across the province had the opportunity to talk to staff. Guided plot tours were given to the groups of students and lunch hour presentations each day gave Certified Crop Advisors (CCA's) the opportunity to earn a few education credits.

Both the field plots and the tent display were designed to invite farm show goers over the three days to visit the displays, and to discuss and ask questions of the OSCIA and crop technology specialists.

Event Contact

Christine Brown, OMAFRA, christine.brown1@ontario.ca
Cathy Dibble, OSCIA, cathy.dibble@ontariosoilcrop.org

Crop Advances: Field Crop Reports



A soil pit reveals a Guelph loam soil profile and impact on soil structure from Switchgrass vs Miscanthus



Crop specialists share the features of alternate crops, such as native grasses for bioenergy, with visitors.



Featuring new technology and ideas to increase uniformity of manure application into growing crops



Annual Ryegrass inter-seeded July 3rd into corn



Displays and activities in the tent, give producers instant access to OMAFRA and OSCIA staff.



Strip tillage on the contour is an idea in the toolbox for 30 percent cover 100 percent of the year