



E8-2011 - Soil & Water Management Workshop 2011

CROP ADVANCES

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<http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/cropadvances.htm>



Soil & Water Management Workshop 2011

Farmers, agribusiness and conservation authority representatives gathered in a field near Innerkip on August 29, in fine weather; unlike weather in much of Ontario during the spring of 2011. The extremely wet conditions that challenged land preparation and planting operations was the theme of the 2011 Soil and Water Management Workshop “Too Wet, Too Dry, Now What?” During the half day event, 35 participants drawn from five counties explored the impact that physical, chemical and biological processes have on soil. Attendees examined soil horizons, roots and a perched water table within an excavated pit. Spatial variability in soil characteristics was revealed.

Erosion, infiltration and root response were demonstrated on differing soil types. Management to prevent soil, nutrient and yield losses and to restore soil structure, were discussed. A showcase of equipment designed to reduce compaction followed. Automated deflation of tanker tires upon entry to the field and re-inflation for retrieving the next load was demonstrated as a practical way to reduce pressure on soil during manure application. The use of tracks and duals on combines was examined with machinery present at the event.

Participants found the program valuable, and took home the new BMP booklet ‘Controlling Soil Erosion on the Farm’, along with summaries of each session as reminders of lessons learned from the field. The workshop was provided by the Agriculture Development Branch soil team with the event chaired by Christine Brown. Gratefully acknowledged are farm host, Rob Chesney, and the Oxford County Soil and Crop Improvement Association, who assisted with the workshop, and held a tillage demonstration where equipment designed to help with the breakdown of heavy trash was discussed and demonstrated on sweet corn.

Event Contact

OMAFRA Soil Team c/o Bonnie Ball bonnie.ball@ontario.ca

