



# Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association

**OSCIA AGM & Spray Smart Deep Dive**  
**February 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**The GrandWay, 7445 Wellington County Rd 21, Elora**

**Join OSCIA for our AGM on February 6<sup>th</sup>**, have your say as a member and learn more about program and research highlights from the past year!

AGMs bring a change in leadership, and we are excited to hear from current President Steve Sickle reflecting on his year as president and also we welcome in our new President into the position.

Hear from keynote speaker Steve Groff. Steve will be diving into soil health topics for his keynote and will host a panel of excellent OSCIA Soil Champions.

***The learning continues the next day!***

**Spray Smart on February 7<sup>th</sup>** is intended to help improve spray operations on your farm. Come out to hear from:

- **Tom Wolf** – Drift investigations.
- **Jim Reiss** - How water quality plays a critical role in the success of a spray application from mixing to efficacy.
- **Iain Robertson** - Practical tips and tricks from the UK for sprayer operators
- **Farmer panel** on how to make your operation more effective and efficient (save time and money!).

**Keynote Speaker: Iain Robertson** – Practical tips from a UK perspective. Iain will share his UK experience including a bevy of practical tips and tricks that improve all aspects of spraying from filling, operator safety, to drift mitigation and even road safety.

**Who should attend Spray Smart?**

- Home farm and custom applicators
- Operators of towed or self-propelled horizontal boom sprayers, spanning hort and field crops
- Farmers who don't spray themselves but want more knowledge of sprayers and spraying to be better equipped to converse with their applicators.

**Bring your water sample!** The first 100 people to register will have the chance to test their water samples to check out the conductivity and pH, hardness and alkalinity.



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## 2024 Annual Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>

### Day 1 – Business of the Association

1:00 p.m.	<b>Opening remarks and President's Report</b>	<b>Steve Sickle, President</b>
	<b>Welcome &amp; Greetings</b>	<b>Senator Rob Black</b>
	<b>Business of the Association</b> Executive Director's Report	<b>Ashley Honsberger, Executive Director</b>
	Approval of the 2023 OSCIA AGM Minutes	<b>Steve Sickle, President</b>
	Presentation of the 2023 Audited Financial Statements	<b>Murray Short, RLB</b>
	<b>Introduction of the 2023 Honorary President</b>	<b>Phil Oegema, President-Elect</b>
	<b>Ratification of the Board of Directors</b>	<b>Phil Oegema, President-Elect</b>
	<b>Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaw</b>	<b>Alan Kruszel, Chair Governance Committee</b>
	<b>OSCIA Departmental Updates</b>	<b>Barb Caswell, Director of Operations</b> <b>Angela Straathof, Director of Research and KTT</b>
	<b>Break</b>	
3:00 p.m.	<b>Presentation of Slate of Executive Committee Members</b>	<b>Phil Oegema, President-Elect</b>
	<b>Ministry Updates</b>	<b>Jake Munroe, Soil Management Specialist, OMAFRA</b>
	<b>Presentation of Resolutions</b>	<b>John Poel, Chair of Resolutions Committee</b>
	<b>Flagship Award &amp; Incoming President Remarks</b>	<b>Phil Oegema, 2024 OSCIA President</b>
	<b>Keynote Presentation</b>	<b>Steve Groff, Farmer and Soil Health Expert</b>
	<b>Mix &amp; Mingle</b>	
	<b>Dinner</b>	
6:00 p.m.	<b>Awards presentations</b>	2024 Don Hill Legacy Award 2023 Scholarship winner
	<b>Soil Champion Panel hosted by Steve Groff</b>	
	<b>2023 AGM Adjourns</b>	
8:00 p.m.		



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## Spray Smart Deep Dive Agenda Wednesday, February 7th

### Day 2 – Spray Smart Deep Dive

9:00 a.m.	<b>Opening Remarks &amp; Housekeeping</b>	
9:00 a.m.	<b>Diagnosing Drift</b>	Dr. Tom Wolf, Agrimetrix Research and Training
9:45 a.m.	<b>Q &amp; A with Dr. Tom Wolf</b>	
10:00 a.m.	<b>Why Water Quality Matters to your Spray Program</b>	Jim Reiss, Senior Vice President of Product Development at Precision Laboratories LLC
10:45 a.m.	<b>Q &amp; A with Jim Reiss</b>	
11:00 a.m.	<b>Nutrition Break &amp; Equipment Display &amp; Water Testing</b>	
11:30 a.m.	<b>Practical Tips and Tricks for Sprayer Operators and a UK Perspective on Crop Protection</b>	Iain Robertson, Sprayer Operator, 2007 Farm Sprayer Operator of the Year award winner, National Register of Sprayer Operators board member in Dodington, UK.
12:15 p.m.	<b>Q &amp; A with Iain Robertson</b>	
12:30 p.m.	<b>Lunch &amp; Equipment Display &amp; Water Testing</b>	
2:00 p.m.	<b>Ontario Sprayer Operators' Experiences Panel</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Todd Frey, Operations Manager, Clean Farm Services, Drayton, ON</li> <li>• Tyler McBlain, McBlain Farms, Brant ON</li> <li>• Dan Martin, Chief Operating Officer, Grand Ridge Farms, West Montrose ON</li> <li>• Mark Luymes, Co-owner of Luymes Farms, Mapleton Township, ON</li> </ul> <p>Moderated by Mike Cowbrough.</p>
3:00 p.m.	<b>Nutrition Break &amp; Equipment Display &amp; Water Testing</b>	
3:30 p.m.	<b>Sprayer Operators' Panel Q &amp; A</b>	Moderated by Dr. Jason Deveau
4:15 p.m.	<b>Water Testing Results</b>	TBC
4:30 p.m.	<b>Closing Remarks</b>	



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## Agenda Details

### **About Steve Groff, AGM Keynote Speaker:**

Lancaster County Pennsylvania native Steve Groff is a farmer, author, consultant and speaker known internationally for his work in cover-crops and no-till agriculture.

Steve has a history of innovating and pioneering in the area of environmentally healthy farming practices. He designed the first roller-crimper in North America that makes cover cropping practical and effective.

He developed the Tillage Radish, a unique cover crop that helps infuse the soil with rich nutrients and is now recognized around the world. And he was the first commercial farmer to no-till transplant tomatoes.

Innovations like these have led him to be sought out locally in the southeast Pennsylvania region, as well as nationally and internationally as a consultant and speaker, particularly as regenerative agriculture practices are becoming a required necessity by global food supply chains.

During his time with us Steve will cover his core philosophies on farming... how soil is meant to be covered, that planning and understanding are essential to farming success, the “Why” and “How” are essential and treating your cover crops like your cash crops!

### **More about Spray Smart**

#### **Diagnosing Drift:**

A practical discussion using three case studies on how someone might investigate a drift complaint and what steps involved parties might take.

### **Ontario Water Quality and its Utility as a Spray Carrier:**

Water quality plays a critical role in the success of a spray application from mixing to efficacy. This talk helps isolate the truly critical factors and relating them to Ontario regions, time of year and the source (e.g. municipal water or dugout). Learn where to get testing done and how to interpret a report.

### **Practical Tips and Tricks and a UK perspective:**

Keynote speaker for the event, Iain shares his UK spraying experience including a bevy of practical tips and tricks that improve all aspects of spraying from filling, operator safety, to drift mitigation and even road safety. He also discusses sprayer features or aftermarket add-ons that have made his job easier, faster, more effective and/or safer.

### **How to make your operation more efficient and effective:**

Learn from a group of presenters, each successful growers/applicators who have innovated to make their operations better. Have your questions ready!

### **Panel Speakers:**

- Todd Frey, Operations Manager, Clean Farm Services, Drayton, ON.
- Tyler McBlain, McBlain Farms, Brant ON.
- Dan Martin, Chief Operating Officer, Grand Ridge Farms, West Montrose, ON.
- Mark Luymes, Co-owner of Luymes Farms, Mapleton Township, ON.