

## Ontario Forage Expo 2013 - Showcases Harvest Technologies

The 2013 Ontario Forage Expo gave farmers and agribusiness an opportunity to see demonstrations of the latest innovations in forage harvest technologies and to harvest forage quickly with minimum losses and maximum quality. Over 500 farmers and agribusiness attended the event.

The annual event was held July 10, 2013 at Ikendale Farm, Walkerton, Ontario. The Expo was sponsored and organized by the Ontario Forage Council, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs, and the Bruce County Soil & Crop Improvement Association. OMAFRA worked with the equipment industry to ensure the latest technology was present and demonstrated at the event. The demonstrations were important to help farmers make critical decisions on expensive investments to enhance their farm operations in capacity, minimizing harvest losses, product quality and profitability.

Demonstrations were done throughout the day by equipment manufacturers and dealers showcasing the latest in forage harvesting equipment. This equipment included various mowers, conditioners, rakes, tedders, windrow inverters, mergers, harvesters, dump wagons, GPS monitors, large round balers, large square balers, small square bale bundlers, bale wrappers and bale grapplers. This provided an excellent opportunity for farmers to view the latest technology available to harvest forage quickly with minimum losses and maximum quality.

The continuous increase in equipment size, capacity and technology enhances a farmer's ability to achieve quality forage production under a wide range of conditions by increasing speed of operations, and handling forages in ways that enhance product quality. This becomes extremely important when variable weather is a critical factor in forage production.

