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## Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)

### Northern Ontario Regional Office

Ontario Ministry of

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P.O. Box 521, Hwy. 64

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# Breaking Ground

(in Northeastern Ontario)

FALL 2008

A Publication of the North Eastern Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association (NEOSCIA)

## IPM 2009 Shows Off at the IPM 2008

By Darlene Bowen, IPM Coordinator

The 2009 Temiskaming International Plowing Match was front and center at the IPM 2008 in Teeswater this past week. More than 100 volunteers spent the entire week manning the information booth, selling souvenirs or booking RV sites. Many spent time touring the match, taking pictures and meeting with the organizers of IPM 2008 to ensure there was a complete record of everything that needs to be done for next year.



The week started in true IPM style... with lots of mud. When we arrived on Sunday many of our volunteers discovered that the RV Park was closed due to... you guessed it... mud! Hundreds of trailers were in the holding area and others were being rerouted to local quarries, the arena and anywhere else they could find parking spots. Our group was unfazed by the problems, but quickly realized that we needed to have a very strong Plan "B" in case a hurricane should blow into Temiskaming as it did in Bruce County.

On Monday morning the truck and trailer carrying all of our literature and souvenirs had to be towed into the match, only to find that our tent had no walls and a very muddy floor. By noon we had the walls up and by 5 o'clock we had the booth set up and everything ready for opening day on Tuesday morning

Opening day brought sunny skies and by late afternoon the mud was a distant memory, never to be seen again for the duration of IPM 2008.

Over the course of five days we sold souvenirs and handed out information to visitors from across Canada and the United States. Attendance at the Match reached 84,000 and we had a good chance to invite many of them to Northern Ontario in 2009. We were located in the TriCounty Tent, along with the 2010 host - Elgin County and the 2011 host - the amalgamated Counties of Prescott Russell.

Everyone we met were excited about attending the Match in Temiskaming and many are planning to holiday here before and after the match to enjoy the many attractions of Northern Ontario.

If you are planning to book an RV spot for 2009 in our 2500 site RV Park, please call 705-647-6380 and speak with the RV registration volunteers - Rolly and Lois Forget.

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE AT  
[www.ipm2009.net](http://www.ipm2009.net)

If you need information please call our office at 1-877-647-6910

### NOTE: **Sponsors/Advertisers needed for coming year. \$500 for 4 issues!**

This newsletter is published 4 times per year. Articles can be submitted in either English or French and should be submitted to the Communication Coordinator (see below). Please supply translation, if available.

Material in this newsletter is based upon factual information believed to be accurate. Action taken as a result of this information is solely the responsibility of the user. We reserve the right to edit articles.

Send articles to:  
Graham Gambles  
Box 586, Temiskaming  
Shores, ON P0J 1K0  
Tel: (705) 672-3105  
Fax: (705) 672-5959  
E-Mail: [gamblesgraham@yahoo.ca](mailto:gamblesgraham@yahoo.ca)

# NEOSCIA News

By Janet Parsons



Alvin Brooks, director from Halton, Peel and York region, and his wife Brenda spent a day touring West Nipissing on the way to the OSCIA board meeting in Algoma. Here they are shown with John Parsons of Sturgeon Falls.

The NEOSCIA summer meeting and tour was hosted by Algoma district on August 6, 2008. After the meeting in Bruce Mines, the group toured very impressive fields, including corn plots at Vic Fremlins, winter wheat fields at Paul Oikaris and alfalfa forage at Hillstroms. Les and Pauline Hillstrom hosted the lunch and provided the site for the GPS/auto steer demonstration by Jordon Wallace of GPS Ontario.

The number one use of GPS is for spraying. Tillage and fertilizer application are close behind. Proper application of fertilizer and sprays saves fuel and input costs. A GPS auto steer system is eligible for funding under EFP and the Canada-Ontario Farm Stewardship Cost share Program. Call your local EFP co-ordinator for details.

The NEOSCIA board of directors will be having a fall conference call to finalize the constitution and prepare for the election

of the first Northeastern Ontario board member to OSCIA under the new provincial constitution.

Murray and Norma Cochrane put on a real 'show' for OSCIA board members attending the summer board meeting in Algoma. Murray had picture-perfect corn fields flanking the site of the outdoor barbeque and the sun shone making for a glorious evening.

Many of the OSCIA directors had never been to northern Ontario so this was an opportunity to see what's going on up here...a prelude to the International Ploughing Match next fall in Earlton.

Many directors took time to extend their visit and stopped in at Science North in Sudbury as well as other attractions. This was an opportunity to showcase northern Ontario and I'd like to thank Murray and Norma for being such wonderful hosts.

## NEOSCIA Members Classifieds

Are you a member of your local Soil & Crop Improvement Association in Northern Ontario? If so, that membership entitles you to one free classified ad each year. Subsequent ads will cost \$10.00 per issue. Next deadline is **November 01, 2008.**

Note that the editor may "shrink" the amount of info in any given ad due to space limitations in a specific issue.

For more information, Contact Graham Gambles, editor, at 705-672-3105 or e-mail to gamblesgraham@yahoo.ca



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East, Cochrane, Temiskaming**

**Ontario Ministry of Agriculture,  
Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)**

**Northern Ontario Regional  
Office (NORO)**

### Upcoming local events:

#### 1. DAIRY SEMINAR

October 28, 2008 – Verner

October 29, 2008 – Earlton "Grand  
Boulevard from 10:30 am to 3:00 pm

Are you having problems with feed quality this year? Come out to this interactive event where Mario Mongeon, bilingual livestock specialist and Ron Lackie, Feed Ingredients and Byproducts Feeding Specialist with OMAFRA will be speaking on the topic of feed quality and how to deal with some of the challenges. If you have feed analysis done, please let me know so that the specialists can be made aware of specific issues for the region.

#### 2. GROWING YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008

9:00a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Canadian Hearing Society,  
1233 Paris St., Sudbury.

There will be some great speakers from the North as well as from the rest of Ontario. The focus is on capturing Local Food Opportunities in Northern Ontario. For further information, contact: 1-800-461-6132.

### Upcoming Provincial Events:

#### North American Beef Congress

October 31 – November 2, 2008

Western Fair, London. Watch for details on the 2008 show at <http://www.northamericanbeefcongress.com/>

#### ANNUAL SHEEP SEMINARS – LIVING WITH PARASITES 'TAKE CONTROL'

November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – Atwood, Elma  
Memorial Community Centre

November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – Napanee, Napanee  
Lion's Community Hall

8:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

#### Program highlights:

- Speakers from the UK and France
- Effects of parasites on sheep
- Important worm facts
- Current control principles
- What is *Cysticercus ovis*?
- Drenches & drench resistance

- New strategies for control
- Preventing coccidiosis

Early registration (up to November 5<sup>th</sup>)  
- \$42.00 (includes 5% GST, lunch and  
proceedings)

Late registration (after November 5<sup>th</sup>)  
- \$57.75 (includes 5% GST, lunch and  
proceedings)

To register, call 1-877-424-1300.

#### Royal Agricultural Winter Fair

November 7- 15, 2008

Visit <http://www.royalfair.org/> for further  
information

#### Great Lakes Community Shared Agriculture Conference 2008

November 21 - 23, 2008

Geneva Park Conference Centre, Orillia

The theme for the conference is "Seeding  
the Future, Growing Together!" For more  
information, visit [www.csaconference2008.ca](http://www.csaconference2008.ca)

### New Business

#### Premier's Innovation Awards Program Invites New Applications

Innovators in the province's agriculture  
and food industry are encouraged to  
apply for awards under the Premier's  
Agri-Food Innovation Excellence Award  
program, now accepting applications until  
December 1, 2008.

The \$2.5-million, five-year program  
(currently in its third year) was  
established to recognize innovators  
who contribute to the success of  
Ontario's agri-food sector.

The awards program includes the  
Premier's Award (up to \$100,000), the  
Minister's Award (up to \$50,000) and up  
to 55 regional awards of \$5,000 each.

Program applications must be received  
by December 1, 2008, and will be  
reviewed by two independent panels  
made up of representatives from  
across Ontario's agri-food industry.

Additional information and application  
forms are available on the Ontario  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and  
Rural Affairs [website](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/premier_award/). Download  
your guidebook and [application](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/premier_award/)  
for the Premier's Award for Agri-  
Food Innovation. On the website  
at: [http://www.omafra.gov.  
on.ca/english/premier\\_award/](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/premier_award/)

*Examples of types of innovation  
include but are not limited to:*

- improved farm practices
- responding to consumer demands
- environmental stewardship

- health and safety on the farm
- energy innovations
- education and marketing of  
agriculture to society, and
- local food.

#### The Ontario Market Investment Fund (OMIF)

The Ontario Market Investment Fund  
program is a 4-year \$12 million provincial  
initiative to promote consumer  
awareness of Ontario-produced foods  
and encourage Ontarians to buy locally.

The objectives of the Ontario Market  
Investment Fund are to develop  
opportunities through trade events,  
marketing campaigns and industry  
research initiatives that foster  
partnerships and collaboration for  
the promotion of Ontario foods.

#### How to apply

In order to be considered for funding  
under the Ontario Market Investment  
Fund applicants must complete an  
application form that includes details  
on the need for the project, its purpose,  
objectives and benefits and information  
on performance measurement  
in the short and longer term.

#### Information and application forms

are available on our website  
at [www.ontario.ca/omif](http://www.ontario.ca/omif)

#### Who may apply?

The Ontario Market Investment  
Fund encourages collaboration and  
partnerships.  
Individuals or individual businesses are  
not eligible to apply as sole applicants.

#### Eligible projects

The Ontario Market Investment Fund  
will support innovative market research,  
communications and/or marketing  
projects that encourage Ontarians  
to buy locally-produced foods.

*Examples of eligible projects include:*

- Market Research
- Development of Market Opportunities
- Communication Initiatives
- Consumer or Trade Events
- Funding

Projects are cost-shared with the  
provincial government investing  
up to 50 per cent of the project's  
eligible cost. Grants of up to  
\$100,000 per approved project are  
available. In-kind contributions are  
not eligible for cost-sharing.

*Eligible expenditures include,  
but are not limited to:*

- Market research designed to  
increase understanding of  
consumer and trade channel  
demands and sector capabilities

*Continued on page 6*

## Who is Ontario Agri-Food Education Inc.

By Colleen Smith-Robinson, Executive Director, Ontario Agri-Food Education Inc.

### 1. Who is Ontario Agri-Food Education Inc. and what is its role

Ontario Agri-Food Education is the source for trusted, non-biased, and factual resources to raise agricultural awareness among JK to grade 12 students in a way that meets Ontario curriculum requirements. Our potential audience includes 2.2 million students in Ontario. Our credibility is earned through delivery of services by:

- educational consultants working across the Province
- talents and insights of knowledgeable staff
- input of commodity groups, agricultural fair boards and the

agricultural industry at large

### 2. What are the future goals of Ontario Agri-Food Education? How do we intend to get there?

- We will continue to build strong alliances within agriculture and with the educational infrastructure of Ontario.
- Growing our outreach outside of traditional parameters, we can have an important impact on the development of leadership and mentoring initiatives among the youth of today - linking them to career opportunities of tomorrow in the agricultural industry.
- We are uniquely positioned to

build links between Corporate Canada and the agricultural sector through innovative communication platforms and build/strengthen relationships in the business sector.

- We plan to mobilize innovative thinkers to develop traditional and non-traditional initiatives under the umbrella of being sensitive to the voices of all of our stakeholders.

### 3. What is the call to action?

Go to the website [www.oafe.org](http://www.oafe.org) to keep up-to-date on our initiatives.

See more on OAFE on page #6 (e-Bulletin).

## NEW HAY LISTINGS SERVICE

In July, 2008, the ONTARIO FORAGE COUNCIL officially launched a new service for the forage industry. The "Ontario Hay Listings Service" is now available at the website [www.ontariohaylistings.ca](http://www.ontariohaylistings.ca) and it is free of charge.

Both hay producers and purchasers have often commented that there is a real need for a hay (and straw) listing service in Ontario. This site has been designed with dial-up users in mind, and with the objective of being as simplistic, yet efficient as possible. Their mission is to provide an easy and effective process of bringing hay producers and buyers together. It will create an awareness across Ontario, as well as in Western Canada and the U.S. of the potential supply of quality hay that is available.

For more information, contact Lorie Smith (OFC) at 1-877-892-8663.

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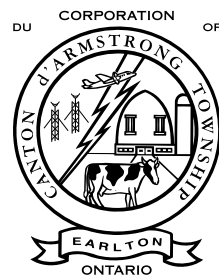
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April 3 & 4, 2009  
at the Earlton Arena

# Breaking Ground (in Northeastern Ontario)

## “Growing Your Opportunities”

### NEWS RELEASE

SUDBURY -- Northern Ontario Agri-Food Education & Marketing (NOAFEM), with the assistance of FedNor, the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs, will be presenting “GROWing Your Opportunities” Conference on Saturday, November 29. The conference will focus on Capturing Local Food Opportunities -- in Northern Ontario.

The keynote address: “Local Food -- Focusing on the Farmer” will feature Margaret Webb, journalist, author of Apples to Oysters: A Food Lover’s Tour of Canadian Farms and a promoter of local foods. The morning panel, Make It Happen -- success in reaching retail, will feature Raymond Savage manager of Co-operative Regionale de Nipissing/Sudbury; Dan Poulin of Don Poulin Potatoes Inc., Sudbury District; Troy Isaac of Last Mountain Berry Farms, Algoma District; and Will Samis of the Penokean Hills Farms Beef Producers, Algoma District.

Following a hot lunch, Dorene Collins and Carl Fletcher of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs will update attendees on The What? The Who? And The Why! Understanding food and Value Added Regulations.

Rose Diebolt, owner of Garden’s Gate Restaurant in Tehkummah, Manitoulin Island, and Nancy Guppy, Guppy’s Landing, Nipissing District, will address “Filling The Order – from farm to the plate.” Wrapping up the afternoon will be a discussion of distribution models, Rebuilding The Middle – innovative distribution models. This panel will feature Diana Bockus of the Food Buyers’ Group, Thunder Bay District; Mark Trealout of Kawartha Ecological Growers, and Dave Lewington, Dalew Farm, Sudbury District.

This exciting conference will take place at the Canadian Hearing Society, 1233 Paris Street, Sudbury. The registration fee of \$20, due by November 3, includes a hot lunch. The application form is available online at [www.norontagrifood.org](http://www.norontagrifood.org) or by calling 1-705-694-4396. Mission: Northern Ontario Agri-Food Education & Marketing Inc. educates consumers, processors and retailers on the agri-food industry in Northern Ontario, while assisting producers with marketing initiatives.



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## West Nipissing Soil & Crop Improvement Association



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**1-800-387-3232**

## RESOURCES • E-Bulletin

Continued from page 3

- Advertising and promotional materials
- Project management costs related to the delivery of the project

Information and application forms are available on our website at [www.ontario.ca/omif](http://www.ontario.ca/omif).

**Ontario Agri-Food Education Inc. (OAFE)** announces \$450,000 for projects under their Healthy Eating Program Request for Proposals

Ontario Agri-Food Education (OAFE) has announced \$450,000 to spend on a Healthy Eating Program and is looking for groups such as marketing boards, co-operatives and associations to help spend the money.

The goal is to promote, through a number of innovative projects, the health benefits of Ontario grown food products. Eligible projects must target either students at either primary or secondary schools, or the general public and must be completed within two years of project approval.

In a news release, OAFE's Executive Director Colleen Smith-Robinson said that applicants are encouraged "to look at non-traditional partners for success."

The deadline for project submissions is Nov. 24 and details of the program can be viewed at [www.oafe.org](http://www.oafe.org). or <http://www.oafe.org/section/view/?fnode=70>

### Electricity Retrofit Incentive Program – Extended through 2008

Retrofitting an existing facility with newer equipment is natural business practice. Technological improvements often make the newer equipment more efficient

and effective than the ones you are replacing. For electricity driven equipment this is almost certainly the case.

ERIP focuses on the areas of lighting, motors, heating ventilation and air conditioning and overall electricity systems. These areas cover the majority of and most important electricity upgrades businesses engage in.

Everyone can help reduce energy consumption in Ontario. Through this program, your business can contribute to a cleaner environment and benefit from incentives and lowered operating costs.

#### What Projects Qualify?

Incentives will be available for pre-approved projects that result in measurable reductions in electrical peak demand.

These projects may be completed using energy efficient technologies prescribed by the program or may be based on innovative custom initiatives.

Project applications must be submitted for approval before December 31, 2008 and completed and functional before December 1, 2009.

Complete program details are available at this web site:

<http://business.everykilowattcounts.com/feature/ERIP/index.php>

Applications can be downloaded from this site:

<http://business.everykilowattcounts.com/feature/ERIP/forms.php>

## Giant pumpkin surpasses previous record

NORTHERN ONTARIO – Northern Ontario Agri-Food Education & Marketing Inc. (NOAFEM) again sponsored an annual Giant Pumpkin Contest with weigh-ins in four locations across Northern Ontario: Central Manitoulin Public School Fair in Mindemoya, Sudbury's Anderson Farm Museum Fall Fair, Desbarats Farmers' Market, and New Liskeard Fall Fair. The contest was supported in part by funding from The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), an agency of the Government of Ontario.

The winning pumpkin, weighing 522.5 pounds, was entered at the Anderson Farm Museum's Fall Fair in Lively, successfully beating the previous record of 465 pounds. Rene Gravelle grew his winning entry at his home in Hanmer.

The largest entry in New Liskeard was won by Alexander McMillan-Pipe of New Liskeard while Dexter Bowerman of Spring Bay placed first at Central Manitoulin Public School.

In addition to Giant Pumpkin, the competition included three other categories: Most Perfect Shape, Most Unusual Shape and Smallest.

At Anderson Farm Museum, Ryan Marcotte of Wahnapiatae won first in Most Perfect Shape with one pumpkin and placed in the Smallest category with another. Reese Marcotte of Wahnapiatae took first in the Smallest category.

Each entry was eligible to win a gift basket donated by McClelland's Hardware & Feed of Desbarats, which was won by Alexander McMillan-Pipe.

Plans are now underway for 2009's Pumpkinfest to include pumpkin baking with entries being accepted for Pies, Muffins and Cookies.

Who will be the first to grow a pumpkin in excess of 1,000 pounds? This challenge has been issued.

#### Can it be met?

For more information about Pumpkinfest, contact Myrna Barager, Project Manager, at 705-842-5533 or e-mail [collie@vianet.ca](mailto:collie@vianet.ca).

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Ruth Snider  
(705) 647-5937



# OSCIA News...

September 2008

A NEWSLETTER TO UPDATE OSCIA MEMBERS,  
PRESIDENTS, SECRETARIES, TREASURERS, DIRECTORS,  
AND OMAFRA AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT CONTACTS —

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**Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement  
Association**  
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Fax: (519) 826-4224  
E-mail: [oscia@ontariosoilcrop.org](mailto:oscia@ontariosoilcrop.org)  
Web site: <http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org>

## OSCIA 2009 ANNUAL MEETING

**Date:** February 3 & 4, 2009  
**Place:** Sheraton Fallsview  
Niagara Falls

## Message from the President

As the end of the summer approaches, there are a number of interesting updates from OSCIA. The summer meeting and associated events were held recently in Sault Ste. Marie and Thessalon, hosted by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Murray Cochrane and his wife Norma. The tours were very enjoyable and the excellent weather was a welcome change.



*Pat Lee*

The spouses were informed about wind turbines and visited the Canadian Bushplane Museum while the Directors held their meeting. Tuesday saw all of us visiting a large maple syrup operation and the St. Mary's Paper Mill. It was a very well-organized event, and we commend our hosts on their fine efforts.

OSCIA experienced changes in its constitution at its 2008 Annual Meeting. Most regions and many counties have updated their constitutions to match the provincial constitution. Overall, there are now 11 regions in the province, and election of provincial directors takes place within those regions.

Over the summer, most areas in the province have seen more than adequate rainfall, and crop growth in general is excellent. Harvesting quality forage continues to be a challenge. Forage competitions have been very successful this year with participation from twenty-five local associations and 232 participants. We look forward to the final competition at the Royal Winter Fair in November, sponsored by Pickseed Canada, Agri-Food Laboratories, and the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. This continues to be a very popular program with the members.

The interest in the Nutrient Management BMP Demonstration grants co-ordinated by OSCIA and funded by OMAFRA has been very strong. Five projects have been approved for full funding at \$20,000 each and we will be asking for proposals in October for another five projects.

# Breaking Ground (in Northeastern Ontario)

In July the Executive and a few staff members met with the Regional Communication Coordinators (RCCs), regional reps, and OMAFRA reps from Eastern and North Eastern Ontario. This meeting was held in Kingston where we discussed the roles and responsibilities of the RCCs, OMAFRA and OSCIA and how they interrelate. Everyone went away with a sense of satisfaction in knowing that a good working relationship exists between those groups and the local Soil and Crop Improvement Associations. We hope to enhance this working relationship by having each region develop a Communication Plan Framework. A similar meeting has been organized for regions from the southern and northwest parts of the province. We will meet with them in September in Ingersoll.

An annual September event, Canada's Outdoor Farm Show, is quickly approaching. Once again OSCIA will be partnering with Canada's Outdoor Farm Show, OMAFRA, and Bayer CropScience to provide brunch and informative presentations on agricultural management practices and new crop protection technology. Topics will include information on innovative strategies, a NEW one-pass, broad-spectrum herbicide for corn, and more new products from our sponsor. While you are there, it will be a good opportunity to view the OSCIA/OMAFRA plots and displays.

We are looking forward to seeing YOU at the Show. ♦

## OSCIA Summer Directors' Meeting

The OSCIA Summer Directors' Meeting was hosted by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Murray Cochrane and his wife Norma on August 17-19. Murray and Norma organized three days' events for the OSCIA Directors and their families in Algoma Country.



The event began on Sunday with a social time and barbecued meal at "Scattered Acres", the Cochrane farm near Thessalon, pictured above.

Monday's main event was the meeting of the Board of Directors, where the Board attended to business of the Association and planned for the future.

Provincial Directors are closely involved with the changes within the regions resulting from the amended OSCIA Constitution. They will be providing full support and feedback to the membership through fall meetings and messages in the regional newsletters.

An important part of the meeting was the election held for the President-Elect for the provincial association for 2009. Murray Cochrane was acclaimed for the position.



A tour of the Algoma district was enjoyed by all Directors, Past Presidents and their families. One stop included a visit to the large dairy farm of Vic and Tammy Fremlin (pictured above).

Along with a tour of the buildings, a visit was made to a corn trial site. An overview of their business was provided, along with a few tips in raising the profile of a business.

Hosting the summer meeting is a huge undertaking, one that requires a lot of attention to detail. The Cochranes are to be congratulated for the excellent job they did in organizing the three-day event. Those not familiar with the northern parts of Ontario were treated to a taste of what this beautiful area has to offer. ♦

## Ontario Red Clover Research

The use of red clover as an under-seed in wheat has declined in recent years, even though numerous research studies have demonstrated significant Nitrogen availability and agronomic benefits to following crops in the rotation, and environmental and soil quality benefits.

The Agricultural Adaptation Council - Ontario Research Development Fund from OMAFRA is supporting OSCIA in funding red clover research. The research is focused on the benefits of growing red clover, the screening and development of new varieties, tillage practices, and the development of management options relating to red



# Breaking Ground (in Northeastern Ontario)

clover establishment. The project will be conducted by Dr. Bill Deen, University of Guelph, and located at the Elora Research Farm. This information would be communicated to Ontario farmers to help them to increase the yield and value of their red clover crops.

Red clover stands appear to be sensitive to winter wheat nitrogen rates. Profit in winter wheat exhibits a plateau response from nitrogen. Estimates of winter wheat Most Economical Return for Nitrogen (MERN) values could be evaluated with consideration to red clover benefits in subsequent crops.

Management options for dealing with non-uniform stands of red clover will be explored, particularly given the potential environmental consequences associated with uniform nitrogen applications to non-uniform red clover stands. This project will also help provide Ontario farmers with new varieties of red clover that will survive frosts and drought periods.

It is becoming increasingly difficult for Ontario farmers to compete with the increasing cost of inputs, such as fertilizers and fuel, required to produce their crops. With increasing prices of fuel, many Ontario farmers are switching from conventional tillage to a form of no-till. This project will also help provide Ontario farmers with comparisons of different methods of tillage (conventional till, no-till, no-till with coulters and no-till residue removed) that will help determine the degree of tillage required to overcome no-till effects on red clover stands. ♦

## 2008 Ontario Forage Masters Program

232 OSCIA members entered the 2008 Ontario Forage Masters Program, representing 25 local S&C Improvement Associations.



A number of 4-H members (28) are included in the participant numbers.

The entrants in each county are vying for valuable prizes provided by Pickseed Canada and Agri-Food Laboratories.

Recently, OSCIA announced that the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair has joined the program by sponsoring a final competition to select the **2008 Ontario Forage Master**.

The first-place winners in each county are eligible to submit an entry to the provincial office by October 1<sup>st</sup> to be reviewed by a judging panel. Up to six will be selected to participate in the final competition at the Royal on November 12.

The person selected as the **2008 Ontario Forage Master** will represent Ontario at the Forage Spokesperson Competition held as part of the American

Forage and Grasslands Council conference in June 2009 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Full details of the competition have been mailed to each local association, and can be found on the OSCIA website. ♦

## 2009 OSCIA Memberships

A notice will soon be sent to all local Soil and Crop Improvement Association secretaries regarding memberships for 2009.

Membership in your local association includes many benefits, including reduced admission to many agricultural events, bus tours, field trials, and being included on the mailing list for newsletters.

Your membership renewal for the coming year may be due anytime during the fall months, and your local association has a method in which to collect your fees.

Per the OSCIA Constitution, membership fees from the local associations is due into the provincial office no later than February 15, and many of them depend on timely payment from their membership in order to meet this deadline.

In order to keep your membership current, please ensure that you have provided your fee to the local association secretary. ♦

## Nutrient Management Grants

Two new grants were featured in the June issue of OSCIA News.

### OSCIA Regional Nutrient Management Outreach Grant

OMAFRA has allocated funding to support new communication activities of regional Soil and Crop Improvement Associations that promote the adoption of Nutrient Management BMPs to the non – regulated (Nutrient Management Act) farm population.

- Up to \$4,000 per project is available on a first-come first-served basis to support regional activities directly related to increasing awareness and adoption of nutrient management regionally.

### Nutrient Management BMP Demonstration Grant Letter of Intent Deadline – 4:30 pm October 13, 2008

OMAFRA has allocated funding to organizations supporting demonstration projects and new communication activities targeting any producers not regulated by the Nutrient Management Act. Up to \$20,000 of grant funds are available for innovative demonstration and validation field projects related directly to improving the management of nutrients on agriculture lands within Ontario.

# Breaking Ground (in Northeastern Ontario)

- This grant is available to any agricultural organization, Conservation Authority, college or university.
- OSCIA has issued a Request for Proposal to solicit project proposals for funding consideration under the Nutrient Management BMP Demonstration Grant Program.
- The eligibility criteria and templates required for application are available at [www.ontariosoilcrop.org](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org). ♦

## We Need Your Feedback

OMAFRA's *Field Pocket Guide* was introduced as a practical way to record crop production activities to assist farmers in achieving economically feasible and environmentally responsible management of soils, water, air, crops and livestock. It contains a variety of record keeping pages and some handy conversions and calculations.



The *Field Pocket Guide* is currently distributed, free of charge, to producers who visit OSCIA displays at regional agriculture conferences, as well as at EFP workshops across the province.

Since 2004, over 25,000 copies have been distributed, and we are out of stock! We need your comments to tell us what you like, dislike and would like to see improved in the book. Please go to our online survey <http://www.surveymonkey.com/fieldpocketguide> and tell us what you think. The survey is brief and will require only a few minutes to complete. If you provide your contact information, your name will be entered into a draw for a \$50 Canadian Tire gift card (draw to take place on October 15, 2008). Survey closes October 10, 2008.

Thank you for your time and for your feedback. ♦

## Reminder! Place Your Orders Early!

Promotional material is available on a cost-recovery basis from the provincial office.

Among other items, a supply of double-sided fleece vests with OSCIA logo embroidered, and embroidered OSCIA hats is available for local or regional associations to use at upcoming winter meetings as gifts for a special member or speaker, or as fundraising items at upcoming annual meetings.

Association secretaries may contact the provincial office for more information, or to place an order. ♦

## OSCIA Grant Deadlines

The deadline for local and regional associations to submit their claims for association grants is November 30, 2008.

Although the deadline is a few weeks away, local and regional associations are encouraged to submit applications (claims) for projects that are complete. ♦

## OSCIA Awards

### Soil and Water Conservation Farm Award:

The purpose of this award is to recognize, reward, and acknowledge farmers who practice excellent soil and water management on their farms, as well as provide high profile to the basic principles of conservation. This is a resin all-weather sign measuring 16" x 19".



### Recognition Certificate:

This certificate is designed to recognize individuals in your community who have contributed to the organization. When requesting the certificate, please indicate the recipient's name and date of presentation. This is a paper certificate, suitable for framing, measuring 8½" x 11".



These awards are ideal for presentation at annual meetings. Both are available by calling Evelyn Howse at the provincial office (1-800-265-9751). Please allow 2 weeks for preparation and shipping time. ♦

## Climate Change Policy - E-Survey

Jeffrey Biggs, a doctoral candidate at the University of Toronto, is researching "How Canadian Climate Change Policy Affects Ontario Farmers". If you are interested in participating in an e-survey, contact Jeffrey directly at [Jeffrey.biggs@utoronto.ca](mailto:Jeffrey.biggs@utoronto.ca).

OSCIA is very interested in this topic. ♦

Visit the OSCIA website  
[www.ontariosoilcrop.org](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org)



## CROP TALK

Volume 8, Issue 3

OMAFRA Field Crop Specialists — Your Crop Info Source

September, 2008

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### Brought to You by the Following OMAFRA Crop Specialists

Mike Cowbrough, Weed Management Program Lead  
Hugh Martin, Organic Crop Production Program Lead  
Horst Bohner, Soybean Specialist  
Ian McDonald, Applied Research Co-ordinator  
Albert Tenuta, Field Crop Pathologist  
Keith Reid, Soil Fertility Specialist  
Jack Kyle, Grazier Specialist  
Brian Hall, Alternative Production Systems Specialist  
Peter Johnson, Cereals Specialist  
Scott Banks, Emerging Crops Specialist  
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Christine Brown, Nutrient Management Program Lead  
Adam Hayes, Soil Management Specialist - Field Crops  
Greg Stewart, Corn Industry Program Lead  
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Editor: Joel Bagg, Forage Specialist

Compiled by: Marian Desjardine, OMAFRA, London

### Are You Using OMAFRA's Field Pocket Guide?

If yes, we want to hear from you!

Since 2004, over 25,000 copies have been distributed, and we are out of stock! Help us determine how to move forward with this handy tool. Let us know what you like, dislike and would like to see improved in the book.

**Complete our online survey for a chance to win a \$50 Canadian Tire Gift Card!**

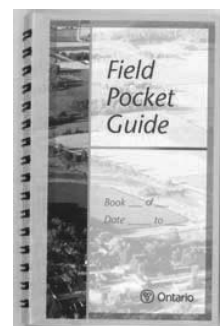
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Thank you for your time and for your feedback!



### 2008 Ontario Winter Wheat Performance Trials Available on the OMAFRA website at:

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/wwperf-08.htm>



Ministry of Agriculture,  
Food and Rural Affairs



## Targeting the Right Wheat Acres!

by Peter Johnson, Provincial Cereal Specialist,  
OMAFRA

The leap year rule prevails! High prices drove growers to look for every available acre to plant wheat on. Then, after an incredible start to the 2008 season, Mother Nature delivered her normal leap year package of the weird, wild and wonderful. Repeated frost in May, hail in June, and right about harvest, it started to rain every day. Add to this sprouts, mildew, fusarium, black point, and ergot. Leap years! Given all these frustrations, it's a wonder growers are even considering planting wheat this fall. But in the majority of cases, yields were good, the final quality better than expected, and we like to grow wheat! However, the lessons learned from 2008 should be heeded. Growers should refocus to plant the right acres, not just every acre.

### After Beans

Whether after edibles or soybeans, this is a no brainer. JUST DO IT! The downside this year will be late harvested beans resulting in late planted wheat. That means lower yield potential. Still, this rotation works!

### After Canola

You don't even need to ask. Planting can be early, the rotation is right, yield potential is awesome. Why wouldn't you?

### After Silage Corn

Ouch! This one was ugly this year, at least for many growers. While the bulk of the winter wheat crop made grade 3 or better, the fields that were "feed account fusarium" could often be traced back to this rotation. So there is a risk. The upside - fusarium is the only risk, and you can often plant early on silage ground. Two management "musts" in this scenario:

- use a variety that is MR for fusarium ([www.qocereals.ca](http://www.qocereals.ca)), and
- spray with a fusarium fungicide.

Most years, this will be enough to get you quality wheat, and high yields to boot.

### After Hay

Wheat after alfalfa works. But why you would waste the nitrogen credit for corn (100 lbs/ac) for the credit on wheat (50 lbs/ac)?

Wheat after grass hay is a big risk because of Take-all. A root disease that infects in the fall, Take-all can rob 50% of your yield or more. In 2008, there was definitely significant Take-all in these fields. Yield impact is an estimated 10 to 30% loss. Management options in this situation are limited. Try not to plant early because the Take-all has more opportunity to infect. Using potash as a seed placed fertilizer provides some Take-all suppression. But it is still a risk!

### After Oats

Surprisingly, wheat after oats is not a bad rotation. Very few of the diseases cross over between oat and wheat. Go for it!

### After Barley

Wheat after barley is quite different than oats. Many of the root diseases cross over between barley and wheat. This is only a fair rotation at best. Management options are the same as with wheat after grass hay. Don't plant early, and use seed placed potash.

### After Wheat

This is the worst choice of all. Leaf disease and root disease pressure will be at its maximum. You will need to spray for leaf diseases. Take-all, Eyespot and Cephalosporium stripe are all risks that there is no way to manage. Count on a minimum of a 10% yield loss. In 2008, some wheat on wheat fields had over 30% Take-all infection. Know the risk!

### Soft White

How many times do we need to sing this song? If the premium for soft white looks intriguing, remind yourself of the risk of sprouts! Be sure you add in drying costs to your calculations. Successful soft white growers don't wait for dry wheat. Finally - DO NOT grow more soft white than you can combine in two days. Period.

Does all this mean we planted too much wheat in the fall of 2007? **NO!** With over 2 million acres of soybeans, there is lots of opportunity for more wheat. We just have to get those beans harvested in decent time! Plant WHEAT!!

## How Little Fertilizer Can You Get Away With For Wheat?

by Keith Reid, Soil Fertility Specialist & Peter Johnson, Cereals Specialist, OMAFRA

Record fertilizer prices have many farmers asking how little they can get away with, or whether they should be applying fertilizer at all? The answer would be simple if every field responded to fertilizer in the same way. The reality of agronomy is that response to any input is variable, so we are always playing the odds. Fortunately, it's a gamble that pays back more often than not. However, we should be managing our fertilizer program to pick a winner as often as possible. It is doubly important this year, because grain prices are also very attractive. You don't want to miss out on opportunities for increasing yields.

### Short Term Considerations - Starter Response

Winter wheat is very responsive to high levels of phosphorus near the seed. Unless your soil tests are way up there, you can expect a kick of 3 to 7 bushels from starter fertilizer. The amount you need to add to get this increase must be high enough to raise the concentration in the seed band, but it only needs to carry the plant until it has a well established root system. Don't go any lower than 15 lbs/ac (17 kg/ha) P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> as a starter - 30 lbs/ac (34 kg/ha) of MAP, 5 gal/ac (11.3 litres/ha) of 6-24-6, or 3.5 gal/ac (39.4 litres/ha) of 10-34-0.

### Medium Term Considerations - Meeting This Crop's Requirements

A winter wheat crop with a well established root system can pull enough P and K out of the soil to carry it through to maturity, IF there is enough in the soil to start with. If your soil test is low for either of these nutrients, then it will pay you to add them as either fertilizer or manure. You can do this by broadcasting, or by increasing the amount applied through the drill. Watch out for the maximum safe rates, which are 13.5 lbs/ac N (15 kg/ha) or 27 lbs/ac N + K (30 kg/ha) of N+K if all of it is going to be banded.

### Long Term Considerations - Crop Requirements Over the Rotation

A 100 bushel wheat crop will remove about 60 lbs/ac (68 kg/ha) of phosphate and 35 lbs/ac (40 kg/ha) of potash. If the straw is removed it will remove 70 lb/ac (79 kg/ha) phosphorus and 120 lbs/ac

(135 kg/ha) of potash. If you rely solely on only 15 lbs/ac (17 kg/ha) of P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> in your starter, your soil fertility levels will eventually decline. You will need to assess for your own farm whether there are other sources of nutrients that will help to make up this shortfall, or where it makes the most sense for you to be operating on the scale from build-up to drawdown of soil fertility.

It still makes sense to use low rates of starter fertilizer on wheat. Even at current phosphorus prices, yield increase will often cover the cost of these applications. Long term, consideration must be given to the soil bank account, and what strategy will keep high yields coming down the road.

## Controlling Alfalfa in Minimum Till Cropping Systems

by Mike Cowbrough, Weeds Specialist, OMAFRA

Retiring an established alfalfa crop in minimum tillage cropping systems can be challenging. Often the biggest reason for poor control of an old alfalfa crop is that the appropriate herbicide rate is not used and the timing of application is not optimal.

### Treatment Options and Rates

Glyphosate (eg. Roundup Weathermax, Touchdown Total) is the most common active ingredient used for control of alfalfa. However, producers have observed that glyphosate applied alone will sometimes offer inconsistent alfalfa control and the addition of 2,4-D Ester improves control.

Demonstration trials at Kemptville College (University of Guelph) in 2008 provided a comparison of different glyphosate tank-mixes compared with glyphosate alone. Over two hundred participants at the Eastern Ontario Crop Diagnostic Day were asked to select the treatment which they felt provided the best control of alfalfa. The tank-mix of glyphosate + 2,4-D Ester proved to be the winning treatment (Table 1 and Figures 1,2 & 3). Glyphosate applied alone will often result in re-growth the next spring, particularly when low rates (i.e. 0.67 L/ac) are used.

**Table 1.** Control of established alfalfa 4 weeks after application with several glyphosate tank-mixes.

Treatment	Rates	Votes	Control
glyphosate (540 g/L)	1 L/ac	0%	70%
glyphosate (540 g/L)	2 L/ac	44%	90%
glyphosate (540 g/L) + 2,4-D Ester (564 g/L)	1 L/ac + 0.5 L/ac	52%	90%
glyphosate (540 g/L) + amitrole	1 L/ac + 1.68 L/ac	4%	80%
Guardian (glyphosate + Classic)	0.67 L/ac + 14 g/ac	0%	70%

Source: J.E. Shaw and R.H. Brown, 1989



Figure 1. Visual control of alfalfa 4 weeks after an application of glyphosate (540 g/L) at 1 L/ac.



Figure 2. Visual control of alfalfa 4 weeks after an application of glyphosate (540 g/L) at 2 L/ac.



Figure 3. Visual control of alfalfa 4 weeks after an application of glyphosate (540 g/L) at 1 L/ac + 2,4-D Ester (564 g/L) at 0.5 L/ac.



Figure 4. Untreated Control

**Table 2.** Visual Control of Alfalfa with Fall and Spring Applications of glyphosate and 2,4-D Ester in Ridgetown, ON.

Treatment	Timing	Rates	Control
glyphosate (540 g/L)	Fall	1.34 L/ac	89%
glyphosate (540 g/L)	Spring	1.34 L/ac	60%
glyphosate (540 g/L) + 2,4-D Ester (564 g/L)	Spring	0.67 L/ac + 0.85 L/ac	98%

### Application Timing - Fall or Spring?

Fall glyphosate applications provide significantly better control of alfalfa than spring applications (Table 2). If a fall herbicide application cannot be accommodated, then the addition of 2,4-D Ester to glyphosate in the spring will improve control (Table 2). The limitation of applying 2,4-D Ester with glyphosate in the spring is that on the current glyphosate label, you are limited to planting only spring cereals, not underseeded to legumes and at a 14 day pre-plant interval.

The University of Guelph recently published the results of a 3 year study which evaluated pre-plant 2,4-D Ester applications to soybeans. They found that applications of 0.5 L/ac of 2,4-D Ester (564 g/L) applied 7-14 days pre-plant caused no crop injury and grain yields equivalent to the weed-free control plots<sup>1</sup>. However, this application timing is currently not listed on the glyphosate label.

### Summary

- Fall herbicide applications provide the best control of alfalfa in minimum tillage cropping systems.
- The tank-mix of 2,4-D Ester + glyphosate applied to alfalfa in the fall often improves control and reduces the likelihood of re-growth in the spring.

<sup>1</sup>Soltani et al. 2008. Effect of amitrol and 2,4-D applied at the preplanting and pre-emergence of soybean. Weed Biology and Management. Vol 8. pp 139-144.

### Soil Testing Myths

*by Keith Reid, Soil Fertility Specialist, OMAFRA,*

There are a number of misconceptions floating around out there that keep us from getting the best value from soil testing. In some cases, they mean that samples don't get collected at all. This is a total waste of valuable information you could use to improve your bottom line.

**Myth - My farm is unique, so a soil test can't be relevant.**

**Fact -** While it is true that there are differences from farm to farm in how effectively nutrients are used, the soil test is the only reliable way to get information about the concentration of nutrients in your soil. You can manage your unique situation better if you have this information.

**Myth - You have to grid sample to get good information.**

**Fact -** We are more aware of within-field variability today, but the value of quantifying this variability is limited. The first step should always be a good field scale sample (maximum 25 acres).

**Myth - I grow good crops, so I don't need soil tests.**

**Fact -** Good for you! This probably indicates that nutrient deficiencies are not a problem, but that there may be opportunities to save money with lower fertilizer rates on some fields.

**Myth - Water is the best extract, because it shows what is immediately available to the crop roots.**

**Fact -** This is one of those attractive theories that just doesn't work in reality. The water extract, despite the claims, is not at all the same as the concentration in the soil solution. This is because it involves shaking a soil sample in a soil/water

slurry, that is a much higher amount of water than a root could ever grow in. It also ignores the contribution of exchangeable and slightly soluble nutrients from the soil, which account for most of the plant uptake during the growing season.

**Myth - Other provinces/states use “better” extractants.**

**Fact -** Soil test extraction is a complicated dance between the chemistry of the soil and the extractant, in an attempt to mimic the availability of nutrients to the crop over the growing season. The extractants chosen for Ontario work well with our soil types. Others are better suited to the conditions in their particular areas.

**Myth - Fertilizer recommendations from soil tests are only for average crops.**

**Fact -** Soil fertility is only one small part of growing high yielding crops, and crops with a high yield potential will have large root systems that are very efficient at absorbing nutrients from the soil. Fertilizing using soil test recommendations will not limit crop yields.

**Myth - The soil test reports are too hard to understand.**

**Fact -** Soil test labs are trying to add more value to the soil test by including more interpretations of the results on each report. Unfortunately, this does sometimes have the effect of making the important information harder to find. School yourself to concentrate on a few key numbers (soil pH, extractable P, K & Mg), and interpreting the test results becomes much simpler.

## Soil Management Tips For Late Summer and Early Fall

*by Adam Hayes, Soil Management Specialist – Field Crops, OMAFRA*

### 1. Scout fields for soil erosion.

- The heavy downpours or significant rainfall on already saturated soils this year caused soil to move.
- Before pulling the combine into the field this fall, check fields and along ditches for small gullies and washouts. Be on the lookout for tile problems.
- Assess the situation for causes of soil erosion to determine if management changes (such as more residue cover) are required, or

if an erosion control structure is needed.

### 2. Be aware of soil compaction problems.

- Rainfall events during cereal harvest this summer often meant that the combine and grain buggies were traveling on the field in less than ideal conditions.
- This led to rutting and compacted areas in the field.
- Assess the compaction in these areas and consider management options.

### 3. Consider options for preventing soil compaction.

- Many soils may be wetter going into the fall this year, so more prone to soil compaction.
- Refer to the soil management [www.omafra/crops](http://www.omafra/crops) for more information on the detection and prevention of soil compaction.

### 4. Don't use deep tillage if you don't have a problem.

- If soil compaction has been confirmed and not too deep, deep tillage may be able to correct it.
- This year, soils may be too wet for deep tillage to be effective. Check soil moisture to the depth of tillage to determine if it is dry enough to shatter.
- Research has shown that if there is no compaction, deep tillage will not increase yields.

### 5. Manage the soil to increase or maintain organic matter levels.

- Organic matter is the most important part of the soil.
- Organic matter plays an important role in soil structure, nutrient cycling and availability, water holding capacity, and drainage. All of these can impact yield.
- Add organic matter through the addition of manure, biosolids, composts, crop rotation, and cover crops.
- Minimize organic matter loss.

### 6. Avoid excessive tillage of cereal stubble.

- If you plan to no-till into wheat residue, cutting the straw short and removing it will improve results.
- Growing cereals in the rotation improves soil structure and adds much needed soil organic



matter. Manage the residue to help prevent erosion, and also so the soil will dry and warm up in the spring without losing much organic matter or soil structure.

- Disking or strip tillage are a good compromise option.
- Moldboard plowing or chisel plowing and the associated secondary tillage can undo a lot of the good from the cereal crop. Excessive tillage of any kind depletes organic matter and leaves the soil exposed and prone to soil erosion.
- On the other end of the spectrum, some growers have had success with only coulters tillage.

## 7. Manage red clover wisely.

- Try to leave the red clover until the end of September or early October for the most benefit.

## Tips For Making Marketable Hay Without Rain-Damage or Mould

by Joel Bagg, Forage Specialist, OMAFRA

The year 2008 will long be remembered as the year when it was almost impossible to make dry hay without getting some rain on it. With almost daily rains and lack of sunshine, suitable hay making weather “windows” were either extremely narrow or non-existent. Rain-damaged hay is typically lower in soluble sugars and higher in fibre, discoloured, mouldy, dusty and less palatable to livestock. Hay baled “tough” also presents the risk of heating in storage. “Horse quality” hay made without rain-damage or mould is extremely short in supply, and trading for very high prices.

Fast drying of hay in the field is the goal. The obvious benefit is to get the hay successfully made and under cover before the next rain. Fast drying also minimizes respiration losses, microbial growth in the windrow, and maximizes sugars, green colour, and palatability.

There are many different ways to successfully make quality hay. Even so, some hay producers are more successful than others. These craftsmen apply the “art” as well as the science of hay making. If you look around the province, you can

observe hay producers that focus on quality for horse hay and other export markets. Watch closely what these pros are doing that others are not, that makes their batting average higher when it comes to making a premium hay product. It is all about attention to details. Here is a short list.

### Hay Making Capacity

Hay making technology has changed a great deal to give us the capacity to cut, rake, bale and store a lot of hay when the weather windows of opportunity present themselves. The pros have that capacity.

### Cut A Wide Swath

Leaving the swath as wide as practical takes the maximum advantage of the drying effects of the sun and wind. Narrow swaths take longer to dry. Humidity inside a tight, narrow swath is very high and not conducive to fast drying. Most haybines have an easy swath width adjustment. Some of the pros go as far as setting their tractor tires as wide as possible to avoid driving on a wide swath.

### Proper Conditioning

Proper maintenance of both roll and flail conditioners is important to ensure adequate conditioning, without over-conditioning. Check your Owner’s Manual. Rubber rolls wear with use and eventually under-condition if not adjusted. In a survey done in the machine sheds of some Wisconsin hay producers, half of the conditioners exceeded the maximum roll clearance spacing required for adequate conditioning.

Some of the pros also use more intensive super conditioners, macerators and reconditioners to achieve more aggressive conditioning and faster drying. This also results in a softer textured hay. A super conditioner, replacing the need for a conventional conditioner, uses adjustable airbags with high pressure rubber rolls to crush the stems their full length, rather than crimp and break the stems every 2-4 inches. Macerators and reconditioners are used after initial drying with another trip around the field to achieve further conditioning.

### Strategic Raking

The rotary rake seems to be the standard tool for windrow management used by the pros. Parallel bar and wheel rakes tend to result in “roping” and don’t break up clumps and provide as much

fluffing effect as a rotary rake. Tandem axle rotary rakes ride the ground more evenly with less contact with the ground. Raking at no less than 40% moisture minimizes leaf loss. Some adjust their rotary rakes to give a slower rotary speed, which also reduces leaf loss.

Tedders are sometimes used at higher moistures to speed up drying by spreading the crop over the entire surface area. Tedders can result in high leaf loss with legumes, but much less so with grasses.

Because leaf losses can be high when raking that “almost ready to bale hay”, windrow invertors can be useful to gently move the bottom of the swath to the top to achieve that last bit of necessary drying.

### **Make The Right Bale**

Small square bales fetch the highest prices per lb, but require a lot of labour or investment in handling equipment (accumulators and grapplers) to get them into storage. Small squares are somewhat limiting in their capacity to get a lot of hay made in a narrow weather window.

Large round bales are not as attractive to non-local buyers and are discounted in price, because they are more difficult and more expensive to transport. They typically don't move farther than a tractor and wagon can comfortably take them.

There is a growing market for large square bales. Large squares have the significant advantage of easier trucking to non-local domestic and export markets. They also have the advantage of giving the producer the capacity to make a lot of hay in a short period of time. A recent innovation is the reprocessing of a large square bale into small squares by hydraulically cutting and retying them. This combines the advantages of harvest capacity and mechanization of large squares with the market appeal of small squares.

### **Propionic Acid**

Large square bales are more dense, so it can be very difficult to get this hay dry enough to avoid mould and heating without the use of propionic acid hay preservative products. For this reason, moisture sensors with computerized applicators are usually standard on large square balers. High application rates result in oxidization and browning that makes the hay less marketable. While there has been some resistance to propionic acid in the

horse hay market, there is growing market acceptance, some of it from necessity.

### **Under Cover & Off The Ground**

Getting hay stored properly is often a weak link in hay production. Large squares absorb moisture from the ground, so bales should come off the field the same day they were made. Bales should be stored under cover and off the ground. Skids or a layer of old hay can be used. Ventilation is important while bales lose their moisture to a safe level, so stacked large square should be stored with space between. To have good market acceptance, bales should be green on all sides, so avoid sun bleaching. “Green sells hay” is a market reality.

### **Forage Focus**

The topic “The Craftsmanship Of Successful Hay Making” will be discussed in more detail by Fritz Trauttmansdorff, Dunlea Farms, at this year's Forage Focus Seminars, sponsored by the Ontario Forage Council. Forage Focus is tentatively scheduled for December 2<sup>nd</sup> at Winchester and December 3<sup>rd</sup> at Shakespeare.

## **Understanding Pasture Gains in a Wet Year**

*by Jack Kyle, Grazier Specialist, OMAFRA*

In a year with plentiful rainfall, pastures remain lush and continue to grow throughout the summer. It is always encouraging to see green grass in August, rather than having all fields brown and needing to feed hay. Pasture gains in these wet years are often a little disappointing. One would think that with all the lush grass and high quality feed available all season, gains should be excellent, but this is not necessarily the case.

To understand why this happens we need to look at how an animal eats on pasture. Cattle bite at about 15 bites per minute for 6 - 10 hours per day. Body fill is the main factor determining when they quit eating. In a year with adequate rainfall, the dry matter (d.m.) content of the grass is lower - likely in the 15 - 20% range. In a drier year, the grass may have a dry matter content of 20 - 25%. If an animal grazes for 8 hours per day at 15 bites per minute, this represents 7,200 bites each day (15 bites/minute X 60 minutes X 8 hours).

# Breaking Ground (in Northeastern Ontario)

## Pasture Moisture Limits Dry Matter Intake

As an example, a 400 kg animal on pasture requiring 2.5% of body weight in dry matter intake for maximum growth would need to consume 10 kg of dry matter per day. If each bite size is a typical 7 grams and this animal is going to take 7,200 bites per day, then it will consume 50.4 kg of pasture (7,200 bites X 7 grams).

If the pasture is 20% dry matter (typical of a normal year), this 50.4 kg represents 10.8 kg of dry matter and the animal has met their nutritional needs.

If this pasture was lush and had 15% dry matter (typical of a wet year), then our beast would consume only 7.5 kg of dry matter (50.4 kg X 15% d.m.). This falls short of its dietary needs. Under this scenario the animal needs to consume 66.6 kg of pasture to meet their optimum needs. This means either eating for longer (more bites), or not meeting its energy needs and having less than optimum growth.

In a dry year, when the pasture would have 25% dry matter, this same animal would consume 12.6 kg of dry matter (50.4 kg X 25% d.m.), well above the requirement of 10 kgs. This animal could either graze for fewer hours and still meet its

requirements, or graze for the same time and have exceptional gains.

In a wet year it takes more hours of grazing to meet the dietary needs than it does in a dry year, assuming adequate forage is available.

## An Analogy

To see this in another way, it is like sitting down to a meal that is a big bowl of soup. Across the table from you is a person with a bowl of stew. You both have the same sized spoon. Who is going to feel full or satisfied first? The person eating stew will. Can you get enough nutrition from the soup? Yes, but only if there is a second or third bowl offered and you have longer to eat your meal.

## Copper on Winter Wheat Project

by Scott Banks, Emerging Crop Specialist, OMAFRA

The application of copper has been promoted to improve disease resistance of wheat, and ultimately to improve grain yield and quality. In 2008, the Quinte Regional Soil & Crop Improvement Association initiated a project to evaluate the use of foliar applied copper with the herbicide on winter wheat for cereal leaf and grain

## Results

**Table 1** – Yield Effects of Foliar Copper Application on Winter Wheat (Quinte Regional Soil & Crop Improvement Association, 2008)

Site	Soil Test pH	Organic Matter %	Soil Test Cu (ppm)	Leaf Analysis Copper (ppm)	Leaf Analysis Calcium (%)	Variety	Treatment	Treatment Average Yield @14.5% (bu/ac)	Difference Yield @14.5% (bu/ac)
1	7.5	3.9	2	8.34	0.76	Emmit	Copper	73.8	
1	7.5	4.4	2	7.93	0.77	Emmit	No Copper	82.9	-9.1
2	5.5	3.5	1.3	6.46	0.59	Pioneer 25R47	Copper	34.3	
2	5.3	3.1	1.2	4.78	0.51	Pioneer 25R47	No Copper	35.6	-1.3
3	6.2	4.8	1.4	7.23	0.62	Pioneer 25R47	Copper	64.5	
3	6.4	5	1.7	7.11	0.63	Pioneer 25R47	No Copper	64.1	0.4
4	6.5	3.8	1.7	4.83	0.54	Pioneer 25R47	Copper	105.3	
4	6.6	3.8	1.7	4.98	0.49	Pioneer 25R48	No Copper	106.5	-1.2

\*Critical Deficiency Levels – a nutrient is deficient when the nutrient concentration falls below the critical level and would expect a yield response to applying that nutrient.

Soil Test Copper = 1 ppm (DTPA extractable. 0 - 6" depth)

Leaf Analysis Copper = 3 ppm

Leaf Analysis calcium = 0.25%

disease control, and to measure the impact on yield. Soil samples and leaf tissue samples were collected. Visual disease comparisons were made during the growing season.

## Summary

Visual ratings taken during the growing season observed similar disease present on both the untreated and treated plots at low levels. The soil samples for copper were above the critical deficiency of 1 ppm at all the sites. Organic matter was generally high at all sites. From the leaf tissue analysis, both copper and calcium levels were above the critical deficiency levels. The 2008 yield results showed little to no advantage to foliar applied copper. For a quality comparison, grain samples are currently being graded and analyzed for toxin levels.

## Combine Cleaning Procedure

by Hugh Martin, Organic Specialist, OMAFRA

When harvesting organic crops it is very important to make sure the equipment is clean, especially when moving from non-organic to organic fields (for example custom operators). If possible, use combines that are dedicated to organic production only. If that is not possible, use combines that are dedicated to non-GMO crops. When that is also not possible, take the time (possibly several hours) to thoroughly clean out the combine. Here are some ideas:

1. Consult the Owner's Manual on cleanout procedures, access doors, component disassembly, and safety procedures.
2. Choose a suitable location for the cleanup.
3. Collect appropriate safety gear – eye protection, dust mask, gloves, hard hat, ear protection.
4. Evaluate appropriate cleaning equipment for each area - air compressor with wands, shop-vac, leaf blower, large tarp, broom/whisk broom/steel brush, screwdriver, and other tools as needed.
5. Run discharge auger two minutes, or until grain tank and auger are clean.
6. Drive combine across end rows to dislodge grain before moving to cleanout area.
7. Remove grain head making sure to safely secure the feeder house with cylinder stops.
8. Move combine to cleanout area.
9. Place tarp under combine to capture the grain being removed.
10. Inspect and clean cab roof.
11. Lower feeder house and clean inside and outside. Pay special attention to areas where grain or weed seeds may catch.
12. Raise feeder house and clean stone trap and remove all material.
13. Clean grain tank, remove grain from top and bottom augers, ledges, corners. Consider flushing unloading auger with other material, such as wood chips.
14. Clean the cylinder or rotor and concave threshing area and separating area by opening all access doors identified in owner's manual and removing all material.
15. Clean the straw walkers (if equipped). Open all access doors. If you must enter this area, consult owner's manual on safety precautions and use a rubber mat or carpet to lay on.
16. Clean tailings and grain elevators by opening bottom access doors and removing grain. Empty and cleaning the moisture sensor if equipped.
17. Clean the cleaning shoe area by removing chaffers and sieves for easier access, or opening and closing the sieves several times to loosen debris and remove grain. Access and empty lower grain cross-augers as far as possible.
18. Clean rear axle, chopper and spreader areas to remove all grain and plant debris.
19. Replace all safety shields, making sure all elevators have been reassembled and all doors and openings are closed and fastened.
20. Clean the grain platform by removing stems and grain from cutter area, under platform auger and reel. Check inside auger area via inspection plates if present. Clean under side shields.
21. Clean the corn head by removing all stalks, ears and loose grain. Lift shouts and vacuum to remove grain and other plant debris.
22. Consider flushing combine with the next grain crop to clean the unloading auger before collecting grain from the field.

(Adapted from Combine Cleanout Procedures for Identity Preserved Corn and Soybeans, Iowa State University, 2003.)



## Mythes sur les analyses de sol

par Keith Reid, spécialiste de la fertilité du sol MAAARO

Il y a un nombre d'idées préconçues sur les analyses de sol qui nous empêchent d'en tirer le meilleur profit. Dans certains cas, cela signifie qu'aucun échantillonnage n'est effectué. On gaspille des renseignements précieux qui pourraient améliorer la rentabilité.

**Mythe – Ma ferme est unique, donc une analyse de sol n'est pas pertinente.**

**Fait** – Bien qu'il est vrai qu'une ferme diffère d'une autre quant à l'efficacité d'utilisation de ses nutriments, l'analyse de sol est le seul moyen fiable de connaître les concentrations de nutriments dans le sol. Avec ces renseignements, vous êtes en meilleure position pour gérer votre situation unique.

**Mythe – Il faut échantillonner par quadrillage pour obtenir de bons renseignements.**

**Fait** – De nos jours, nous sommes davantage conscients de la variabilité à l'intérieur d'un champ, mais la valeur de quantifier cette variabilité est limitée. La première étape repose encore sur un échantillonnage à une échelle adéquate (maximum 25 acres).

**Mythe – J'obtiens de bonnes récoltes, je n'ai donc pas besoin d'analyses de sol.**

**Fait** – Tant mieux pour vous! Cela signifie probablement que la carence en éléments

nutritifs n'est pas un problème, mais il est peut-être possible d'économiser un peu d'argent avec des taux de fertilisation réduits dans certains champs.

**Mythe – L'analyse de sol extrait à l'eau donne de meilleures informations sur les nutriments qui sont immédiatement disponibles aux racines de la plante.**

**Fait** – Cet énoncé fait partie des théories attirantes, mais elle ne fonctionne guère dans la réalité. Malgré ces affirmations, l'extrait à l'eau ne donne pas des résultats totalement identiques aux concentrations de la solution de sol. Dans cette technique, l'échantillon de sol est brassé dans une boue sol/eau qui contient beaucoup plus d'eau que l'environnement dans lequel les racines peuvent pousser. De plus, elle ne tient pas compte de la contribution des nutriments échangeables et légèrement solubles du sol, qui représentent la grande partie des prélèvements de la plante durant la saison de croissance.

**Mythe – D'autres provinces/états utilisent de "meilleurs" solvants d'extraction.**

**Fait** – L'analyse des extraits du sol est une danse compliquée dans laquelle entre en jeu la chimie du sol et le solvant d'extraction, afin d'imiter l'assimilation des nutriments par la plante au cours de la saison de croissance. Les solvants d'extraction choisis pour l'Ontario don-

nent de bons résultats pour les types de sol de la province. D'autres types de solvants conviennent aux conditions d'autres régions.

**Mythe – Les recommandations de fertilisation à partir des analyses de sol conviennent uniquement pour des récoltes moyennes.**

**Fait** – La fertilité du sol compte pour une petite part dans l'obtention de hauts rendements, et les cultures avec un potentiel de rendement élevé ont un système racinaire étendu et très efficace dans l'absorption des nutriments du sol. La fertilisation basée sur des recommandations faites en fonction d'une analyse de sol ne limite pas les rendements.

**Mythe – Les rapports d'analyse de sol sont trop difficiles à comprendre.**

**Fait** – Les laboratoires d'analyse de sol essaient d'ajouter de la valeur aux analyses en interprétant davantage les résultats de chaque rapport. Malheureusement, il arrive souvent que l'information d'importance soit plus difficile à trouver. Entraînez-vous à vous concentrer sur quelques nombres d'importance (pH du sol, P, K et Mg extractibles), l'interprétation des résultats deviendra plus simple.

## Conseils de gestion du sol pour la fin de l'été et le début d'automne

par Adam Hayes, spécialiste de la gestion des sols, grandes cultures, MAAARO

### 1. Inspecter les problèmes d'érosion de sol dans les champs.

- Les pluies diluviennes ou abondantes qui se sont abattues sur nos sols déjà saturés cette année ont occasionné des déplacements de sol.
- Avant d'emmener la moissonneuse-batteuse dans le champ cet automne, vérifiez s'il y a des fissures dans le sol et du ravinement le long des fossés et dans le champ. Pensez également aux problèmes possibles avec les drains.

- Évaluez la situation et trouvez les causes d'érosion, afin de déterminer si des changements de gestion (comme un couvert de résidus plus abondant) seraient requis, ou si des ouvrages pour contrer l'érosion devraient être mis en place.

### 2. Être conscient des problèmes de compaction de sol.

- Les précipitations qui ont prévalu pendant la période des récoltes céréalières cet été ont créé une situation où les batteuses et les voitures à grain ont dû circuler dans des champs avec des condi-

tions moins qu'idéales.

- Cette situation a donné lieu à des zones de sol compacté et à la formation d'ornières.
  - Faites une évaluation du degré de compaction dans ces zones et pensez aux options de gestion.
- ### 3. Penser aux options pour prévenir la compaction du sol.
- Plusieurs sols pourraient être plus humides à l'approche de l'automne cette année, donc plus vulnérables à la compaction.

## Breaking Ground (in Northeastern Ontario)

• Référez-vous au lien sur la gestion des sols [www.omafra.crops](http://www.omafra.crops) pour de plus amples renseignements sur la détection et la prévention de la compaction du sol.

### 4. Ne pas travailler le sol en profondeur s'il n'y a pas de problème.

• Si on a la confirmation que le sol est compacté, mais pas en profondeur, alors un travail aratoire peu profond pourrait corriger la situation.

• Cette année, les sols sont peut-être trop humides pour qu'un travail du sol en profondeur soit efficace. Vérifiez l'humidité du sol à la profondeur souhaitée du travail aratoire pour déterminer si le sol est suffisamment sec pour se fragmenter.

• La recherche a démontré que lorsque le sol n'est pas compacté, un travail aratoire profond n'augmentera pas les rendements.

### 5. Gérer le sol de façon à accroître et maintenir sa teneur en matière organique.

• La matière organique est la composante

la plus importante du sol.

• La matière organique joue un rôle important dans la structure du sol, dans le cycle des nutriments et de leur disponibilité, dans la capacité de rétention de l'eau et dans le drainage. Tous ces facteurs ont un impact sur le rendement des cultures.

• Augmentez la teneur en matière organique en ajoutant du fumier, des biosolides, des composts et en pratiquant la rotation culturale et en semant des plantes couvertures.

• Minimisez les pertes de matières organiques.

### 6. Éviter les travaux aratoires excessifs dans les chaumes de céréales.

• Si vous planifiez de travailler le sol sans résidus de blé, fauchez la paille à une hauteur de coupe minimale et enlevez-la pour améliorer les résultats.

• Une culture céréalière dans une rotation contribue à améliorer la structure du sol

et ajoute beaucoup de la matière organique requise au sol. Gérez les résidus pour prévenir l'érosion et aussi de façon à ce que le sol s'assèche et se réchauffe au printemps sans trop perdre de cette matière organique ou de sa structure.

• Le pulvérisage ou le labour en bandes sont un compromis valable.

• Le labour en planche ou au chisel associé à des travaux du sol secondaires pourrait réduire de beaucoup la contribution d'une culture céréalière. Un travail aratoire excessif, quel que soit l'instrument utilisé, réduit la teneur en matière organique et laisse le sol dénudé et vulnérable à l'érosion.

• À l'opposé de ce spectre, quelques agriculteurs ont eu du succès en utilisant uniquement le cultivateur à herse.

### 7. Gérer le trèfle rouge avec sagesse.

• Essayez de laisser le trèfle rouge jusqu'à la fin de septembre ou début d'octobre pour en tirer le maximum.

## Comprendre les gains au pâturage au cours d'une année humide

par Jack Kyle, spécialiste des animaux de pâturage, MAAARO

Au cours d'une année où les pluies sont abondantes, les pâturages sont luxuriants et continuent de croître tout l'été. Il est toujours encourageant de voir de verts pâturages au mois d'août, plutôt que de voir des champs brunis et de devoir servir du foin au bétail. Les gains au pâturage au cours d'une année humide sont souvent un peu décevants. On serait porté à croire que les gains de poids devraient être excellents avec toute cette abondance de verdure et un aliment de qualité élevée disponible tout au long de la saison, mais ce n'est pas nécessairement le cas.

Pour comprendre ce qui se produit, nous devons examiner comment un animal se nourrit au pâturage. Une bête broute environ 15 bouchées par minute pendant 6 à 10 heures par jour. L'animal arrête de se nourrir principalement quand il se sent rempli. Au cours d'une année normale, avec des précipitations en quantité adéquate, la teneur en matière sèche (m.s.) de l'herbe est plus faible – plutôt autour de 15 – 20 %. Au cours d'une année plus sèche, l'herbe peut avoir une teneur en matière sèche entre 20 - 25%. Quand un animal broute pendant 8 heures par jour à 15 bouchées par minute, cela représente 7200 bouchées chaque jour (15 bouchées/minute X 60 minutes X 8 heures).

### *L'humidité d'un pâturage limite la consommation de matière sèche*

Prenons comme exemple, un animal au pâturage de 400 kg. Pour avoir un gain de poids maximal, il doit consommer 2,5 % de son poids corporel en matière sèche. Il devra donc consommer 10 kg de matière sèche par jour.

Si chaque bouchée pèse généralement 7 grammes et que cette bête broute 7200 bouchées par jour, alors elle consommera 50,4 kg de pâturage (7200 bouchées X 7 grammes). Quand la teneur en matière sèche du pâturage est de 20 % (année typiquement normale), ces 50,4 kg équivalent à 10,8 kg de matière sèche et l'animal aura satisfait ses besoins nutritionnels.

Si ce pâturage était luxuriant avec une teneur en matière sèche de 15 % (une année humide typique), alors notre bête consommerait 7,5 kg de matière sèche seulement (50,4 kg X 15 % m.s.). Cette consommation est insuffisante pour satisfaire les besoins nutritionnels de l'animal. Dans ce scénario, notre animal devrait consommer 66,6 kg de pâturage pour atteindre ses besoins optimum. Cela signifie que l'animal devrait soit manger plus longtemps (plus de bouchées), ou ne pas satisfaire ses besoins énergétiques et être en-deçà de sa croissance optimale.

Au cours d'une année sèche, alors que la teneur en matière sèche du pâturage est de 25 %, ce même animal consommerait 12,6 kg de matière sèche (50,4 kg X 25 % m.s.), ce qui est bien au-dessus des 10 kg requis. Cet animal pourrait pâturer quelques heures de moins et quand même satisfaire ses besoins, ou pâturer le même laps de temps et enregistrer des gains exceptionnels.

Au cours d'une année humide, la durée de pâturage doit être prolongée pour satisfaire les besoins nutritionnels comparativement à une année sèche, en supposant que la disponibilité du fourrage est adéquate.

### *Une analogie*

Pour voir ce scénario d'une autre façon, supposons que vous êtes assis pour prendre un repas et qu'on vous sert un bol de soupe. La personne en face de vous reçoit un bol de ragoût. Vous avez chacun une cuillère de même format. Lequel d'entre vous sera le premier à être satisfait ou bien rempli? La personne qui mange le ragoût sera la première satisfaite. Pouvez-vous obtenir autant de nutriments d'une soupe? Oui, mais seulement si on vous sert un deuxième ou un troisième bol et que vous disposez de plus de temps pour manger votre repas.

# Breaking Ground (in Northeastern Ontario)

## OFA Election '08, Ontario Farm Issues.

By Neil Tarlton

### Carbon Offsets

Farmers do more than grow food and fibre. Farmers provide valuable services to preserve soil, protect water, provide wildlife habitat and sequester Carbon. Farmers have been providing these types of services to the public without recognition or compensation.

Farmers want a fair system of rewards for the ecological goods and services they provide to the general public, including clean water, habitat for endangered species and others.

### Competitive Inputs.

#### Access to pest control and veterinary products:

Canada maintains a strict regulatory regime on crop protection and veterinary drugs for use by Ontario farmers. The slowness and expense of the approval process means that Canadian farmers lag the rest of the world (especially the US) in access to new safer products.

#### Federal Excise tax on Farm Fuel.

Farmers the immediate elimination of the 4 cent per litre farm fuel excise tax.

#### Cost of Production Payment Program.

The Federal government must follow through on its commitment to provide farmers with \$100 million annually to help offset rising input costs.

#### Business Risk Management Programs.

Canadian Farmers need flexible and responsive business risk management programs funded by the federal government. They need to accept and include the Agri-Flex proposal into the new agricultural policy framework, Growing Forward.

#### Food Safety Programs.

Confidence in Canadian food products in both foreign and domestic markets has been shaken over the past few years.

Canadian farmers and their customers need the ongoing support of the Canadian government in implementing and funding a comprehensive food safety protocol to ensure Canadian food products maintain a solid reputation at home and abroad.



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For more details please go to the OFA website at:

[www.ofa.on.ca](http://www.ofa.on.ca) or download the "Cast a vote for agriculture" election booklet from the CFA website [www.cfa-fca.ca](http://www.cfa-fca.ca)

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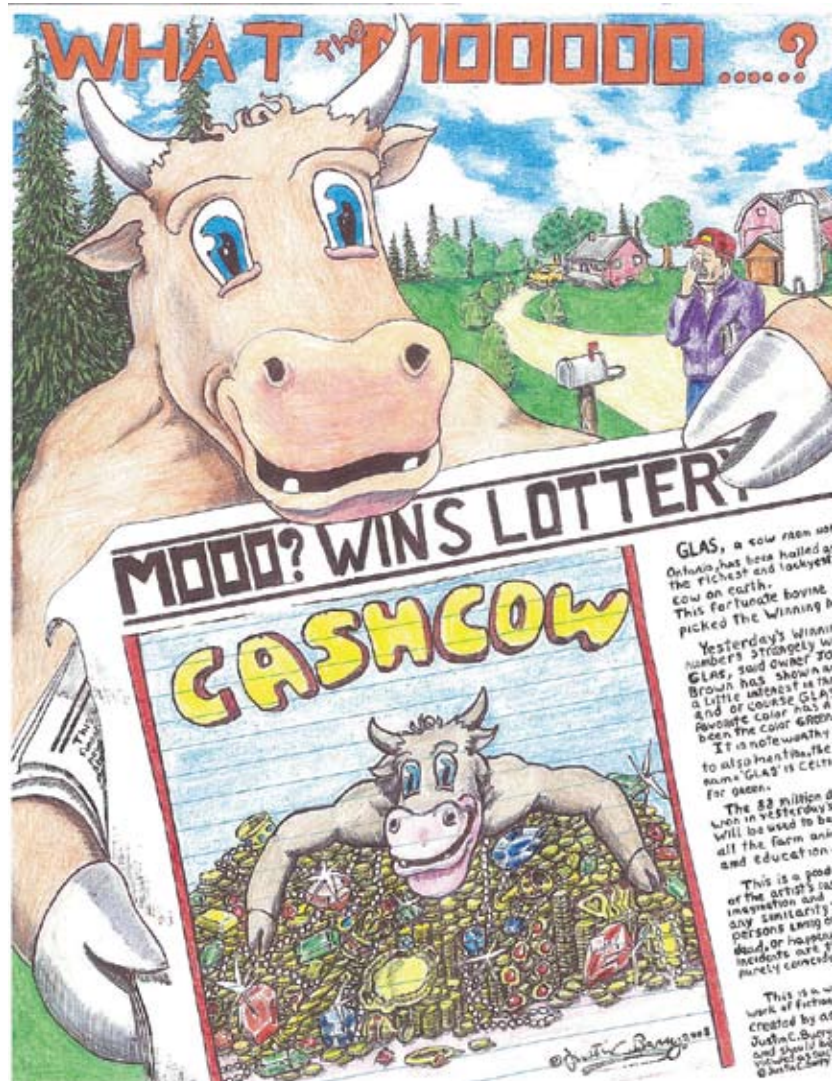
# PROPOSED NEOSCIA REGIONAL PROJECT (CONTROL SMOOTH BEDSTRAW)

In the spring of 2009, OSCIA will make available \$6000 (over 3 years) for each Regional organization to undertake a significant research project that will support the regions farmers. The last project that NEOSCIA undertook was the evaluation of Sulphur fertilizer in Canola production. The results have been a great help to the cash crop industry.

For this round, we are looking at developing chemical (or other) management techniques for the control of Smooth Bedstraw. It is common on pasture and hay farms where common grade trefoil seed may have been applied in the last couple of decades. Bedstraw does not seem to be associated with alfalfa fields, or where annual cash crops are dominant. It has been seen on beef farms, as well as roadsides and ditches in Algoma, Manitoulin, Temiskaming and Cochrane districts, and can be expected to be seen throughout the north if we seriously look for it. We are aware of some fields that are completely over-run with the weed, and right now there is no chemical control for it. (It is not considered serious in southern Ontario.)

Please examine the enclosed photo of Bedstraw and determine if you have it on your farm, and how serious the invasion is. The colour of the plant is bright green with small white flowers that bloom from June through August. It spreads by roots and seed. When growing vigorously, the section of the field will appear "matted". It will be ignored by pasture animals as the weed is not palatable.

To undertake this research project, NEOSCIA is looking for farm partners who have a known bedstraw infestation this fall and can commit a field to three years of control research starting next spring. We need participants from ALL districts! Contact your Ag Rep, or call NEOSCIA rep Graham Gambles at 705-672-3105.



This month's artwork comes from Justin Burry of Thornloe. View more of his work at <http://justin-burry.tripod.com>

## COCHRANE 2 B PRESIDENT!

NEOSCIA director Murray Cochrane of Algoma is the 2009 President Elect for OSCIA. As such, Murray was the host of the OSCIA summer meeting at his farm in Thessalon. Read more about this event on pages #2 and #8.

*Congratulations Murray!*