Breaking Ground
(in Northeastern Ontario) WINTER 09-10

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

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James Parsons Named 2009 Ontario Forage Master

James Parsons from Cache Bay in the Nipissing District was selected at the Royal

November 17, 2009 - Cache Bay. James Parsons, a dairy farmer from Cache Bay in Nipissing district, has been named Ontario Forage Master for 2009.

Parsons participated in the 22nd Annual Ontario Forage Master's Competition at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, where he had the opportunity to present innovative ideas and forage management techniques to peers and visitors. Pickseed Canada, Agri-Food Laboratories, the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, and the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) sponsored the competition.

"Pickseed Canada is pleased to be a sponsor of this event, which profiles the value of forage crops, both economically and environmentally," said Paul Wight, Ontario and Atlantic Sales Manager for Pickseed Canada.

"With 166 participants from 24 counties/districts across Ontario, the Ontario Forage Master's Competition held in conjunction with the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, is a great example of partnerships coming together to profile Ontario's largest acre crop", said Murray Cochrane, President of OSCIA. "Farmers are looking for continual improvement of management practices. To most livestock farmers, forages are the most profitable crop they grow, and are typically the foundation of most feed rations".

Following the announcement, Parsons who represented Nipissing District, expressed his thanks. "I'm honoured to have been chosen Ontario Forage Master for 2009 and look forward to representing Ontario at the American Forage and Grassland Council next year", stated Parsons. "Our business is about profitably producing a high quality, nutritious product in an environment that recognizes family, employee pride, animal husbandry, land stewardship, and community involvement".

Parsons is a bachelor of commerce graduate from the University of Guelph majoring in finance. After two years working banking, James and wife Michelle purchased their dairy farm, Parview Farms Inc. James is currently vice-chair of his local Co-op, milk committee secretary, and coach of his son's atom hockey team.

Parsons now qualifies to compete in the 2010 American Forage and Grassland Council's Forage Spokesperson Contest to be held June 20-22, 2010 in Springfield, Missouri.

A key component of the Competition include an engaging exchange between Parsons and the Judges on the merits of forage management.

The Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association is a grass-roots farm organization committed to the communication and facilitation of responsible, economic management of soil, water, air, and crops.

PICKSEED Canada Inc. is a leader in the development, production and distribution of turfgrass, forage crop and hybrid corn seeds. Since its beginning in 1947, PICKSEED has built a trusted and proven reputation for quality, agronomic advice and a commitment to research and technology.

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.

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COMING EVENT

Temiskaming Cattlemen's Association Annual General Meeting & Dinner

January 16, 2010
~ Earlton Grande Boulevard ~

Social: 6:00 pm
Dinner: 6:30 pm
Meeting: 7:30 pm

MUSKOKA COMING EVENTS

Soil & Crop Annual Meeting

at Milford Bay Community Center
Sat, Jan 16, 5pm

"Savour Muskoka" workshops planned.

Call James Murphy at 705-646-7118.

Environmental Farm Plan Workshop

Jan 14 & 21 at Milford Bay. Call Katya at 764-1695

"Growing Your Farm Profits" Workshop

Feb 5 & 15 at Milford Bay. Call Katya at 764-1695.

Temiskaming! What did we accomplish in 2009?

1. calcium chloride applied on a hay field for dry cow feed
2. herbicide evaluation to control "Smooth bedstraw"
3. corn silage plots at Ferme Rivadale IPM site
4. grain corn plots at Loranlee Farms (Basil Loranger)
5. crop display at the education tent IPM
6. host Canola Council and NEOSCIA Summer Tour
7. develop a Temiskaming Crop Coalition (TCC) "Blogsite"
8. manage an educational booth at Royal Winter Fair (FedNor Display) with NEOSCIA intern Kelly Bird
9. initiate a partnership between TCC, NEOSCIA, and Nipissing University to develop an on-farm "remote sensing" system that includes a weather station and web-cam

Ministry of Agriculture
Food and Rural Affairs

Ontario

OMAFRA CONNECTS

Your Link to Ontario Agriculture

Northern Ontario Regional Office - Phone: 1-800-461-6132 Fax: 705-594-9675

Local Events:

1. **Jan 8th – an HST Seminar,** from 10:00 AM to Noon at the Mindemoya Community Centre.

Sponsored by Lambac and the Manitoulin Chamber of Commerce, this seminar is designed to explore the effect of GST – PST harmonization on different businesses (profit and not-for-profit). Organizations with operations in Ontario will be affected by the Province's plan to harmonize its provincial sales tax with the federal GST. Though most Ontario businesses will benefit, some may face an extra tax burden. Most will also need to adjust their accounting systems and operations to prepare for the change. This seminar will address some of the impacts such as the financial implications, budget and cash flow issues and provide some planning tips. Presenter is Laurie Bissonette, a Partner with KPMG.

Registration is $10, and advance registration is required. Please register in advance by calling 282-3215 or e-mailing *info@lambac.org*

2. **January 11th and 20th – Growing Forward Best Practices Suite** is introducing a new Program on Manitoulin

The Growing Your Farm Profits workshops provide a planning process and resources to maximize your long-term farm business goals. The two day workshop will give you the tools needed to complete a self-assessment of your business. Maximize your long-term farm business success by identifying your business strengths and planning needs in: marketing, financial management, social responsibility, business structure, production, human resources, succession planning and business goals. To learn more about this program, go to *www.ontariosoilcrop.org.*

free of charge for all Ontario producers.

For more information or to register, contact Mary Scott at 377-4928, or *manitoulin@ontariosoilcrop.org*

3. **January 13th- Manitoulin Cattlemen's' Association AGM** will be held at the Spring Bay Hall, beginning at 11:00 AM.

4. **January 16th - Sudbury & West Nipissing Cattlemen's Association Annual Meeting,**

10:00 am – 3:00 pm, Days Inn,
117 Elm Street , Sudbury .

For more information and reservation, contact James Barrett @ 705-671-9137

5. **January 23rd - Muskoka, Parry Sound & Nipissing Cattlemen's Association Annual Meeting**

9:30 am – 3:00 pm

Magnetawan Friendship Centre, 73 Albert St. , Magnetawan

For more information, contact Linda Blackmore @ 705-382-6383

6. **January 26th – The next Manitoulin Community Food Network (MCFN) meeting** will be held on Tuesday, January 26th, beginning at 10:00 AM, at the Central Manitoulin Council Chambers in Mindemoya. For confirmation of the meeting date and location, further information and agenda items; please contact Justin Coutts at *simplelife@amtelecom.net*

7. **January 27th and 28th - Introduction to Nutrient Management,**

9:00 am – 5:00 pm, Caldwell Township Municipal Hall, 11790, Hwy 64, Verner.

To register, call the Nutrient Management Toll-Free Information Line at 1-866-242-4460

Provincial Events:

1. **January 6th & 7th - Southwest Agricultural Conference**

University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus.

Contact: Agricultural Business Centre 519-674-1596 or 1-866-222-9682 www.southwestagconference.ca

2. **January 7th and 9th - 12th Annual Beef Industry Convention**

Best Western Lamplighter Inn & Conference Centre, 591 Wellington Rd. S. London

Presented by the Ontario Cattle Feeders Association. Visit: *http://www.beefindustryconvention.com/*

3. **January 13th and 14th – 44th Dairy Farmers of Ontario Annual Meeting**

The Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Toronto For information about new registration procedures, visit: www.milk.org

4. **January 23rd - Farm$mart Conference**

University of Guelph, Rozanski Hall. Details will be available on-line at http://www.uoguelph.ca/farmsmart/conference/

5. **January 28th – 31st - 29th Annual Guelph Organic Conference** - "Our Canadian Organic Identity",

Visit: *www.guelphorganicconf.ca*

6. **February - Free Stall and Tie Stall Housing Design Seminars**

Free-Stall: February 3rd & 4th
Maxville (Community Centre)

February 10th & 11th
Stratford (Arden Park Hotel)

Tie-Stall: February 2nd
Maxville (Community Centre)

February 9th
Linwood (Community Centre)

These courses are specifically intended for producers with plans to build or renovate their free stall or tie stall barn in the next few years. The focus is on fundamentals of design. The course will provide practical information needed to build an economical, labour efficient facility that is comfortable for cows.

To register, call 1-877-424-1300 and visit: *http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/dairy/facts/info_freetiestall.htm*

March 2nd- 5th
Precision Dairy Management Conference
http://www.precisiondairy2010.com/

Updates

1. Governments Invest In Improved Biosecurity Awareness Program Will Help Reduce Risk of Disease, Pests and Pathogens on Farms

Ontario farms will have more help to remain healthy and competitive thanks to the Governments of Canada and Ontario 's investment in the implementation of national biosecurity standards. The Agricultural Biosecurity Program will receive more than $3 million to help the industry build awareness among producers about the benefits of implementing biosecurity measures on their farms. This may include training, studies and applied pilot projects. Improved biosecurity can help reduce the risk of disease, pests and pathogens that can financially impact producers and the industry as a whole.

Oat Plots- Manitoulin 2009

Sponsored by MSCIA

Data compiled by: Brian Bell, Agricultural Representative, OMAFRA, Gore Bay

Rationale for plots:

Manitoulin District is the driest region in Ontario, based on Environment Canada and AgriCorp historical weather data. The 30 year precipitation norm for the growing period May 1-Sept 30 is less than 300 mm of rain. Spring cereals grow very well on Manitoulin when planted into early season moisture. An oat trial was undertaken to evaluate varieties that offer good silage yields and quality, coupled with good grain yields. Manitoulin producers occasionally require mid summer pasture and often use annual crops for forage. These plots will help producers make that selection decision.

General field details:

The oat plots were grown on the farm of Jim Gilpin, 8500 Hwy 542, located east of Spring Bay. The soil type is EAS (Earlton silt loam). The field does not contain any systematic tile drainage. The field had been pasture for close to 20 years, and contained less then 1/3 legume when plowed in early October 2008. 20 tonnes of solid beef manure was applied per acre in late September 2008. Roundup was applied at a rate of 1.5 litres per acre, 14 days before the field was plowed. The field is 19.3 acres in size. The field was sown with Prescott oats at 104 pounds per acre, and field/plots underseeded at 11.5 pound per acre to the following mixture (Super Nova alfalfa 20%, Affinity alfalfa 20%, Wellington trefoil 25%, E Brand timothy 20%, Bella red clover 10% and Huia white clover 5%), plus 4 pounds common brome and 1 pound perennial rye per acre. The field was cultivated once and disked twice before planting.

Weather details:

Farm zone, forecast zone 82, May 1-Sept 30 data. CHU- 2504, GDD-1530, and precipitation- 266 mm. Interestingly 90 mm of rain fell on May 26th, the day after the plots were sown. That represented a 1/3 of the seasonal rainfall!

Soil fertility:

AgriFood Labs test, taken fall of 2008: pH 6.8, P 8 HR, K 87 MR, Mg 366 LR. AgriFood fertilizer recommendations in pounds per acre: 15-85-30. 114 pounds per acre of 2.7-12.9-46 starter was broadcast May 24. 114 pounds per acre of 30-10-10 was broadcast July 2nd. The total plant food provided per acre, including manure and two fertilizer applications, was 110-188-300. The N was probably high as some lodging occurred.

Oat plot details:

5 oat varieties were selected, based on suitability for growing area II. These are: Lachute, A.C. Aylmer, Prescott, Sherwood and Rigodon. All seed was certified with the exception of Rigodon; due to lack of availability common seed was used. Each oat plot was .53 acres in size, with Prescott as the check variety. All oat varieties were sown at 104 pounds per acre. The oats plots were sown May 25, 2009. In season observations were taken including plant counts and digital photography at key stages of plant development. The silage samples were collected on August 4th, 71 days after planting, in the very early dough stage. Silage samples were sent to AgriFood laboratories for nutritional analysis. The oat plots were combined with an L2 Gleaner on September 18th. Grain yield, moisture content and bushel weight were collected for each variety. All grain samples were 14% or less in moisture at harvest. The average yield of the check variety Prescott was 85 bushels per acre, with a test weight of 37 pounds per bushel. There was less than a 3% variance in Prescott grain yield across

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The Biomass Innovation Conference

By: Kelly Bird

The Biomass Innovation Conference was held at Nipissing University on October 22nd and 23rd. The main focus of the conference was on the future of the forestry industry in conjunction with biomass. None the less, some of the concepts and ideas that were discussed are transferable to the agricultural industry. The general theme of the conference in relation to agriculture is how to market biomass pellets, and the risks involved with producing a pellet. It is also important to note Ontario Power Generation's participation in co-firing with biomass.

Many people are unaware of biomass pellets and some are very skeptical of them, due to a lack of knowledge of pellets, a pellet shortage last winter, and a bad reputation which they have received from a lack of standards. As discussed by Dr. John Nadeau a marketing professor from Nipissing University, in order to market a pellet, one must change the publics view and opinion of pellets through how they are advertised; the public must be informed on the beneficial aspects of burning biomass products. For example, it is valuable to mention the environmental impact of burning pellets for heat and energy, and that they are considered to be 'carbon neutral'. This means that once the pellet is burned the carbon which goes back into the air is equal to the carbon which has been already extracted. It also important to align one's biomass product with a stove which can burn specific pellets; a wood pellet stove often does not have the capabilities to use an agricultural pellet.

As well, in order to market them within Ontario, it is vital for the government to become involved by assisting farmers/growers in creating carbon taxes and incentives to burn pellets, and producing a standardized pellet system, much like the Pellet Fuels Institute based out of the United States. Carbon taxes already exist within Alberta, but often carbon taxes do not apply to the manufacture of the pellets but to the person or organization that burns the pellet. Standardized pellet regulations currently do not 'officially' exist within Canada, similar to wood chips. It is important to have these standards so that the buyer knows what they are receiving. In addition, different types of pellets have different efficiencies in different stoves.

Currently the major market for pellets is in Europe because they have been using pellets as a heat and energy source in communities for twenty plus years. There also would be a much larger demand for agricultural pellets in Europe because of the lack of forests and forestry bi-products which are available to them: Europeans have already been burning agricultural pellets in their stoves.

An agricultural pellet has a higher ash and mineral content then a wood pellet.

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The Biomass Innovation Conference

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The high mineral content creates erosion within a stove and the high ash, silica and mineral contents combined creates 'clinkers' which block air ducts within the stove. Agricultural pellets when burned can potentially create a lot more work for the user because stoves need to be cleaned on a constant basis. It is also important to realize that one cannot take European made stoves and use or sell them within Canada. There are different standards for every Province on stoves/heating units, and each individual part of a stove/heating unit must be looked over and deemed acceptable by a different engineer from every Province before they can be placed on the market. This was discussed by Lawrence Burndrett from Pressure Vessel Engineering.

Chris Young, who is the vice president of fossil projects for the Ontario Power Generation, was also a speaker at the conference. The Ontario Power Generation has not come out and officially announced their plans for the future of coal plants, however what they have announced so far appears to be a positive for both the agricultural and forestry industry. As well, OPG will create the greatest need and market for biomass because of the huge amount they will need to produce energy. They ultimately plan on co-firing with biomass and gas. They have completed their study at Atikokan and it will be the first plant converted over to biomass. At this plant they tested with wood pellets, and went to hundred per cent power just on pellets. At the plant in Nanticoke, they have test with wheat shorts which had fusarium and at various other plants they have tested with oat hulls and grain screenings. However, OPG has stated that they will not use any product which can potentially be used as food.

Looking at the future of biomass within Ontario, we have a far way to go, but we are going in a positive direction. We have the desirable resources available to us to make biomass a success. If you are interested in viewing videos of the speakers from the conference please connect to them via Temiskaming Crops Coalition's blog, HYPERLINK "http://www.temiskamingcc.blogspot.com" www.temiskamingcc.blogspot.com.

Oat Plots- Manitoulin, 2009

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the plot, so no yield corrections were made.

Table 1- Grain yield of oat varieties

Variety	Total lb/Plot	Total lb/acre	Bushel Wt/lb	Bu/Acre SW	Bu/acre MW
Lachute	1280	2415	40	71.3	60.4
AC Aylmer	1440	2717	34	79.9	79.9
Prescott	1550	2925	37	86.2	79.1
Sherwood	1670	3151	34	92.7	92.7
Rigodon	1250	2359	36	69.4	65.5

- All varieties had some lodging, worst were Sherwood and Rigodon
- Plots were .53 acres per variety
- Grain yield listed in both standardized bushel weight (34 lb SW-standard weight) and measured bushel weight (Actual MW-measured weight)

Table 2-Silage yield of oat varieties

Variety	Grams /Sq ft	Lb/acre	% DM	DM T/Acre	Straw
Lachute	245	23521	26.1	2.79	
AC Aylmer	259	24866	29	3.27	+
Prescott	274	28227	26.6	3.41	++
Sherwood	317	30433	26.2	3.62	++
Rigodon	271	25057	19.9	2.26	

- DM Tonnes/Acre
- + Denotes straw height
- 2 replicates of 3-1 foot square clippings were averaged per variety
- Manitoba oat plot silage trials indicate 3.5-4.2 tonnes DM per acre
- Silage samples take at Zadok's scale 83-late milk very early dough

Table 3- TDN and CP yield of oat varieties

Variety	DM T/Acre	DM TDN %	DM CP %	Lb/acre TDN	Lb/acre CP
Lachute	2.79	66.2	9.3	4071	572
AC Aylmer	3.27	69.3	10.3	4995	742
Prescott	3.41	66.8	10.5	5006	784
Sherwood	3.62	68.1	11	5433	876
Rigodon	2.26	68.6	13.7	3417	682

- TDN- total digestible nutrients
- CP- crude protein
- CP at this stage of plant growth is approximately .8%-1% higher than average. This trend is seen on most cereal silage grown on Manitoulin

The MSCIA/MCA extends their appreciation to the cooperators and seed suppliers for their hard work and effort with these plots in 2009- Jim Gilpin, Dave McDermid and Northland AgroMart.

OSCIA News...

November 2009

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

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OSCIA 2010 ANNUAL MEETING

Date: February 2 & 3, 2010
Place: Sheraton Fallsview
Niagara Falls

Message from the President

Murray Cochrane

2009 has been a year of change: the size of the provincial Board was reduced from 19 Directors to 11 to represent the 11 regions in the province. We signed a new 3-year agreement with OMAFRA which signalled another round of Project, Major, Communication and Partner Grants in the counties, districts and regions of Ontario. Many of the ongoing projects will be profiled at our annual meeting in February in Niagara Falls as well as being available in Crop Advances. Many regions took advantage of the Nutrient Management Outreach Grants this year to demonstrate and educate "Best Management Practices" in fertility of the soil.

If you have not visited our website lately, it has changed. You will like the new look, the quality of information available, and excellent search feature.

At a recent strategic planning meeting attended by all Directors and several OSCIA staff, it was apparent that local association development, communication and developing strong partnerships with government, universities and other organizations would be paramount to the success of our organization. We continue talks and wish to strengthen our strategic partnership with OMAFRA and the University of Guelph on research outreach through Knowledge Translation and Transfer (KTT).

I had the opportunity to represent OSCIA this past year at a number of forums related to agriculture. There are going to be opportunities and challenges in the future, and we have to be ready to meet them head-on to succeed.

Local association annual meetings will be taking place soon. I encourage you to attend and invite a neighbour to join you. The quality of the projects and guest speakers presented at these meetings are exceptional. If you can spare the time, get involved - a good organization requires hard work and dedication from its members.

As the holiday season approaches, take time to reflect and enjoy family and friends.♦

OSCIA Regional NM Outreach Grant

OMAFRA has allocated funding to support new communication activities of regional SCIAs that promote the adoption of NM BMPs to the non-regulated (NM 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 regionallly.

This grant is available to all regions each year. Contact the provincial office at 1-800-265-9751 with questions.♦

GYFP - New Program Manager

Recently, Angela Leach said goodbye to OSCIA to pursue other interests, and in her place, a new Program Manager for Farm Business Management was hired.

Mike Terpstra was raised on a dairy farm in Peterborough County and attended the University of Guelph, completing a Bachelor's of Science degree in Agricultural Business and also a Masters of Science in Agriculture Economics.

After graduating, he worked for six years as the Policy Advisor for the Chicken Farmers of Ontario and the last eleven years with the Royal Bank as an Agricultural Account Manager specializing in Agriculture and Agri-business.

Mike lives in Guelph with his wife Shelley and two children (Megan 11, and Carter 7). Says Mike “I am excited to have joined OSCIA and am looking forward to helping the Growing Forward Business Development for Farm Businesses be a great success for Ontario farmers”. ♦

OSCIA / OMAFRA Grant Guidelines

The 2010 Grant Guidelines are currently being prepared for the coming year.

Changes have been made to the requirements for claims under the Regional Communication Grants that regions will wish to read carefully.

Additional funding is being included in Major Grants for 2010 to provide the opportunity for more local associations to participate in projects.

For the 2009/2010 fall and winter seed fairs, the Ontario Seed Growers' Association (OSGA) has stepped forward as a co-sponsor with OSCIA. OSGA has included some interesting requirements for eligibility that are outlined in detail in the Grant Guidelines.

The 2010 Grant Guideline package will be mailed to local and regional SCIA presidents and secretaries very shortly.♦

OSCIA AT CANADA'S OUTDOOR FARM SHOW

Approximately 43,800 people swelled the population of Woodstock for this year's 16th annual COFS. Superb weather helped draw the crowds and since not a raindrop fell from setup to take-down of the tented city, the site hardly noticed the strain.

OSCIA members enjoyed complimentary admission tickets to the show and a brunch. A special thanks to Bayer CropScience for sponsoring this brunch. A total of 1,170 members and their guests were fed during the three days, after which they visited the OSCIA site for information sessions and a tour of the expanded test plot site.

OSCIA and OMAFRA Crop Technology staff presented a number of hands-on demonstrations and displays.

This year's plot displays highlighted:
- IP Soybean Herbicide Options
- Valuing Crop Residues
- Starter Fertilizer Strategies
- Adding Organic Material to Build Better Soils
- Plots of Biomass Energy and Bio-product crops
- An Engineered Wetland used to treat agricultural, milkhouse or greenhouse runoff.

OSCIA members enjoy the complimentary brunch at the Show, sponsored by Bayer CropScience.

- photo by C. Brown, OMAFRA

UPCOMING SCIA ANNUAL MEETINGS

The season for annual meetings of local SCIAs is quickly approaching, and preparations will be under way.

In order to make your meeting a success, send out notices and have a feature included on the agenda that will be sure to garner interest. Door prizes will help jazz up the agenda too!

Part of the annual meeting could include presentation of recognition certificates to deserving members, presentation of Ontario Forage Masters awards, and Soil & Water Conservation Farm awards.

Recognition certificates: 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"

Soil & Water Conservation Farm awards: 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".

Both of the above can be ordered by contacting Evelyn Howse in the provincial office. Please allow two weeks for preparation and delivery.

The annual meeting is also a good time to listen to your members and their ideas that could result in the use of funding for a Major, Project or Education Grant.

2010 Memberships: Many SCIAs renew memberships at their annual meeting. Have your members invite a neighbour - you could charge them for lunch and include a free membership for 2010.

Make sure that your provincial director is included on the agenda to provide an update on activities across the province. ♦

Wildlife Damage - *Murray Cochrane*

Every year resolutions come to the floor at the OSCIA annual meeting concerning wildlife damage to crops - whether it be deer, elk, coyotes, geese, sandhill cranes or a host of other species. The OSCIA Board of Directors have, in response, sent letters to the appropriate agencies. OSCIA is now represented on a committee to try and come up with solutions to the problem.

The "Human – Wildlife Conflict Advisory Committee" brings together representatives from interested groups to talk about workable solutions. Areas of discussion range from problem racoons in urban areas to damage to crops from deer, bear, geese etc. to problem coyotes, both urban and rural. We are one of two farm organizations sitting in this capacity. We have the opportunity to advise the proper agencies on what method of damage control or compensation should be implemented.

Farmers have a level or threshold they are willing to accept but I feel those severely or constantly effected should receive some type of compensation. There are cost-share dollars available under the COFSP that help farmers reduce or mitigate the damage. These can be very expensive and I feel that top-up dollars should be made available.

I would like members to share proven methods they have experienced to help mitigate wildlife damage so we can make recommendations to the proper authorities. Please contact me directly, or notify the provincial office with your suggestions and comments. ♦

OSCIA Farm Gate Signs

Local associations may wish to acknowledge the efforts of one or more members in their midst by presenting them with an OSCIA farm gate sign.

The gate sign shows that they are a local member of the OSCIA. The sign is designed to match the EFP gate sign in size and weight. They are pre-drilled for mounting and come in either English or French.

Signs may be obtained by local association secretaries by contacting the provincial office.♦

OSCIA Resolutions

Responses received to the resolutions passed at the OSCIA Annual Meeting held in February have been included as part of the resolutions package posted to the OSCIA website.

To access the resolutions on the website, follow the links from Membership - Annual Meetings - Resolutions.

A printed version of the resolutions with their responses has been provided to each provincial Director.♦

OSCIA List Server

The OSCIA list server is a service provided to subscribers on a complimentary basis, simply by signing up.

The list server distributes regular information of interest to the agricultural community regarding crop production.

A major role of the list server is to provide details for meetings and coming events, including those held by local and regional SCIA meetings. The boards of those groups are encouraged to regularly submit such information to Neil Moore who serves as the gatekeeper for the site by emailing him at nmoore@trytel.net. Members can subscribe to the list server by contacting Neil as well. ♦



CROP TALK

OMAFRA Field Crop Specialists – Your Crop Info Source

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs, Crop Technology Branch

Agricultural Information Contact Centre: 1-877-424-1300
Publication Order Centre: 1-888-466-2372
Northern Ontario Regional Office: 1-800-461-6132
OMAFRA Web Site: www.omafra.gov.on.ca

Additional Information from OMAFRA

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What Will It Cost To Grow A Tonne Of Switchgrass?

by Scott Banks, Emerging Crop Specialist, OMAFRA

There has been a lot of talk about the combustion of crop residues and dedicated crops, such as switchgrass, for bio-energy. Currently, markets for switchgrass are very limited, but many growers and processors anticipate that this crop could become commercially viable in the future.

So what does it cost to grow a tonne of switch-grass? This is a good question. The economics of growing a new crop needs to be considered to evaluate cropping alternatives. OMAFRA has pulled information from various sources in Ontario, Quebec and the US to develop a crop budget for switchgrass. The switchgrass enterprise budget is available on the OMAFRA website at http:// www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/bear2000/ Budgets/Crops/Forages/switchgrass_static.htm

Crop budgets are a simple format for

Continued on page 14

Ramping Up Production *- New Life For Barley and Oats?*

by Peter Johnson, Cereal Specialist, OMAFRA

Short on heat? Wet corn with big drying bills? Light test weight and grade discounts? In the areas of Ontario that can grow great spring cereals, 2009 has been a tough year for corn! Many growers had moved away from spring cereals in favour of more yield potential and theoretical profit in corn. After this harvest, it is time to reassess.

There are some excellent premium markets that have developed over the last few years in barley and oat production. Barley contracts are available over $200/ tonne! Spring wheat can be an excellent crop. Yet, the acreage of these crops is shrinking. Despite the cool season in 2009, spring cereal yields were only fair. We need to reassess how we grow these crops and do a better job!

In winter wheat, we have had a project aimed at increasing yields termed the "SMART" Project (Strategic Management Adding Revenue Today). The results have been incredible, with a 23 bu/ ac (25%) yield gain in 2009. This project combines the interaction of nitrogen, fungicides and growth regulators. In 2010, we hope to initiate a similar project in spring cereals. If you are interested, please contact me at 519-271-8180 or peter.johnson@ ontario.ca.

Checklist For Spring Cereal Success

Meanwhile, with a challenging corn experience fresh on growers' minds from 2009, crops like barley and oat are back on the options list. Here is the checklist for the best possible spring cereal crop:

- **Seed EARLY!** More importantly than any other factor, seeding date will determine your yield potential.
- **Use starter fertilizer.** Seed placed starter has huge benefits for cereals, especially if seeded early into cold soils.
- Seed shallow, but into moisture. With good soil moisture, target 1 inch (2.5 cm) planting depth.
- Excellent **genetics** (www.gocereals.ca) at the right **seeding rate** (Agronomy Guide, OMAFRA Publication 811).
- **EARLY weed control!** Initial research shows the critical weed control period in barley to be the 1-3 leaf stage. Virtually no one has sprayed that early in the past.
- **Rotation.** Spring cereals work best after a legume, not after corn.
- **Nitrogen** increases yield, but it also causes lodging. This is where we need more research.
- **Fungicides.** On oat there is only one option - spray at flag-leaf to control rust. In spring wheat there is only one option - spray at heading to control fusarium. In barley there likely is no option, but we haven't discovered the reason yet.
- **Harvest EARLY!** Nothing good happens to the crop after it reaches maturity (28% moisture). Get it out of the field!
- Take advantage of **market opportunities!** Lock in some of those good contracts

If we start growing spring cereals like we mean to make money, maybe we won't have to rely on corn and soybeans as the big guns for profit!

Spring Wheat Yield Response to Fungicide

by Gilles Quesnel, Field Crop IPM Specialist, & Scott Banks, Emerging Crops Specialist, OMAFRA, Kemptville

Trials conducted in 2009 showed a 7 bu/ac (12%) yield response to foliar fungicides! These trials show the value that foliar fungicides can have on the spring wheat crop when applied using appropriate technology and proper timing. Quality data will be reported when available. The trials were located at the Winchester Farm of the Kemptville Campus, University of Guelph. Three treatments were compared to untreated checks:

- Proline® at 170 mL/acre (high rate),
- Proline® at 128 mL/acre (low rate), and
- a tankmix of Proline® at 64 mL/acre plus + Folicur® at 59 mL/acre.

All treatments were applied at flowering (Day 4), using Turbo FloodJet nozzles, alternating forward and backward at 20 inch spacing, 12 inches above the wheat canopy. Treatments were replicated 4 times within each plot.

Yield Response

In Trial A, yield response to Proline® was 7.67 bu/acre for the high rate treatment and 6.33 bu/acre for the low rate treatment. Yield differences were significant between the treated and the untreated plots, but there was no significant yield difference between Proline® high rate and Proline® low rate treatments (Table 1), despite the small numerical yield gain.

Table 1 - Yield Response Of Spring Wheat To Fungicide Application – Trials A

Treatments	Yield (Bu/acre)
Proline® high rate	67.75 a
Proline® low rate	66.41 a
Untreated check	60.08 b

Means in a column followed by the same letter are not significantly different. p=0.0004, CV 4.7

Trial B measured the yield response of Proline® low rate and a tankmix of Proline® and Folicur® to an untreated check. Yield response to the Proline® low rate treatment was 7.2 bu/acre, while response to the Proline® and Folicur® tankmix was 4.6 bu/acre. Yield differences were significant between the treated and the untreated plots, but there was no significant yield difference between Proline® low rate and the Proline® and Folicur® tankmix treatments (Table 2). The rates used of the Proline/Folicur tankmix are lower than what will be recommended with the new Proline /Folicur tankmix product available called Prosaro.

Table 2 – Yield Response Of Spring Wheat To Fungicide Application - Trial B

Treatments	Yield (Bu/acre)
Proline® low rate	65.9 a
Proline® + Folicur® Tankmix	63.3 a
Untreated check	58.7 b

Means in a column followed by the same letter are not significantly different. P=0.02, CV 4.21

Fungicide Treatment Costs

The fungicide plus application cost is approximately $30 per acre for the Proline® and Folicur® tankmix, $36 per acre for Proline® low rate and $45 per acre for Proline® high rate. With most 90 foot boom sprayers, trampling losses are about 2.5%. On a 65 bu/acre crop this represents a 1.6 bu/ac loss. At $5.50 per bushel for spring wheat, trampling adds $8.80 per acre to the treatment cost. Quality data is not available at this time, but may improve the economics of the foliar fungicide treatment. For more information on fungicide use consult the Field Crop Protection Guide, OMAFRA Publication 812. Note that this is only one year's data. This study is to be repeated next season.

Acknowledgements

Cheryl Wightman, Kemptville Campus, University of Guelph.

Improving the Success of Red Clover Establishment In Winter Wheat?

by Ian McDonald, Applied Research Coordinator, OMAFRA and Dr Bill Deen, Crop Science, University of Guelph

Successfully establishing red clover in winter wheat can sometimes be challenging. Red clover in a corn-soybeans-wheat rotation can provide tremendous benefits. A good red clover stand can provide a nitrogen credit to the following year's corn crop of 70 lbs/ac. Red clover also provides erosion control and breaks compaction. The additional organic matter provides improved nutrient status, water holding capacity and many other benefits.

Current research by the University of Guelph, Brant County Soil & Crop Improvement Association and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs is trying to answer the question of how to establish red clover in winter wheat more consistently. This has been well researched in the past, but the solutions to the frequent poor results continue to elude us. Studies have looked at tillage, seeding time, seeding rate, type of red clover, seed treatments, drought and other factors

Tillage

The Cropping Systems group at the University of Guelph conducted a two year, 5 location study to compare tillage systems ahead of wheat planting. (Figure 1). Tillage treatments were:

- no-till with soybean residue removed ahead of wheat planting,
- mouldboard plow,
- no-till, and
- disc.

Germination of red clover did not appear to be affected by the production system (no-till vs tillage vs previous crop residue removal). Non-uniform stands of red clover resulted from plant death, not a lack

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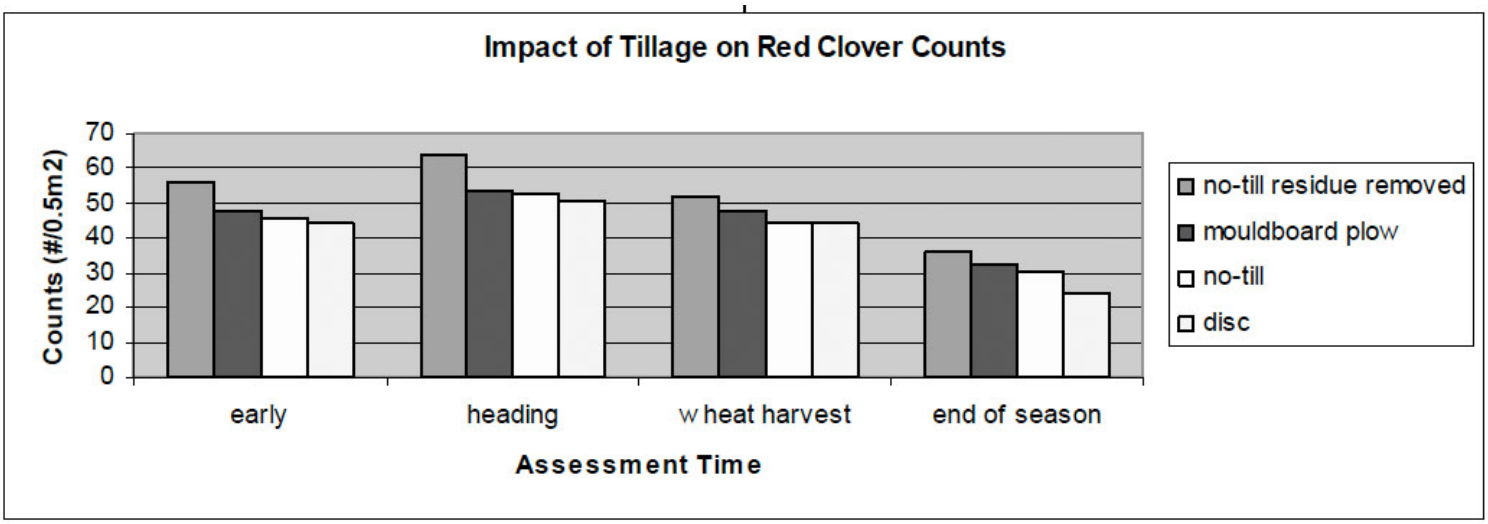
Improving the Success of Red Clover Establishment In Winter Wheat?

of emergence. The majority of stand loss appeared to occur between wheat flowering and harvest, regardless of the system. Better stands of red clover were seen with the residue removal and tillage treatments compared to the no-till alone. These treatments of residue reduction through removal or tillage may be reducing red clover predation by slugs or other insects. Tillage/residue removal may be altering drought sensitivity. Sensitivity to drought may be affected by improved root growth and establishment under residue removal systems.

Figure 1



Time of Red Clover Seeding

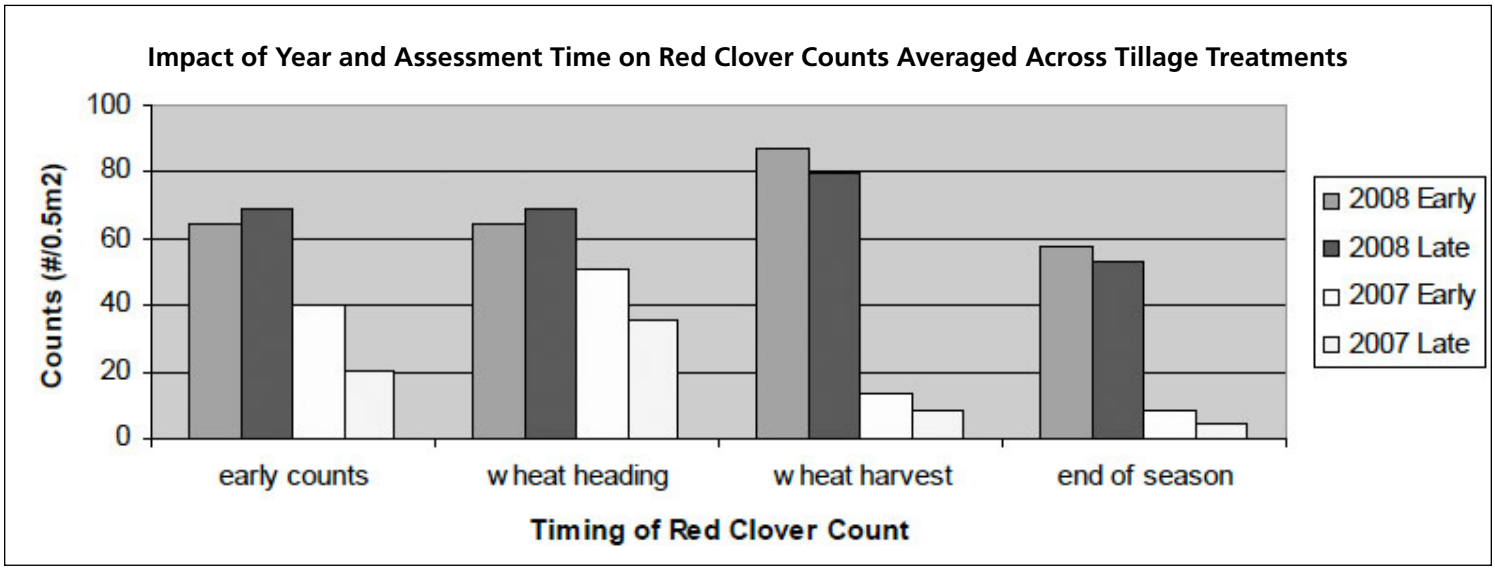
Two red clover seeding methods were looked at:

- early broadcasting (frost seeding) - usually mid-March
- late broadcasting (when soil conditions allowed) – usually mid-April (Figure 2)

Year & Time of Assessment

Establishment differences were observed depending on the year looked at (2007 vs 2008), as well as the time of year that you did the red clover assessment (stand count) was completed. (Figure 2) In the dry year of 2007, stand counts reached a maximum prior to wheat flowering and consistently fell after heading. (Figure 2) In the wetter year of 2008, stand counts were much higher than in 2007 at wheat flowering and continued to increase up to the time of winter wheat harvest. Stand counts declined by the end of the season, possibly due to self-thinning.

Figure 2

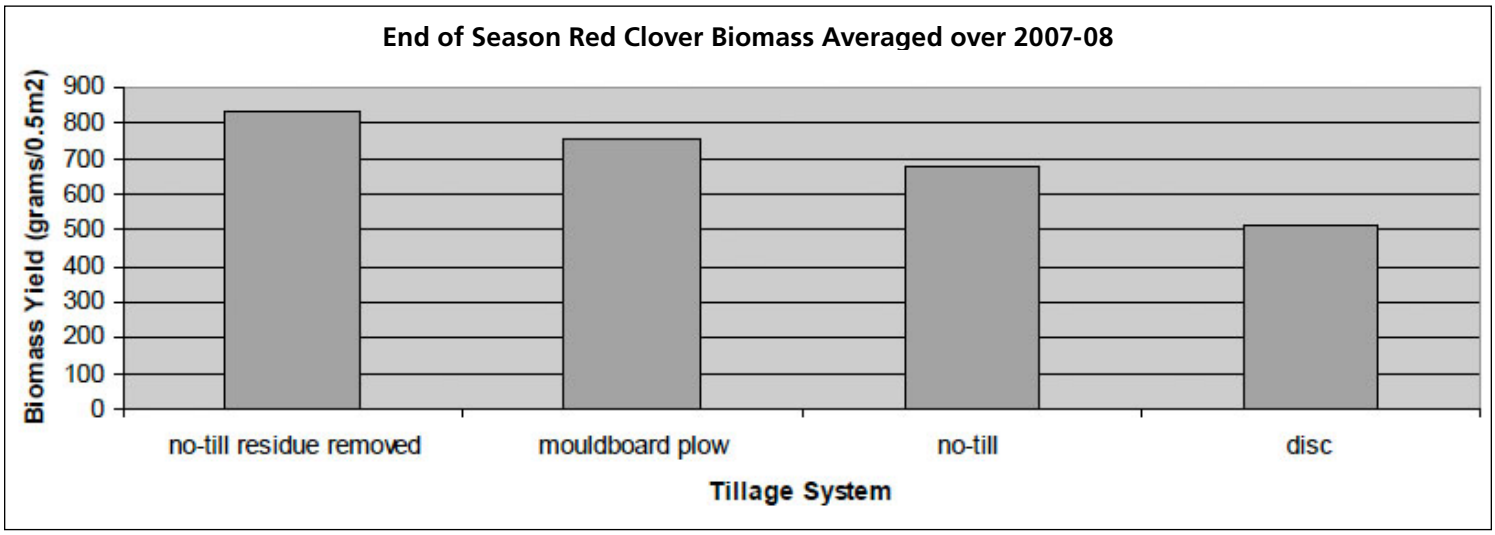


Improving the Success of Red Clover Establishment In Winter Wheat?

End of Season Biomass

Red clover biomass at season end was greater with the no-till treatment where soybean residue was removed, but not significantly different from the mouldboard plow or no-till treatment.

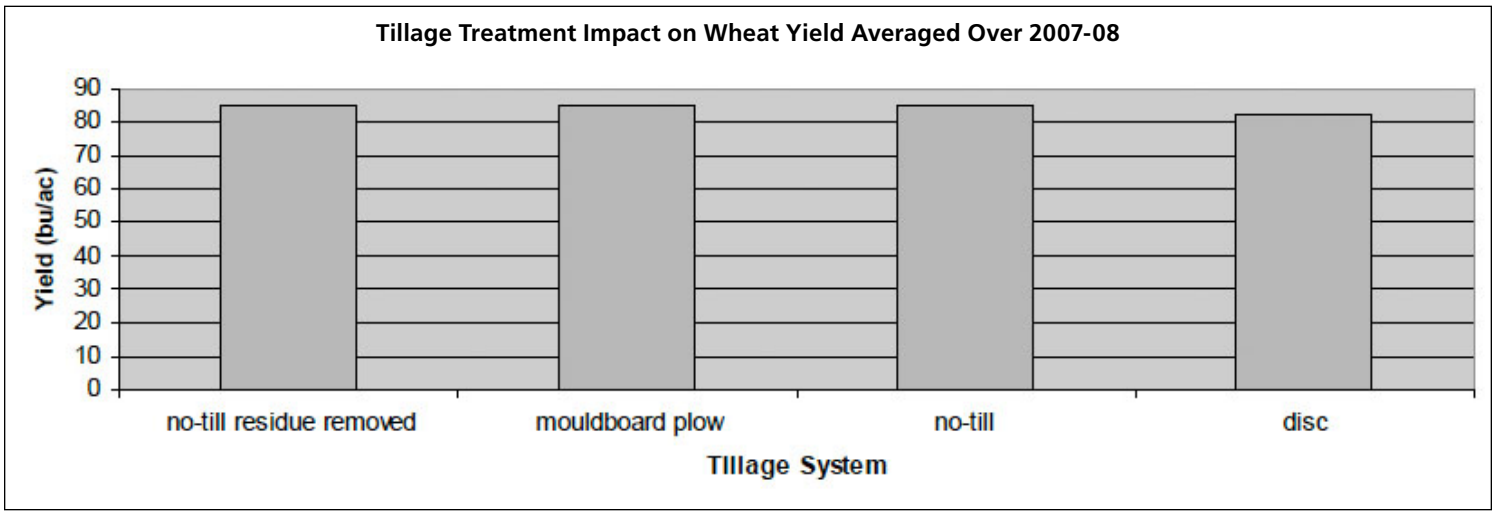
Figure 3



Tillage Before Wheat Planting

Wheat yield was not impacted by the tillage treatments applied before wheat planting. (Figure 4)

Figure 4



Bottom Line

These studies suggest that better red clover stands are possible when the previous soybean residue is removed by either tillage or physical removal, such as baling. Where soybean residue was removed, there were no differences observed in winter wheat yields. Red clover stand count in a dry year is considerably less then in a wet year. Earlier planting was more important in a dry year than in a wet year.

Additional red clover establishment in winter wheat trials were established in the fall of 2008 and 2009. The results of the red clover establishment trials that were seeded this spring will be reported in the next issue of Crop Talk.

What Will It Cost To Grow A Tonne Of Switchgrass?

Continued from page 13

estimating expenses. The example costs are only a guide to illustrate a method of preparing your projections. They are based on many assumptions, including land rental rates, seeding rates, fertilizer costs , etc. Due to regional differences, there may be considerable variation in results. Land costs and projected yield are significant factors in determining the cost-of-production.

In the example switchgrass budget, the Total Establishment Cost per acre is $389.61. Amortizing the establishment cost over 10 years, the Annual Cost including inputs, harvesting, etc., is $226.53 per acre or $73.07 per tonne based on an assumed yield of 3.1 tonnes per acre.

To project your breakeven price, enter your farm figures in the spaces provided. The resulting estimate can help assist you in choosing your future crop mix, set target prices and develop marketing strategies for your farm.

Excel versions of the crop budgeting worksheets can be found on the "Budgeting Tools" website at *http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/ bear2000/Budgets/budgettools.htm.*

Earlton Farm Show 2010

Come to the NEOSCIA Conference and Trade Show at the Earlton Arena on April 9th & 10th

This years Saturday conference will focus on Forage Production and Biomass Opportunities

The Royal Winter Fair

By: Kelly Bird

The Royal Winter Fair, features exhibits, livestock, shows, shopping venues, and the very famous Royal Horse Show, and after viewing it all, it is easy to understand how the Royal has been drawing hundreds and thousands of visitors since 1922. This past Royal, NEOSCIA and Temiskaming Crops Coalition (TCC) had the opportunity to be an exhibitor at the Royal within the Northern Ontario Section, sponsored by FedNor.

The NEOSCIA and TCC booth was sandwiched in between Algoma University's Invasive Species Unit and Sinfully Deelicious Brittle and though the majority of the booths within the Northern Ontario Area featured food sale venues, NEOSCIA and TCC's booth stood on its own. The booth featured six posters that have been recently made for NEOSCIA. These posters advertise Breaking Ground, the Earlton Farm Show, the eight districts that make up NEOSCIA, three NEOSCIA projects (canola/sulphur, the weather station, and Bedstraw), a NEOSCIA banner, and the headlining poster representing the agricultural opportunities that still exist in north eastern Ontario. The booth also exhibited three samples of soil, clay, sand and muck, from the Temiskaming District, which were displayed on top of bee boxes supplied by Lily Bee. The exhibit also showed a sample of Bedstraw, pamphlets that were also an element at the IPM, and of course pushed to hand out more TCC magnets.

The most popular feature of the booth was oddly enough the soil; young and old could not help but to touch and play in the 'dirt', there were a variety of sand castles made and left behind. In addition, there was a running joke about having a sample of clay because the food exhibiters were very free with giving out food samples, so why not have a sample of clay? The weather station was very well-liked among visitors from the city; however, farmers took great interest in the Bedstraw project. There were even farmers from Alberta who showed great attention to the Bedstraw project and picked up the pamphlet about it.

On the first Saturday of the Royal, a teacher from middle school in down town Toronto stopped by the booth to collect information to create a work sheet for her students when they attended the fair the following Tuesday. When Tuesday arrived the booth was bombarded with thirty plus twelve year olds asking all sorts of questions about farming in northern Ontario, they even asked questions that were not on their work sheet. One of the more interesting questions was "Are farms in Northern Ontario run by a corporation or by families?" The students were very surprised to discover that farms in Northern Ontario are generally run by families; this idea is contrary to what is told to a student when they are in school in Toronto and the area.

This past Royal, was a very special because Prince Charles and Camilla attended the opening day. Camilla stopped by the Northern Ontario area, and though did come close to NEOSCIA and TCC's booth, she did stop and sample some fudge, from North West Fudge Factory. Other exhibitors within the Northern Ontario area were Sherry's Gourmet, Thornloe Cheese, Algoma University's Innovation Center, Nana's Kettle Corn, Cochrane's Polar Bear Habitat, Belle Valle Wools, Northern Ontario Agri-Food Education & Marketing Inc. and the list goes on and on. The FedNor staff members were extremely helpful with setting up and taking down the booth, assisting with the booths when necessary, and overall being friendly and approachable.

The NEOSCIA and TCC booth, although only existed for the first five days at the Royal, it's time was very effective, it represented that Northern Ontario is more then just rocks and trees and trees and rocks, as well as, agriculture is developing and changing to be a more effective resource via the use of technology and science.

If you are interested in seeing pictures from the Royal Winter Fair, please take a look at Temiskaming Crops Coalition blog, HYPERLINK "http://www.temiskamingcc.blogspot.com" www.temiskamingcc.blogspot.com.



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La morelle noire de l'Est peut supporter un gel sévère

Par Mike Cowbrough, chargé de programme, lutte contre les mauvaises herbes, MAAARO

Il n'y a pas pire cauchemar pour un producteur que de découvrir les baies mauve foncé de la morelle noire dans sa récolte de soya destiné à l'alimentation humaine. Ces baiestachent les fèves et réduisent considérablement la valeur de la récolte. Théoriquement, on doit supprimer les morelles avec un herbicide avant la récolte (Reglone, glyphosate) ou se fier à Dame Nature (c.-à-d. au gel). Les baies tombent alors au sol sans pénétrer dans la moissonneuse-batteuse et sans tacher les fèves. Malheureusement, ce scénario n'est que théorique, et la réalité est bien différente.

Autour du 12 octobre, un gel important a eu lieu dans la région de Waterloo/ Wellington, ce qui a occasionné le dépérissement d'un certain nombre de mauvaises herbes annuelles dans les champs de soya. La morelle a cependant fait exception. Bien que les feuilles aient finalement commencé à flétrir après quatre ou cinq jours consécutifs de gelées matinales, les baies sont restées fortement attachées aux plants. L'assèchement des plants sous l'action des herbicides s'est révélé également inefficace, car bon nombre de baies s'accrochent encore au plant même après que ce dernier soit flétri. En moyenne, les plants dans ce champ comptaient 280 baies, et chacune d'elle possédait en moyenne 60 graines, ce qui fait un total de 16 800 graines par plant.

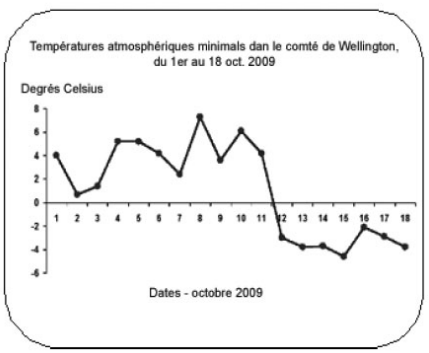
La présence de morelle noire de l'Est dans un champ de soya destiné à l'alimentation humaine peut s'expliquer de deux manières :

1. Le producteur ne savait pas qu'il y en avait dans son champ;
2. Le producteur savait qu'il y en avait dans son champ, mais l'herbicide n'a pas été efficace.

Des essais publics réalisés par l'Université de Guelph (Sikkema, Swanton et Tardif) ont montré que les programmes d'herbicides suivants sont efficaces à 80 % contre la morelle noire de l'Est dans le soya.

1. Pursuit (en présemis ou postlevée - 99 % d'efficacité visuelle)
2. Lorox L (en présemis - 99 % d'efficacité visuelle avec la dose supérieure mentionnée sur l'étiquette)
3. Dual II Magnum (présemis) suivi de Reflex (postlevée - 98 % d'efficacité visuelle)
4. Dual II Magnum (présemis, dose supérieure - 87 % d'efficacité visuelle)
5. Frontier (présemis, dose supérieure - 80 % d'efficacité visuelle) Valtera, un herbicide récemment homologué pour pulvérisation au sol, est également efficace contre la morelle.

Si vous avez utilisé l'un des deux traitements d'herbicides mentionnés ci-dessus, et qu'ils n'ont pas été totalement efficaces, il est possible que la population de morelle noire de l'Est dans votre champ de soya soit résistante à l'herbicide. L'Université de Guelph peut faire des analyses pour vérifier la résistance à l'herbicide. Voir le site suivant : www.plant.uoguelph.ca/resistant-weeds/services/.



Joyeux Noël et bonne heureuse année

Le temps humide complique l'épandage du fumier

par Christine Brown, chef de programme, gestion des éléments nutritifs des grandes cultures, MAAARO, Woodstock

Il serait évidemment beaucoup plus facile de protéger les cours d'eau du fumier si la température coopérait. Après un printemps et un été plus frais et plus humide que la normale, les cultures et les travaux au champ ont pris du retard, et les fosses à fumier sont en train de se remplir à ras bord comme d'habitude à ce temps-ci de l'année et, dans certains cas, plus rapidement.

Bon nombre de sols sont détrempés et les drains fonctionnent à plein. D'autres précipitations étant prévues à long terme, bon nombre de fosses seront bientôt pleines ou presque et il reste encore de bonnes superficies de maïs non récoltées. Par ailleurs, le risque de compactage rend le travail difficile, surtout en sols lourds. Il est important de tenir compte des risques de contamination de l'eau par les drains et du ruissellement lorsqu'on prévoit épandre du fumier en octobre, novembre ou décembre et qu'il fait humide et froid.

Pour certaines exploitations, l'épandage de fumier devra se faire en conditions « hivernales », c'est-à-dire, dans le contexte de cet article, sur sol gelé ou enneigé, et non pas nécessairement comme tel en hiver selon la date. Dans d'autres cas, l'épandage de fumier devra se faire pour éviter d'urgence un débordement de la fosse. Dans certains champs, les sols doivent être gelés pour que les camions-citernes puissent s'y aventurer.

En conditions humides, il reste que l'idéal est d'épandre le fumier à la surface sur les résidus de culture et de l'incorporer dès que possible après l'épandage.

Toutefois, lorsque cela est impossible, on doit faire preuve de discernement pour réduire le plus possible les risques de contamination de l'eau et du sol. Il faut donc d'abord repérer les zones à risques élevés et prendre les mesures qui s'imposent. Voici les méthodes d'épandage du fumier qui peuvent être utilisées pendant une saison humide ou sous des conditions «hivernales » :

1. Épandage à forfait

Évaluer d'abord s'il s'agit d'une année où l'épandage à forfait serait la meilleure solution. Il est important de tenir compte du site d'épandage ainsi que de la méthode qui sera employée. Dans le cas où en raison des travaux de récolte et de la charge de travail requise il n'est pas possible d'épandre le fumier tout en respectant les exigences environnementales ou les besoins de l'exploitation, on peut envisager de faire faire l'épandage à forfait. Un entrepreneur qui fait appel à des techniques d'agriculture de précision ou qui possède un GPS est en mesure de dresser une carte du site d'épandage et de déterminer les taux d'épandage requis de manière à faciliter le calcul des engrais complémentaires à appliquer au printemps prochain.

2. Registres

Tenir des registres d'épandage et y indiquer les endroits où le fumier a été épandu ainsi que les superficies qui n'en ont pas reçu, afin d'avoir un portrait de la situation en matière d'éléments nutritifs et à des fins de responsabilité également.

3. Éviter d'injecter du fumier dans les sols humides

L'injection de fumier liquide n'est pas recommandée en sols détrempés. Ces derniers ont tendance à former plus facilement des zones de souillure, surtout lorsque des liquides concentrés sont ajoutés à chaque point d'injection. L'épandage en surface sur des résidus de culture (idéalement du maïs), suivi d'un travail du sol dès que possible, réduira les dommages associés au compactage en sols détrempés.

4. Éviter de contaminer les eaux de surface

Épandre dans les champs ou les sections de champs dont la pente est le moins prononcée. Commencer avec les champs qui ne longent pas d'eaux de surface. La direction de l'écoulement de l'eau est évidente dans la plupart des champs au cours d'un orage. Noter l'emplacement des rigoles d'écoulement et éviter d'y épandre du fumier ainsi qu'aux endroits où les accumulations d'eau sont évidentes.

5. Tenir compte de l'écoulement des eaux de fonte

Lorsque le fumier est épandu sur des champs enneigés, on doit tenir compte du type de sol sous cette couverture neigeuse. Le risque de contamination par le ruissellement est élevé lorsqu'il pleut au moment de la fonte des neiges sur des sols gelés. Dans quelle direction l'eau s'écoulera-t-elle ? Il peut y avoir de l'infiltration dans les champs enneigés sur sols non gelés. Il faut toutefois tenir compte des risques de compactage et de contamination par les eaux de ruissellement selon les conditions au moment de la fonte des neiges. Prévoir les épandages de fumier en tenant compte de la direction de l'écoulement des eaux de fonte et éviter d'épandre dans les zones à haut risque.

6. Distances de retrait à respecter par rapport aux cours d'eau

Respecter les distances de retrait prescrites par rapport aux cours d'eau. Lorsque les conditions d'épandage sont bonnes, les distances de retrait recommandées par rapport à n'importe quel type de cours d'eau se situent normalement entre 40 et 100 pieds, selon l'ampleur du risque de ruissellement. Lorsque le fumier est épandu sous des conditions hivernales, la distance de retrait devrait être d'au moins 100 pieds. Selon la réglementation sur la gestion des éléments nutritifs, la distance minimale de retrait passe à 330 pieds dans le cas des épandages effectués en conditions hivernales dans les cas où la pente en direction du cours d'eau est supérieure à 3 % pour le fumier liquide ou de 6 % pour le fumier solide.

7. Distances de retrait à respecter par rapport aux puisards

Les puisards ou les drains de type Hickenbottom sont en fait des conduits qui débouchent directement dans les eaux de surface. Au cours des saisons humides, le risque de contamination des eaux par le fumier qui s'écoule à travers les puisards augmente. Par conséquent, les distances de retrait à respecter par rapport aux drains de type Hickenbottom ou aux puisards doivent être les mêmes que pour les cours d'eau.

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Les nouvelles exigences réglementaires en matière de gestion des éléments nutritifs

- En quoi concernent-elles les producteurs de grandes cultures?

Par Christine Brown, chef de programme, gestion des éléments nutritifs des grandes cultures, MAAARO, Woodstock

Les biosolides d'épuration et les autres matières de source non agricole (MSNA) ont gagné en popularité depuis quelques années. Ils constituent en effet une source relativement économique d'éléments nutritifs et de matière organique. Avec la nouvelle réglementation, l'épandage des matières de source non agricole (MSNA), comme les biosolides d'épuration des eaux usées municipales, les produits de digestion anaérobie ou les résidus de culture, pourra s'effectuer davantage comme l'épandage du fumier sur les fermes d'élevage pour les producteurs de grandes cultures.

Vous avez peut-être entendu parler de la nouvelle réglementation annoncée à la mi-septembre sur les matières de source non agricole. Cette réglementation met l'accent sur les exigences en matière d'épandage sur des terres agricoles de matières comme les biosolides d'épuration provenant des municipalités ou des usines de papier, les résidus des usines de transformation des aliments, les déchets domestiques et les autres matières qui étaient auparavant réglementées par le ministère de l'Environnement (MEO) en vertu de certificats d'autorisation. Les conseillers concernés par l'épandage des biosolides constateront que des changements importants ont été apportés à la nouvelle réglementation sur les MSNA. Pour les producteurs, ces modifications auront un effet sur la manière dont ils gèrent cette source d'éléments nutritifs dans le cadre de leurs systèmes culturaux.

Par ailleurs, une période de transition est prévue lorsque la nouvelle réglementation entrera en vigueur et toutes les modifications devront être en place pour le 1er janvier 2011.

Le MAAARO sera responsable de l'administration du règlement c'est-à-dire des approbations des plans de gestion des éléments nutritifs (plans pour les MSNA) ainsi que des exigences en matière de formation. Les inspections visant à assurer que les MSNA sont gérées conformément aux exigences de la Loi sur la gestion des éléments nutritifs (LGEN) seront effectuées par le MEO. Ce dernier continuera aussi à répondre aux plaintes et aux signalements de déversements.

Les modifications réglementaires ont été mises en place afin de réduire les coûts et les chevauchements de réglementation qui existaient entre le système de certificat d'autorisation et la LGEN. Il ne sera donc plus nécessaire de faire une demande de certificat d'autorisation en plus de devoir inclure les MSNA dans le plan de gestion des éléments nutritifs. La nouvelle approche permet de classer les MSNA en trois catégories précises basées sur la source des matières. Les taux d'application et les distances de retrait à respecter par rapport aux zones sensibles (comme les cours d'eau, les résidences ou les puits) seront établis en fonction de la qualité des matières et de leur teneur en éléments nutritifs.

Catégorie 1: principalement des matières végétales comme les résidus et les pelures de fruits et légumes.

Catégorie 2: matières transformées dans des usines d'alimentation comme les eaux de lavage et la matière organique provenant des boulangeries et des brasseries.

Catégorie 3: matières animales ou provenant de la transformation d'animaux comme les eaux de lavage provenant des activités de transformation de la viande, des oeufs et des produits laitiers, des eaux de lavage des abattoirs et des biosolides d'épuration des eaux usées municipales.

La Catégorie 1 comprend des matières comme les pelures de fruits et de légumes non traités chimiquement qui peuvent être épandues sur des terres à des taux d'application inférieurs à 20 tonnes/ha (9 tonnes/acre). Ces matières possèdent des concentrations relativement faibles de métaux ou d'organismes pathogènes et il n'est donc pas nécessaire, pour cette catégorie, de disposer d'un plan ou d'effectuer des analyses. Par contre, la Catégorie 3 comprend des matières qui ont subi d'importantes transformations et elles doivent être analysées. Dans ce cas, on doit disposer d'un plan qui précise les taux maximums d'application en fonction de leur teneur en éléments nutritifs et en métaux ainsi que les distances minimales de retrait basées sur les risques d'odeurs

Pour les matières de la Catégorie 3 comme les biosolides d'épuration, les teneurs limites relatives aux métaux et aux organismes pathogènes n'ont pas changé. Les MSNA dont les concentrations en métaux sont supérieures aux seuils maximums ne peuvent pas être épandues sur des terres. Les taux d'application seront également établis en fonction des éléments les plus limitatifs, soit l'azote, soit le phosphore, comme pour l'épandage des fumiers.

Les exploitations agricoles qui reçoivent des MSNA n'auront pas à dresser un plan de gestion des éléments nutritifs pour l'ensemble de la ferme. Il faudra toutefois qu'elles se dotent d'un plan de gestion des éléments nutritifs (appelé plan de gestion des MSNA) pour les champs où seront épandues des MSNA. Toutes les modifications réglementaires seront incorporées dans la prochaine mise à jour du logiciel sur la gestion des éléments nutritifs (NMAN) (prévue pour le printemps 2010). Par ail-

Continued on page 18

Le temps humide complique l'épandage du fumier

Continued from page 16

8. Appliquer de faibles doses

Un taux d'épandage application de 5600 gallons impériaux à l'acre (6800 gallons US/acre) correspond à une application uniforme de ¼ pouce (6 mm) sur la largeur. Tenir compte de l'état du sol au moment de l'épandage. S'il tombe ¼ pouce de pluie en une minute, l'eau va-t-elle ruisseler ou pénétrer dans le sol?

9. Surveiller les champs et être prêt à appliquer un plan d'urgence

Quel que soit le contexte, lorsqu'on épand du fumier à l'automne, il est essentiel de surveiller les champs pour s'assurer de ne pas contaminer les sources d'eau. En cas de déversement dans un cours d'eau, la loi oblige le producteur ou l'opérateur à communiquer immédiatement avec le Centre d'intervention en cas de déversement au 1 800 268-6060, et à mettre en place le plan d'urgence de l'exploitation.

10. Envisager de se doter d'une autre structure d'entreposage fumier

On peut envisager de se doter d'une autre unité de stockage du fumier, lorsque cela est possible. Il se peut que des voisins aient vendu leur bétail et qu'ils disposent encore d'espace pour entreposer du fumier qui pourrait être loué.

11. Entreposage temporaire pour fumier solide

Lorsqu'on prévoit entreposer temporairement du fumier solide au champ, il faut s'assurer que la surface d'entreposage est plane et située à l'écart des sources d'eau et des tuyaux de drainage. On doit également tenir compte de la distance par rapport aux voisins en raison des risques de plaintes dues aux odeurs.

Les biosolides d'épuration ne peuvent pas être épandus en conditions « hivernales ». On trouvera plus d'information sur l'entreposage temporaire et l'épandage en hiver dans les fiches techniques suivantes du MAAARO :

Entreposage temporaire au champ des matières prescrites ou fumiers solides (Fiche technique no 05-010) http:// www.omafra.gov.on.ca/french/engineer/facts/05- 010.htm

et

Épandage en hiver de fumier et d'autres matières de source agricole (Fiche technique no 04-070) http:// www.omafra.gov.on.ca/french/engineer/facts/04- 070.htm

Les nouvelles exigences réglementaires en matière de gestion des éléments nutritifs

- En quoi concernent-elles les producteurs de grandes cultures?

leurs, les champs où sont épandus des MSNA devront encore présenter des teneurs en phosphore inférieures à 60 ppm.

Les granules de biosolides ou les autres engrais contenant des biosolides qui sont régis par l'ACIA ne sont pas visés par la nouvelle réglementation sur les MSNA.

On trouvera beaucoup plus d'informations sur la réglementation relative aux MSNA sur le site suivant :

http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/french/nm/nasm.html

2009 Temiskaming Crops Coalition Annual report

Prepared by; Daniel Tassé OMAFRA New Liskeard

Milk Fever Prevention can start in the Field. Evaluation of calcium chloride applied on a hay field for dry cow feed.

2009 Temiskaming Crops Coalition project at Ferme Rivadale in Earlton

Soil test results, May 14th 2009

pH 7.0

Organic matter 49%

Phosphorous; 22ppm

Potassium: 86ppm

Magnesium:854

Calcium: 10191

Grass stand (timothy & brome)

Field application May 11/09 at Rivadale Farm

12 acres 183 lbs/ac of calcium chloride
12 acres check strip / untreated
12 acres 183 lbs/ac of calcium chloride

Cost of calcium chloride (.32/lb) $58/acre

Hay was harvested June 22nd and the samples collected for analysis

AGRI-FOOD LABORATORIES AgTest

	1 - 1st Cut Dry Hay Treated	1st Cut Dry Hay Not Treated
Dry Matter %	82.87	86.64
Moisture	17.13	13.36
Protein % (N X 6.25)	18.14	17.96
Acid Detergent Fibre %	29.10	32.60
Calcium %	0.68	0.56
Phosphorus %	0.32	0.26
Potassium %	1.92	1.79
Magnesium %	0.25	0.24
Sodium %	0.04	0.03
Sulphur(%)	0.12	0.14
Chloride (%)	0.97	0.17
	DCAD = 160.5 mEq/Kg	DCAD = 356.0 mEq/Kg

•Yield was 5 bales /ac (4ft x 4.5ft @ 700lbs)

• calcium chloride cost an additional $12 per bale or ¢1.6 per pound

Thank you

Ferme Rivadale Ltee. Francois, Alex & Eric Rivard

Temiskaming Crops Coalition and OSCIA

Mario Mongeon OMAFRA - Alfred

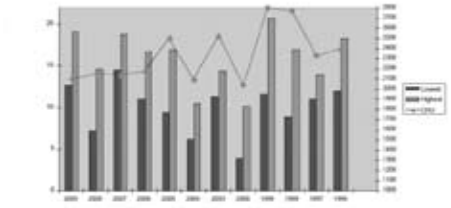
Chandel Gambles OMAFRA summer student

Prepared by: Daniel Tassé, OMAFRA New Liskeard

Corn Silage Plots – Harvesting Oct 19th -21st

Hybrids	Corn Heat Unit rating	Moisture at harvest	Yield adjusted at 65% moisture
1) Dekalb 26-78 check #1	2,125	62.96	14.09
2) Dekalb 27-45	2,250	67.36	12.71
3) Dekalb 26-79	2,150	63.10	14.58
4) Elite 40T07	2,300	66.77	13.21
5) Dekalb 26-78 check #2	2,125	63.56	13.21
6) Pickseed Silex	2,350	61.70	14.91
7) Pickseed 2501	2,400	62.37	14.79
8) Pride A4176	2,275	60.90	14.67
9) Dekalb 26-79 check #3	2,125	63.63	14.02
10) Pride A4705 IM	2,475	58.80	15.11
11) Maizex LF728	2,300	63.15	15.14
12) Dekalb 26-78 check #4	2,125	62.36	14.33
13) Maizex LF 756	2,300	60.58	15.63
14) NK N36-C7	2,250	66.40	13.02
15) NK N397	2,400	62.43	16.69
16) Dekalb 26-78 check #5	2,125	63.53	14.09
17) Pioneer 39D97	2,350	63.09	14.85
18) Pioneer 39B90	2,200	62.40	16.01
Average of Check #1, #2, #3, #4, #5			14.13
Range (10%)			12.71-15.54
Plot variability within suitable limits			Yes
Average of all hybrids		62.89	14.80

Corn silage yield in Temiskaming



(18) (16) (15) (28) (10) (3) (4) (13) (8) (2) (9)

tonnes/acre @ 65% moisture

Season's Greetings

NEOSCIA Finds Control for Bedstraw

Funded by a 3-year "Regional Grant" from OSCIA, and assisted by Dan Tasse and Mike Cowbrough of OMAFRA, (as well as summer student placement Chandel Gambles), an effective control for the pasture weed "Bedstraw" may have been found. As the pictures show, the thriving weed was virtually eliminated from the New Liskeard test plots after spraying with the herbicide "Milestone". The grasses survived. Tests will continue to evaluate the longevity of the treatment over the next 2 years in both Temiskaming and Algoma.

Herbicide evaluation to control smooth bedstraw

Smooth Bedstraw – perennial weed

Herbicide evaluation to control smooth bedstraw

- Located on golf course road under hydro line
- 3 year project
- evaluation"Milestone"
- low rate .10L/ac
- Higher rate .20L/ac
- with and withour 2,4-D
- Application June 23rd

1st year observations

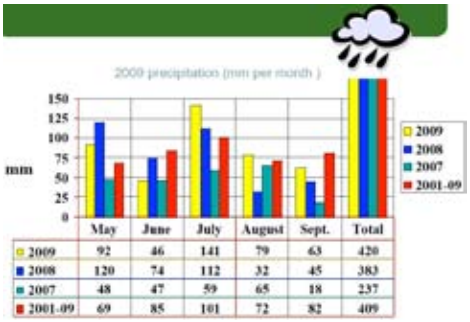
Milestone

Herbicide evaluation: conclusion

- 1st year evaluation visual control is good with Milestone
- No benefits in adding 2,4-D
- Need to assess weed population in spring of 2010
- 2010: treat another section with early application i.e. vegetative stage
- do a cost analysis of herbicide program
- any comments?

Happy New Year!

2009 precipitation (mm per month)



	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Total
2009	92	46	141	79	63	420
2008	120	74	112	32	45	383
2007	48	47	59	65	18	237
2001-09	69	85	101	72	82	409

Source: weather data NLARS/Environment Canada Earlton site

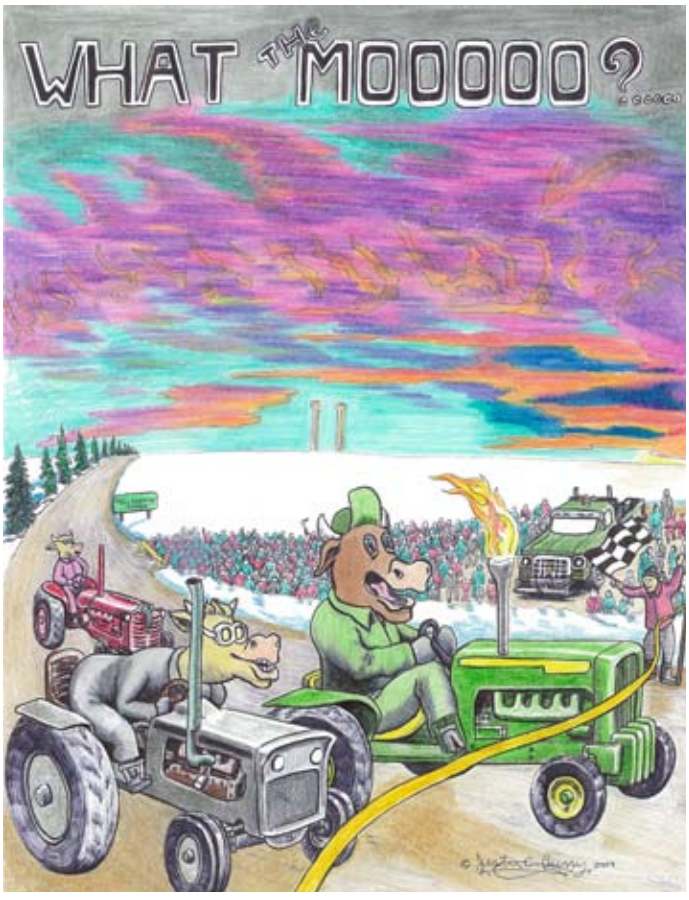
Temiskaming Corn Heat Units

	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	12 yrs
May	175	145	270	373	281	337
June	487	546	538	502	610	556
July	580	635	598	644	606	671
August	567	583	566	541	634	603
Sept.	292	208	163	121	369	301
Total	2,101	2,117	2,135	2,181	2,500	2,461

* up to September 20th 2009 due to a killing frost

Source: ww.farmzone.com

*note: May 1 to first <-20 ˚C



This month's artwork comes from Justin Burre of Englehart. View more of his work at http://justin-burry.tripod.com