

## N.E.O.S.C.I.A. - Executive

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

### Northern Ontario Regional Office

Ontario Ministry of

Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

P.O. Box 521, Hwy. 64

Caldwell Township Building

Verner, ON P0H 2M0

**TOLL FREE** ..... **800-461-6132**

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**FAX** ..... **(705) 594-9675**

firstname.lastname@omaf.gov.on.ca

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### Client Service Representative

Monique Roberge (705) 594-2322

### Client Service Representative (casual)

Don Parsons ..... (705) 594-2325

### Agricultural Representative

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### Beef Cattle Production Systems Program Lead

Tom Hamilton ... (705) 647-2087

# Breaking Ground

## (in Northeastern Ontario) WINTER 2006

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

## CCA Award of Excellence

*Presented to Terry Phillips,  
January 11, 2006*

Terry Phillips was nominated for the CCA Award of Excellence by Raymond Savage, General Manager of Co-operative Regional de Nipissing-Sudbury where Terry is a consulting agronomist.

Terry has played an instrumental role in increasing the canola, spring wheat and milling oats sales for the co-operative and overall acreage for these crops in the area. His advice on farm fertility programs has reduced nitrogen use on many area dairy farms through the use of soil tests and crop rotations with high



*Award Presented By: Dean Jones, Chair, Crop Life Canada and Tara McCaughey, Syngenta Crop Protection. Terry Phillips in center of photo.*

nitrogen use crops such as canola. He routinely hosts or coordinates

*Continued on page 17*



*Long time Cochrane SCIA member Bob Landis (& Fritz) inspects a 2005 spring wheat trial at Hunta.*  
*Photo by Daniel Tassé*

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

# Nipissing District Environmental Farm Plan Workshop

Verner, April 11

Contact Clare Venne  
at 705-594-9194

Canada



Ontario

## Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan

- protect soil and water resources
- enhance production returns
- show due diligence
- minimize environmental risk

Funding is now available through Federal and Provincial cost-share programs for beneficial management practices.

Contact the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association  
1-800-265-9751

## Programme de planification environnementale à la ferme Canada-Ontario

- Protéger les ressources en sols et en eaux
- Augmentez vos rendements de production
- Faites preuve de diligence raisonnable
- Minimisez les risques pour l'environnement

Vous pouvez maintenant obtenir une aide financière de programmes fédéraux et provinciaux à frais partagés pour l'adoption de pratiques de gestion bénéfiques.

Communiquez avec l'Association pour l'amélioration des sols et des récoltes de l'Ontario  
1-800-265-9751



[www.ontariosoilcrop.org](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org)

The Agricultural Policy Framework (APF) A Federal-Provincial-Territorial Initiative  
Le Cadre stratégique pour l'agriculture (CSA) Une initiative fédérale-provinciale-territoriale

# Cochrane District Environmental Farm Plan Workshop

Kapuskasing April 5th  
Cochrane April 6th

Contact Clare Venne  
at 705-594-9194

# Sudbury District Environmental Farm Plan Workshop

Contact Clare Venne  
at 705-594-9194

# Temiskaming District Environmental Farm Plan Workshop

Contact Clare Venne  
at 705-594-9194

# Parry Sound District Environmental Farm Plan Workshop

Contact Clare Venne  
at 705-594-9194

## Algoma District Environmental Farm Plan Workshop

Contact  
Jonathon Stewart at  
705-842-0392

## Muskoka District Environmental Plan Workshop

Contact Katya Riley  
at 705-764-1695

# Manitoulin District Environmental Farm Plan Workshop

Wikwemikong,  
March 25

Contact Mary Scott  
at 705-377-4928



# Breaking Ground

(in Northeastern Ontario)

## Agricultural Events

*March 25th (Saturday)*

**"Growers Pesticide Safety Course"**

New Liskeard 8:45 am – 3:00 pm  
- to register contact Ontario Pesticide Education Program at 1-800-652-8573

*March 30th (Thursday)*

**"Working from the Ground Up"**

Provided free to you by Evergreen Liquid Plant Food in Conjunction with Schill Northland Farms  
Earlton 8:00 pm – Start  
- at the Grand Boulevard Restaurant  
- a biological farming workshop for the farmers of Timiskaming

*March 31st-April 1st*

**"North Eastern Ontario Agricultural Conference & Trade Show"**

See enclosed program

*April 4th (Tuesday)*

**"Tie Stall Housing Seminar"**

New Liskeard 9:30 am – 3:30 pm  
- seminar on stall design, ventilation, feed and water, manure lighting and milking systems  
- at Quality Inn in New Liskeard  
- to register call 1-877-424-1300 (OMAFRA),  
- cost \$50/person

*April 5th and 6th (Wed. & Thurs.)*

**"Free Stall Housing Design Seminar"**

New Liskeard 9:30 am – 3:30 pm  
- seminar on layout and stall design,

ventilation, feed and water, manure, lighting, parlor selection and design.

- At Quality Inn in New Liskeard
- To register call 1-877-424-1300 (OMAFRA)
- Cost \$100/ person

*April 5th (Wednesday)*

**"Environmental Farm Plan workshop #1"**

Kapuskasing 9:30 am – 3:00 pm  
- workshop #1 open to all producers in the area  
- at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Kapuskasing research station, boardroom.  
- To register contact Claire Venne @ 705-594-9194

*April 6th (Thursday)*

**"Environmental Farm Plan workshop #1"**

Cochrane 9:30 am – 3:00 pm  
- Workshop #1 open to all producers of the area  
- at Terry's Steak House Restaurant, boardroom  
- To register contact Claire Venne @ 705-594-9194

*April 8th (Saturday)*

**"Growers Pesticide Safety Course"**

New Liskeard 8:45 am – 3:00 pm  
- to register contact Ontario Pesticide Education Program at 1-800-652-8573

*April 21st (Friday)*

**"Growers Pesticide Safety Course"**

Iroquois Falls 8:30 am – 2:30 pm  
- to register contact Ontario Pesticide Education Program at 1-800-652-8573



Farm Credit Canada  
Financement agricole Canada

**Agriculture...**  
**It's all we do.**

**L'agriculture...**  
**notre raison d'être.**

**1-800-387-3232**

*April 22nd (Saturday)*

**"Cover Your Assets"**

A seminar for organizations that hold events  
Algoma 11:45 am – 6:00 pm  
- at Sowerby Hall (Iron Bridge)  
- To register, or for more details call the Agricultural Information Contact Centre at 1-877-424-1300

*April 24th (Monday)*

**"Cover Your Assets"**

A seminar for organizations that hold events  
Matheson 11:45 am – 6:00 pm  
- at Agricultural Hall, Matheson Curling Club  
- To register, or for more details call Denise Edwards, OMAFRA, Brighton, 1-888-466-2373

*April 25th & 26th (Tues. & Wed.)*

**"Nutrient Management – Regulations & Protocol Course"**

New Liskeard 9:00 am – 5:00 pm  
- \$95 per producers  
- To register call the Nutrient Management Line (OMAFRA) at 1-866-242-4460

## Événements Agricoles

*24 Mars (vendredi)*

**"Cours: L'emploi sécuritaire des Pesticides - français"**

New Liskeard 8:45 am – 3:00 pm  
- pour vous inscrire contacter Ontario Pesticide Education Program au 1-800-652-8573

*25 Mars (samedi)*

**"Cours: L'emploi sécuritaire des Pesticides - anglais"**

New Liskeard 8:45 am – 3:00 pm

- pour vous inscrire contacter Ontario Pesticide Education Program au 1-800-652-8573

*31 Mars – 1 Avril*

**"Conférence Agricole et exposition de Nord Est Ontarien"**

New Liskeard 9:00 am – 9:00 pm  
vendredi, 9:00 am – 4:30 pm samedi.  
- Conférenciers et kiosques vendredi et samedi  
- Programme complet à venir prochainement  
- Pour de plus amples informations contacter Graham Gambles au 705-672-3105 ou MAAARO au 1-800-461-6132

*4 Avril (mardi)*

**"Séminaire laitier: stabulation entravé"**

New Liskeard 9:30 am – 3:30 pm - anglais  
- Design des logettes, ventilation, alimentation, fumier Éclairage et system de traite.  
- Au Motel Quality Inn à New Liskeard  
- Pour vous inscrire 1-877-424-1300 (MAAARO),  
- coût \$50/personne

Continued on page 4

# Breaking Ground

(in Northeastern Ontario)

## Nipissing/Parry Sound/Muskoka SCIA News

by Janet Parsons, Director

The West Nipissing Seed Fair and Conference is being held on March 29th at 10 a.m. at the Verner arena. John Rowsell will once again be on hand to share research results and there will be a discussion on saving money on fertilizer. For information on seed and forage classes please call Gilles Renaud at 753-1977. The traditional hot dinner is available at noon. Everyone is welcome.

Claire Venne continues to hold Environmental Farm Plan sessions and anyone interested should call 705-594-9194. There's money available for cost share projects.

The Lake Nipissing Rural Water Quality Project under Healthy Futures is complete and final payments are being disbursed. Over \$100,000 of projects were carried out under the program. The Soil and Crop Improvement Associations of Sudbury and West Nipissing were two of the sponsors of the program.

Congratulations to Normand Delorme for winning the Nipissing West Forage Masters Competition. Second was Jean Guy Seguin followed by James Parsons. Special thanks to the sponsors – Pickseed, NK Seeds, Agri-

Food Labs, and International Stock Food.

Maurice and Hubert Beaudry will be carrying out a major biodiesel research project during the summer of 2006 at their farm in Cache Bay. The project will evaluate the use of biodiesel blends and will be showcased during our summer tour.

Hats off to Muskoka farmers. They are in the process of organizing a Muskoka Federation of Agriculture. Donald Mills has been elected president and Katya Riley is the secretary. Call 764-1695 for details.

The Muskoka Soil and Crop continue to be active submitting a lime trial proposal as a OSCIA major project for summer 2006.

Parry Sound have just recently held a Farm Symposium where an OPP officer reviewed the rules for ATV and an MPAC representative discussed land assessments.

Klaus Wand reported that the 'pasture walk' their soil and crop held last summer was well attended and Jack Kyle was an excellent resource. Forages are the mainstay of the Powassan production area.

OSCIA is the only farm organization that has East Nipissing as a separate entity. All others



## West Nipissing Soil & Crop Improvement Association

use the production area of East Nipissing / Parry Sound as the physical area for representation. To the farmers in East Nipissing and Parry Sound... "Would you be willing to consider an enlarged East Nipissing Parry Sound Soil and Crop Improvement Association? Would it be more effective?"

I've just listened to my first 'webinar' on the internet. It was a first class learning session. If you would like to try out this free service from the Canadian Farm Business Management Council go to [www.farmcenter.com](http://www.farmcenter.com). You can participate in a live session or choose from a large list in the archives. The speakers are exceptional. You need 20 KPS transmission speed. It's an excellent return on time invested and there is no travel required.

## Événements Agricoles *continué*

**5 et 6 Avril (mercredi et jeudi)**

**"Séminaire laitier: stabulation libre"**

New Liskeard 9:30 am – 3:30 pm

- design des logettes, ventilation, alimentation, fumier, éclairage, salle de traite.
- Au Motel Quality Inn à New Liskeard
- Pour vous inscrire 1-877-424-1300 (MAAARO)
- coût \$100/ personne

**5 Avril (mercredi)**

**"Atelier #1 sur le Plan de Ferme Environnemental"**

Kapuskasing 9:30 am – 3:00 pm

- atelier #1 offert aux producteurs de la région
- à la station de recherche d'Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada à Kapuskasing
- pour vous inscrire contacter Claire Venne @ 705-594-9194

**6 Avril (jeudi)**

**"Atelier #1 sur le Plan de Ferme Environnemental"**

Cochrane 9:30 am – 3:00 pm

- atelier #1 offert aux producteurs de la région
- au restaurant Terry's Steak House
- pour vous inscrire contacter Claire Venne @ 705-594-9194

**8 Avril (samedi)**

**"Cours: L'emploi sécuritaire des Pesticides - anglais"**

New Liskeard 8:45am – 3:00 pm

- pour vous inscrire contacter Ontario Pesticide Education Program au 1-800-652-8573

**19 Avril (mercredi)**

**"Atelier #2 sur le Plan de Ferme Environnemental"**

Kapuskasing 9:30 am – 3:00 pm

- atelier #2, la suite de la session du 5 Avril
- à la station de recherche d'Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada à Kapuskasing
- pour vous inscrire contacter Claire Venne @ 705-594-9194

**20 Avril (jeudi)**

**"Atelier #2 sur le Plan de Ferme Environnemental"**

Cochrane 9:30 am – 3:00 pm

- atelier #2, la suite de la session du 6 Avril
- au restaurant Terry's Steak House
- pour vous inscrire contacter Claire Venne @ 705-594-9194

**24 Avril (lundi)**

**"Cover Yours Assets" – anglais**

Matheson 11:45 am – 6:00 pm

- Pour les organisations qui organisent des activités
- à l'Agricultural Hall, Matheson Curling Club
- pour détails et inscriptions contacter Denise Edwards, OMAFRA, Brighton, 1-888-466-2373

# Breaking Ground

(in Northeastern Ontario)

## Muskoka Limestone Study – 2005-2006

### *Purpose:*

The Study aims to establish whether productivity and management of the highly acid agricultural soils on the Canadian Shield, and particularly in Muskoka, can be effectively sustained through higher than recommended rates of agricultural limestone.

### *Specifically, this study will examine:*

If there is long term economic benefits to spreading lime at higher rates than recommended and, if there are related environmental benefits including retention and availability of soil nutrients, particularly micronutrients and organic matter buildup through increased rates of lime.

A minimum study period of three years is required to determine trends following limestone application.

This study is also expected to increase awareness of the importance of using agricultural limestone on Muskoka soils.

Several generations of Muskoka farmers have applied agricultural limestone. These applications have generally produced some effect in reducing soil acidity, improving nutrient availability and increasing crop, hay and pasture yields. Yet, there are numerous anecdotal reports that lime applied at

recommended levels is not as effective in increasing pH levels as expected, or that the beneficial effect from lime transitory, and lost after only two or three years. The effects of limestone have been well researched. Yet evidence from several published sources indicates that increased lime levels may be needed to achieve sustained benefits.

Soils on the Canadian Shield are generally poorly buffered. This is partly attributed to the number of years of exposure to acidic rainfall and the igneous rock found below the shallow soils. This differs from southern Ontario where the limestone base provides some buffer to the overlying soils.

### *Methods:*

Each farmer is to mark out the study area into approximately equal plots in two replications. Treatments are randomized in each rep, and include application at the recommended rate, and application at double rate. Some farmers have applied a third treatment of 150% the recommended rate. Farmers were not asked to include zero rate treatment. However two farmers, who will apply lime next spring, plan to include a zero rate treatment. All lime comes from the same quarry (Georgian



Unit 1  
503 Imperial Road North  
Guelph, Ontario,  
Canada N1H 6T9

**Accredited  
Soil Testing**

Aggregates with an Ag index of 66). Farmers use their own methods to estimate weights and apply the lime (detailed below). Crop growth data is obtained through visual estimation and counting number of bales / estimating bushels / crop weights. A soil test taken after harvest each year monitors changes in pH and nutrient status.

### *Results:*

Six Muskoka farmers have agreed to participate in this study for three years. Each of the 6 farmers has taken a soil test representative of the trial area on their farms. A special arrangement has been set up with Agri-Food Laboratories in Guelph, to analyze each sample using AFL complete test to obtain initial status of macro and micro nutrient availability, CEC, OM as well as pH.

*Information on each of the study sites is summarized in table 1.*

**Table 1.**

	PARTICIPATING FARMER					
	Site 1-GB	Site 2-KP	Site 3-CH	Site 4-HQ	Site 5-DK	Site 6-KR
Soil Texture	Sandy	Clay/sandy	Sandy loam	Clay	Clay	Sandy loam
Planned crops	Green cut cereal/hay	Nurse grain/hay	Mixed grain/hay	Mixed Grain/ Nurse/hay	Vegetables	Vegetables
Initial pH	5.6	5.8	6.4	5.3	5.8	6.0
Recommend Lime t/ha	6	7	3	15	7	5
Trial area	4 ha	2.12 ha		Spring 2005	Spring 2006	Spring 2006
No. of plots	4	6	6			
Treatments	2 (Rec/double)	3 (Rec. 150%, double)	3 (Rec. 150%, double)	4 (Zerp, 50%, Rec. 150%)	3 (Rec. 150%, double)	3 (Rec. 150%, double)

# Breaking Ground

## (in Northeastern Ontario)

### *Muskoka Limestone Study – 2005-2006* continued

#### Site 1-GB

Location area has been growing long term timothy/trefoil hay. Last limed 12 years ago. Received manure at 20t/ac every other year. Field plowed in the fall 2004. Lime applied May 29, 2005 using a belt feed broadcaster. Lime was delivered wet, so the application rate was approximately 20% less than desired. (approx. 6t/ha and 12t/ha applied in 2 reps. Lime incorporated to 2" then barley/oats/rye and grass/legume hay mixture seeded. Good initial germination, but rather poor crop because of hot dry summer. Field is irregular shaped but all plots approx equal in size (1ha). The plots receiving the double rate were somewhat shaded, which could influence growth. Cereal crop cut green and baled (large 4x5' rounds). The recommended rate plots produced 5 bales/ha, while the double limed area yielded 5.5 bales/ha. The post-harvest soil test results are awaited.

#### Site 2-KP.

Study area was last cultivated 15 years ago. No known application of limestone. Lime applied Oct. 18, 2005 with manure spreader by placing lime on top of well composted manure in the spreader. This method resulted in even application of lime. Because of field shape, 6 plots varying in width from 70 to 125 feet and 281 to 459 feet long. Ranging in area from .750 to 1.107 acres. Lime amount was successfully adjusted to provide targeted amount for each plot. Lime rates were 7t/ha, 10.5t/ha and 14t/ha in two reps. lime incorporated. Planting will be carried out in the spring. The soil test recommended magnesium, which will be applied as Kmag in the spring. Only organic inputs are applied on this farm.

#### Site 3-CH.

Although the soil test (pH 6.4) did not call for lime, Keith Reid recommended a rate of 3t/ha. Trial field had grown a crop of oats in 2005; with hay grown the previous 5 years. Over the past 22 years, the field had received 4 applications of lime of 3t/ha and 4 applications of manure. In the fall of 2005, the field was plowed and disced. Limestone was applied using an E\_Z flow drop type 10' wide lime spreader. Rates were 3, 4.5 and 6t/ha. Lime was then incorporated to a depth of 5". The trial area will be seeded to mixed grain, underseeded with hay seed in the spring.

#### Site 4-HQ.

Study area has reportedly never received lime. Soil test recommended a very high rate of 15t/ha. Farmer feels that a double rate (30t/ha) will be too high. Instead he plans to apply 4 rates (0, 7.5, 15 and 22.5t/ha) in the spring.

#### Site 5-DK.

Plans to use a 1 ha market garden area for the lime study in spring 2006. The plots will be planted to green and yellow beans. This is an organic operation. The A recommended basal rate of 7 tons/ha will be applied.

#### Site 6-KR.

Plan to use a .4 ha area for the study in spring 2006. The area has received annual applications of manure and fertilizer. Rep 1 will be planted to peas and rep 2 to beans. Will be used for a pick-your own operation.

#### *Summary:*

During 2005 season, all 6 participating farmers have identified their study areas, and collected initial soil samples and identified the lime recommended rates for their study areas. One farmer has applied lime treatments, planted



#### Gary Bell

R.R. #1, 367 Birchgrove Drive West  
Callander, Ontario, Canada P0H 1H0

Phone: (705) 752-2061

Fax: (705) 752-2084

Cell: (705) 497-4991

eMail: gary@nipissinggamefarm.com

and harvested the crop, compared differences from the plot yields, and has taken soil samples from each plot. Two more farmers have applied the different lime rates, and will plant in the spring. The other 3 farmers will apply the lime and plant in the spring. The trial is attracting considerable interest among farmers.

#### *Next Steps:*

By spring 2006, all 6 farmers will have applied lime and planted the trial areas. Yield differences will be estimated through both visual ratings and yield comparisons. Soil tests, taken at harvest from all plots will indicate any changes in pH and nutrient status. This study is to be continued during 2007 and 2008 to obtain longer term effects of the lime applications. In the final year, tissue samples taken from the different plots will be analyzed to assess effects limestone rates on micro-nutrient status.

#### *Acknowledgments:*

Thanks to John Roswell, U of G, New Liskeard Station and Keith Reid OMAFRA at Stratford for their guidance. The participation of the cooperators in the project is greatly appreciated.

This project was supported by an OSCIA Major Project Grant.

#### *Project Contacts:*

K and K Rileys, 705-764-1695



## Message from the President

As farmers, the one subject we can always talk about is the weather. In previous newsletters, I described the weather south and east of Ottawa as good since we had a hot summer but with adequate rainfall to produce good crops. As farmers, the one subject we can always talk about is the weather. In previous newsletters, I described the weather south and east of Ottawa as good since we had a hot summer but with adequate rainfall to produce good crops. However, the month of October has brought a great change: only two days of sunshine between October 7th and 26th!



Kevin Ferguson  
(Fall 2005)

A good crop of soybeans and corn exists but it is becoming increasingly difficult to accomplish the harvesting due to the wetness. I hope that conditions are better elsewhere in Ontario.

On September 23rd, the OSCIA Executive and a member of the Muskoka SCIA, had a brief meeting with Federal Agricultural Minister Andy Mitchell at his constituency office in Gravenhurst. We gave him a brief overview of OSCIA and provided an update of the Environmental Farm Plan progress and the associated cost-share. We also discussed the need to maintain well-trained staff during the transition from one part of a program to the next program version or stage. The well-trained staff is needed to deliver the new program to farmers. Without them, farmers can be left in a state of uncertainty.

Minister Mitchell was sympathetic but shared with us some of the challenges that he faces. For example, he must provide evidence to the Treasury Board that all allocated funds for a program have been exhausted before a new program may be approved. We also share with him the current crisis facing many sectors of agriculture and how each one of us is affected and struggling to keep the farm viable.

In September, OSCIA held a two-day Environmental Farm Plan training workshop for OSCIA field staff, Regional Communication Coordinators and Provincial Directors. This training helped all of us to be better prepared for the many EFP workshops being planned for this fall and winter season. If you have not signed up yet, please look for the next workshop in your area. I am confident that you will find it worthwhile, and that you and your farm will benefit by participating in the current EFP.

# Breaking Ground

## (in Northeastern Ontario)

# OSCIA News...

Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association

1 Stone Road West, Guelph, ON N1G 4Y2

Phone: (519) 826-4214 or 1-800-265-9751 • Fax: (519) 826-4224

Email: [oscia@ontariosoilcrop.org](mailto:oscia@ontariosoilcrop.org) Website: <http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org>

## Ontario Forage Masters Program

The 2005 Ontario Forage Masters program is now complete. This year's program was generously sponsored by NK Brand Seeds, Agri-Food Laboratories, Pickseed Canada, and International Stock Food Company Limited.

Each sponsor assisted the program with financial contributions and provided prizes for the first, second, and third place winners in each of the participating local associations.

Twenty counties/districts participated, with a total of 138 participants. Of these, 23 were 4-H participants. OSCIA congratulates all these participants.

*The prizes awarded to the winners this year are:*

### Pickseed Canada

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize – 25kg Pickseed seed, Pickseed gloves
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize – \$150 certificate for Pickseed seed, gloves
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize – \$50 certificate for Pickseed seed, hat

### Agri-Food Laboratories

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize – \$90 gift certificate for lab analysis
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize – \$64 gift certificate for lab analysis
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize – \$25 gift certificate for lab analysis

### International Stock Food

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize – \$150 certificate for ISF products
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize – \$75 certificate for ISF products
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize – \$25 certificate for ISF products

**NK Brand Seeds** provided provincial support and promotion.

On-farm judging and management of stored feed formed the major portion of the final score.

ASSOCIATION	1 <sup>ST</sup> PLACE	2 <sup>ND</sup> PLACE	3 <sup>RD</sup> PLACE
NISSING WEST	Normand Delome	Jean-Guy Seguin	James Parsons
TEMISKAMING	Eric Willard	Ron Blain	André Denis
THUNDER BAY	Arie Grootenboer	Marshall Bolt	Fred Breukelman

# Breaking Ground

(in Northeastern Ontario)

## OSCIA News... Syngenta Seed Fair Grants

OSCIA is pleased to announce that Syngenta Crop Protection is sponsoring pedigreed seed fairs/shows during the fall and winter of 2005/2006.

Syngenta was formed from the skills and strengths of industry innovators – Novartis and Zeneca. Syngenta is the world's leading agri-business com-

pany operating across all major areas of crop protection and seeds. With representation worldwide, Syngenta is uniquely capable of finding ways to help the world grow crops better.

Syngenta is providing up to \$300 each to ten local association pedigreed seed fairs/shows. The grant will promote the growing of certified seed as a preferred farm management practice. Grants for the 2004/2005 season were quickly utilized, assisting in opening the seed fairs to over 20,000 visitors province-wide.

Local associations must pre-apply to OSCIA before the event using a Form G-1 obtained from the OSCIA provincial office. OSCIA will forward the Syngenta Logo and promotional material to be used to indicate the support Syngenta is providing to the seed fair/show. Form G-2 will also be forwarded at this time to apply to OSCIA for the grant once the fair/show is over.

Complete guidelines are being forwarded to local associations.

### OSCIA Membership Display

OSCIA has revamped and revitalized the OSCIA membership display which is available to local associations for upcoming meetings and events.

Please contact Evelyn Howse at the Provincial Office (1-800-265-9751) if you wish to borrow the display.

### OSCIA Launches New Website

OSCIA has launched their new and improved website to better serve its members and all other farmers across the province.

It provides our members with updated and reorganized information about the various crop production activities, investigations, demonstration projects, and other opportunities that OSCIA presents. All producers will be able to easily navigate to a superior program section which features the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) associated with current environmental cost-share opportunities. Much of the information is available in English and French.

Check it out at [www.ontariosoilcrop.org](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org)



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## Record Number of On-Farm Projects in 2005

OSCIA, along with funding partners and support of OMAFRA Crop Technology field staff, supported a record number of on-farm projects in 2005. The overall goal of these projects is to work with production methods to improve the bottom line in crop production. At a time when it is becoming more difficult to acquire funding for traditional production agriculture, project grants to local associations have been made available to assist local/regional associations in new technology and improve management of available inputs. Regional Partner projects, in part sponsored by OMAFRA, include work with herbicides in soyas, red clover establishment, reduced tillage, seed treatment, and nitrogen rates on hard red winter wheat, canola options in the north and more.

Major Grant projects to local associations are also sponsored by OMAFRA and include benefits or EZ Steer technology, Nitrogen and micro-nutrient trials, white mold control in edible beans, soybean rust and aphid control, and reduced tillage trials.

As project results are finalized, highlights will be reported through local and regional communication activities which include workshops, field days, and future editions of OSCIA News.



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### MATURITY

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Source, OCCC Ontario Performance Trails  
2004 Progress Report

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# 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  
OMAF Web Site: [www.gov.on.ca/omafra/english/crops](http://www.gov.on.ca/omafra/english/crops)

# Fall Rye For Silage or Grazing

by Joel Bagg, Forage Specialist, OMAFRA, Lindsay

Fall rye is a cereal best known for its ability to provide a cover crop that prevents erosion while also providing good weed suppression. Fall rye can also be used successfully as a forage crop, by grazing in the fall and spring, or by harvesting as haylage in May. Because fall rye is typically harvested as silage in southern Ontario from early- to mid-May, there are some opportunities to include it in "double crop" systems. Do not confuse cereal rye (*Secale cereale*) with ryegrass (*Lolium multiflorum* or *L. perenne*), which are totally different grass species with quite different characteristics.

### Advantages & Disadvantages

Rye is very cold tolerant and is the hardiest and most disease resistant of the winter cereals. Fall rye is earlier and faster growing in the spring than the other winter cereals, including wheat, barley and triticale, enabling an earlier forage harvest and more "double crop" options.

Rye also has some limitations. Fall rye grows well on lighter soils, but does not do well on heavier soils when drainage is poor. Winter wheat would be a better forage option on heavier,

poorly drained soils. Forage rye is higher yielding, but not as palatable as winter wheat.

### Double Crop Options

Some farmers that are looking for extra stored forage are planting fall rye after the corn silage is harvested. Forage rye harvested in early-May can be followed by a late-planted crop, such as soybeans or possibly a warm-season annual forage crop such as sorghum.

Winter wheat heads later than fall rye, about June 5th, making forage wheat harvest too late to

be followed by corn or soybeans. Decreased moisture in the soil profile following forage rye harvest can potentially have a negative effect on the yield of the following crop. It is important to completely kill the rye with glyphosate or tillage to minimize any shading and competition for moisture.

Rye is noted for having an "alleopathic effect" that suppresses the germination and growth of weeds and other crops. How significantly the potential alleopathy will lower the yield of the following crop depends on a number of factors, but because most of the

residue is removed, it is low risk in most forage rye situations. The exception may be with no-till corn on heavier soil types. Soybeans and edible beans following forage rye suffer almost no yield loss.

### Seeding

Fall rye is easy to establish and can be seeded from late-summer to late-fall. If fall pasture is desired, fall rye should be seeded by August 15-30th. If harvest as silage the following May is planned, fall rye should ideally be seeded in late-September, but later seedings can work on sandy soils. Although rye is the most tolerant of the winter cereals to late planting, it should be in the ground by late October. Some growth going into winter is required for early spring growth and good yields.

If planted as a grain crop, fall rye should be seeded at 100 lbs per acre, but if it is to be used for forage, the seeding rate can be increased up to 168 lbs per acre (3 bu/ac). Use the higher seeding rates if broadcast rather than drilled, or if the seeding date is very late.

### Grazing

Fall rye can provide good opportunities to extend the grazing season into late-fall and early-spring. Fall rye can be grazed 7 weeks after seeding, or when there is about 5 - 8 inches of top growth. If grazing in the fall,



# Fall Rye For Silage or Grazing

*continued*

applying 50 lbs per acre of nitrogen at planting will stimulate growth. Nitrate poisoning can be a potential risk if high amounts of nitrogen have been applied. Although it can be grazed after frost, fall pastured rye should be allowed to go into winter with 2-3 inches of growth.

Fall rye is ready to graze early in the spring, about 10 – 12 days before wheat. Spring growth is very rapid so to ensure that the rye does not get too mature, be prepared to move livestock frequently in a strip grazing system. Grazing rye on wet heavy clay soils in late-fall and early-spring conditions is not recommended because of livestock “pugging” and compaction.

## Haylage

Fall rye can be made into good stored feed by cutting, wilting and making it into silage, either in tower, bunk, pile

or bag silos. Wrapped baleage also works well. Fall rye cut at the desired stage is extremely difficult to dry sufficiently to be made into dry hay.

Nitrogen applied at 45 – 70 lbs/ac in the spring at green-up will stimulate tillering and increase forage yield.

The timing of cutting is critical to quality and palatability, so the optimum harvest window is very narrow. Forage quality and palatability drop very quickly (faster than other cereals) at the heading stage. Rye should be harvested for forage at an earlier stage than other cereal crops to ensure palatability and intake.

It is recommended to target harvesting forage rye at the **early-boot stage** (prior to heading), which generally occurs during May 1st - 20th in southern Ontario. At this stage, a dry matter yield of 2 tonnes per acre is typically possible.

However, there can be a very large range in forage quality with only a few days difference in harvest. At the early-boot stage (Zadok 39 - ligule of the last leaf just visible), CP can approach up to 18% (depending on the amount of nitrogen fertilizer applied), with NDF under 50%. At the head-emerged stage (Zadok 59), CP drops to the 13-14% range, while NDF increases to over 60%. This will likely be adequate for heifers, dry cows and beef cows, but will not be dairy cow quality.

When rye is cut later, at the early-dough stage, the yield may approach 3 tonnes per acre, but the quality, palatability and intake will be much poorer. Delaying forage rye harvest past the boot stage because of bad weather or competing field crop activities is not very forgiving.

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**For more information, refer to the OMAFRA Forage Website at [www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/field/forages.html](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/field/forages.html).**

# Recording the 2005 Pasture Season

*by Jack Kyle, Provincial Pasture Specialist, OMAFRA, Lindsay*

Have you recorded the events of your 2005 grazing season? Most of us are notorious for not writing down what happened when it happened. Yet these notes are essential for the best pasture management decisions for future years.

Each pasture season is somewhat different than the previous ones. Lots of rain makes for high yields of green grass, yet cattle gains are rarely as impressive as the grass growth. In a dry year, we expect the gains will be very low, and yet at weigh-off the gains are often better than expected. The amount and timing of rainfall has a big impact on forage growth, and 2005 was a year with great variation in amount and timing.

A good set of records that provide details of what has happened will allow you to accurately compare one year to the next. A pocket notebook and/or a three-ring binder can form the basis for a good system. It can be expanded from that point to a complex computer spreadsheet, if you are so inclined.

*Your records should include:*

- weather data- amount of rainfall, frost dates, and extreme summer temperatures
- forage or sward information on species mix in the pasture, and plant density
- fertilizer applied

- pasture growth at different times during the grazing season
- livestock information including size, type and number of animals, beginning and ending weights
- grazing duration, stocking densities and frequency of moves to new paddocks
- beginning and ending dates of the grazing season
- amount of residual forage and condition of pasture at end of season, and
- amount and timing of any supplemental feed required.

A long list, but all these factors play a role and are essential notes in the record system.

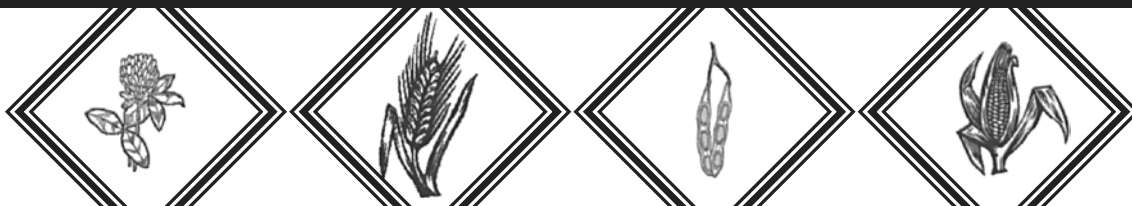
There are a number of tools to assist in measuring the amount of forage present. Height and density are the two important components. The use of a grazing stick will help in determining the quantity of forage present, and improve estimates of forage amounts in your record keeping system.

Recording and accumulating this information will allow you to make accurate comparisons between years, allow you to analyze this year's results, and make grazing decisions that will have a positive benefit to your operation.

Each year is different in the grazing business, but analyzing your own management decisions will help keep the grass growing and your grazing enterprise profitable.



# BULLETIN GRANDES CULTURES



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Bureau régional du Nord de l'Ontario : 1-800-461-6132  
Site Web du MAAARO : [www.gov.on.ca/omafra/english/crops](http://www.gov.on.ca/omafra/english/crops)

## Le seigle d'hiver comme pâturage ou ensilage

Joel Bagg, spécialiste des fourrages, MAAARO, Lindsay

Le seigle d'hiver est une céréale mieux connue pour ses qualités de plante couvre-sol pour prévenir l'érosion tout en offrant une forte concurrence aux mauvaises herbes. Le seigle d'hiver peut facilement être utilisé comme plante fourragère, en pâturage d'automne ou de printemps ou encore récolté sous forme d'ensilage en mai. Comme le seigle d'hiver est généralement ensilé du début à la mi-mai dans le sud de l'Ontario, il serait possible de l'inclure dans les systèmes à deux récoltes "double-culture". Ne pas confondre le seigle céréalier (*Secale cereale*) avec le ray-grass (*Lolium multiflorum* ou *L. perenne*) qui sont deux espèces de graminées totalement différentes avec des caractéristiques assez distinctes.

### Avantages et inconvénients

Le seigle est une plante qui tolère très bien le froid et, parmi les céréales d'hiver, elle est la plus rigoureuse et celle qui résiste le mieux aux maladies. Le seigle d'hiver est plus précoce et pousse plus vite au printemps que les autres céréales d'hiver, y compris le blé, l'orge et le triticale, ce qui permet une récolte fourragère plus hâtive et des choix de "double-culture" plus nombreux.

Le seigle comporte aussi quelques limites. Le seigle d'hiver pousse bien dans les sols plus légers, mais ne se développe pas bien dans les sols plus lourds au drainage médiocre. Le blé d'hiver est un meilleur choix comme culture fourragère dans les sols plus lourds et mal drainés. Le seigle fourrager donne de meilleurs rende-

ments que le blé d'hiver, mais n'est pas aussi appétant.

### Choix des doubles-cultures

Parmi les agriculteurs qui cherchent à entreposer des quantités additionnelles de fourrage, il y en a qui sèment du seigle d'hiver après la récolte du maïs d'ensilage. Le seigle fourrager récolté au début de mai peut être suivi d'une culture semée plus tard comme la fève soya ou encore d'une plante fourragère annuelle de saison chaude comme le sorgho.

Le blé d'hiver forme ses épis plus tard que le seigle d'hiver, environ vers le 5 juin, et sa récolte en tant que fourrage se ferait trop tard pour permettre une culture de soya ou de maïs.

Les teneurs d'humidité plus faibles dans le sol à la récolte du seigle fourrager risquent d'avoir un effet négatif sur les rendements de la culture subséquente. Il serait important de détruire totalement le seigle avec un traitement au glyphosate ou avec un travail du sol pour minimiser l'ombrage et toute concurrence pour l'humidité.

Le seigle est connu pour avoir un "effet allélopathique" qui supprimerait la germination et la croissance des mauvaises herbes et d'autres cultures. À quel point le potentiel allélopathique du seigle peut-il nuire aux rendements de la culture subséquente dépend d'un certain nombre de facteurs, mais comme une grande partie des résidus est enlevée, les risques sont faibles dans la plupart des cas. Les exceptions seraient dans les cas où le maïs est planté sans travail du sol ou dans les types

de sols plus lourds. Il n'y a presque pas de perte de rendements dans les cultures de soya et de haricots comestibles qui suivent du seigle fourrager.

### Semis

Le seigle d'hiver est facile à planter et on peut le semer à partir de la fin de l'été jusqu'à la fin de l'automne. Si on désire un pâturage d'automne, le seigle d'hiver devrait être semé entre le 15 et le 30 août. Si on désire ensiler le seigle au mois de mai suivant, alors il est préférable de le semer à la fin de l'automne. Des semis plus tardifs peuvent toutefois réussir dans les sols sableux. Même si le seigle est la céréale d'hiver la plus tolérante aux semis tardifs, il ne devrait pas être mis en terre plus tard que la fin d'octobre. La plante requiert un certain développement avant l'hiver pour avoir une bonne croissance au printemps et de bons rendements.

Si on veut utiliser le seigle d'hiver comme plante céréalière, la dose de semis devrait être de 100 livres à l'acre, mais si on veut l'utiliser comme fourrage, la dose de semis pourrait augmenter à 168 livres à l'acre (3 boisseaux/acre). Utilisez la dose de semis la plus élevée si l'ensemencement se fait à la volée plutôt qu'avec le semoir à grain ou s'il est fait à une date tardive.

### Pâturage

Le seigle d'hiver est un bon choix si on veut prolonger la saison de pâturage tard à l'automne ou au début du printemps. Le seigle d'hiver peut être pâturé 7 semaines après les semis ou quand la pousse aérienne a atteint environ 5 à 8 pouces de hauteur. Pour un pâturage à l'automne, un apport d'azote à raison de 50 livres à l'acre stimulera sa croissance. L'intoxication à l'azote peut représenter un risque potentiel si de fortes doses d'azote sont appliquées. Même si le pâturage du seigle d'hiver peut se poursuivre après les

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## Le seigle d'hiver comme pâturage ou ensilage

*continu*

gelées, il faut lui laisser une croissance de 2 à 3 pouces avant l'hiver.

Les pâturages de seigle d'hiver sont prêts au début du printemps, environ 10 à 12 jours avant les pâturages de blé. La croissance au printemps est très rapide et pour éviter que le seigle ne devienne trop mûre, il faut être préparé à déplacer le bétail fréquemment avec un système d'affouragement en bandes. Il n'est pas conseillé de faire pâturer le bétail à la fin de l'automne et au début du printemps sur des argiles lourdes et humides, afin d'éviter le piétinement et la compaction.

### Ensilage

Le seigle peut faire un bon aliment d'ensilage. Après l'avoir coupé et fané, on peut le préserver sous forme d'ensilage dans les silos-tours, silos-fosses, silo-boudins ou en tas. Les balles enrobées fonctionnent bien également. Le seigle d'hiver coupé au stade de croissance souhaitable a beaucoup de difficulté à sécher suffisamment pour être entreposé en foin sec.

Au printemps, un apport d'azote au verdissement à raison de 45 à 70 livres à l'acre stimulera le tallage et augmentera les rendements fourragers.

L'époque à laquelle s'effectue la coupe du seigle est critique pour pouvoir obtenir un fourrage de qualité et appétant. L'époque optimale de récolte est très restreinte. La qualité et l'appétance du fourrage baissent très rapidement (plus vite que chez les autres céréales) au stade d'épiaison. La récolte du seigle fourrager doit se faire à un stade plus hâtif comparativement aux autres cultures céréalières, afin d'assurer son appétance et sa consommation.

Il est conseillé de récolter le seigle fourrager au début du stade de gonflement (avant l'épiaison) qui se produit en général entre le 1er et le 20 mai dans le sud de l'Ontario. À ce stade, un rendement en matière sèche de 2 tonnes à l'acre est habituellement possible. Toutefois, il peut y avoir une très grande variation dans la qualité du fourrage avec seulement quelques jours de différence dans la récolte. Au début

du stade de gonflement (39 sur l'échelle Zadok - la ligule de la dernière feuille est à peine visible), la PB peut atteindre 18 % (tout dépendant de la quantité d'engrais azoté apportée) et la NDF est inférieure à 50 %. Au stade d'épiaison (59 sur Zadok), la PB descend dans la fourchette de 13-14 %, alors que la NDF augmente à plus de 60 %. Ce fourrage peut convenir aux génisses, vaches taries et vaches de boucherie, mais n'aura pas la qualité nécessaire pour les vaches laitières.

Quand le seigle est récolté plus tard, au début du stade pâteux, les rendements peuvent avoisiner les 3 tonnes à l'acre, mais la qualité, l'appétance et la consommation seront très inférieures. Retarder la récolte du seigle fourrager après le stade de gonflement parce qu'il y a d'autres travaux dans les champs ou à cause de mauvaises conditions météorologiques ne serait pas vraiment excusable.

**Pour de plus amples renseignements, consultez la section sur les fourrages sur le site web du MAAARO à l'adresse: [www.omafr.gov.on.ca/french/crops/field/fourrages.html](http://www.omafr.gov.on.ca/french/crops/field/fourrages.html)**

# Registres de la saison de pâturage 2005

*Jack Kyle, spécialiste provincial des pâturages, MAAARO, Lindsay*

Avez-vous enregistré les événements de votre saison de pâturage 2005 ? La plupart d'entre nous sommes renommés pour négliger de mettre sur papier les événements passés. Néanmoins, ces notes sont essentielles pour prendre les meilleures décisions possibles dans la gestion des pâturages pour les années à venir.

Chaque saison de pâturage diffère quelque peu des saisons précédentes. Les pluies abondantes augmentent les rendements des pâturages, mais les gains observés chez le bétail sont rarement aussi impressionnants que la croissance des herbages.

Au cours d'une année sèche, on croit que les gains de poids vont être très faibles et encore là, au moment de la pesée, les gains sont souvent plus élevés que prévu. La quantité et l'époque des pluies ont un effet important sur la croissance des fourrages. L'année 2005 a été très variable en ce qui concerne les quantités et l'époque des précipitations.

De bons registres qui indiquent en détails ce qui s'est passé vous permettront de faire des comparaisons précises entre les années. Un carnet de poche et (ou) un cartable à anneaux peut être la base d'un bon système. Si vous le désirez, vous pouvez étendre le système à un chiffrier électronique plus complexe.

*Il faudra inscrire dans vos registres les renseignements suivants:*

- données météorologiques – quantités de pluie, dates des gelées et températures estivales extrêmes;
- données sur les mélanges des espèces de fourrages et d'herbages utilisées dans les pâturages ainsi que les densités de peuplement;

- engrais apportés;
- croissance des pâturages à diverses époques de la saison de pâturage;
- données sur le bétail, incluant la taille, le type et le nombre de têtes au début et à la fin du pâturage;
- durée de la période de pâturage, densité animale et fréquences des déplacements à de nouveaux pâturages;
- dates de début et de fin de la saison de pâturage;
- quantité de fourrage résiduel et conditions des pâturages à la fin de la saison; et
- quantité d'aliments additionnels requis et époques:

La liste est longue, mais tous ces facteurs jouent un rôle et sont des données essentielles dans le système de registre.

Il existe un certain nombre d'outils pouvant aider à mesurer la quantité de fourrage présent. La hauteur et la densité sont les deux composantes importantes. L'utilisation d'un bâton à mesurer les pâturages (grazing stick) peut aider à déterminer la quantité de fourrage dans le champ et améliorer l'estimation des quantités de fourrage dans vos registres.

Les données que vous inscrivez et accumulez vont vous permettre de faire des comparaisons précises entre les années, d'analyser les résultats de l'année courante et de prendre des décisions qui auront un impact positif pour votre exploitation.

Chaque année est différente dans le secteur des pâturages, mais l'analyse de vos propres décisions de gestion contribuera à la croissance de vos herbages et à la rentabilité de vos exploitations de pâturages.

# Breaking Ground

## (in Northeastern Ontario)

## Regional Canola Research Project 2005

*A Field Demonstration by the  
North Eastern Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association*

This project was conducted in what turned out to be the hottest, driest growing season since 1988. All results are therefore compromised in terms of

what might be expected in a "normal" cooler, wetter summer that is typical of Northern Ontario. However, the results do provide a definitive evaluation

## 2005 Flax Project at Clair Simpkin

**Objectives:** to evaluate the impact of 4 seeding rates on the yield of flax (Temiskaming)

Seeding rates	Check @20lbs/ac	Seeding rate of 13 lbs/ac	Seeding rate of 18 lbs/ac	Seeding rate of 30 lbs/ac
Fall tillage	Chisel plow in the fall			
Spring tillage	May 18-19 <sup>th</sup> 3 passes of the Stine cultivator			
Seeding date	May 20 <sup>th</sup> 2005, seed in grain box / press drill / depth ½- ¾ in.			
Variety	Bethune certified @ \$.50/lb			
Fertility	37-20-12 (including 11-52-0 with the seed at 40lbs/ac) cost \$25.12/ac.			
Herbicide	June 6 <sup>th</sup> MCPA /crop height 1-2in. June 21 <sup>st</sup> Assure / crop height 4-6in. June 27 <sup>th</sup> MCPA /crop height 6-10 in spot spraying = crop damage, too much leaf area Sept 15 <sup>th</sup> Round Up pre harvest			
Harvest	Sept 25 <sup>th</sup> swathed ahead of combine / moisture 12-18%			
Yield @10% moisture	2 strips (.59t/ac) 1,528 lbs/ac 1,085 lbs/ac	954 lbs/ac or .43t/ac	1,060 lbs/ac or .48t/ac	1,110 lbs/ac or .50t/ac
Seed cost /ac	\$10.00/ac	\$6.50/ac	\$9.00/ac	\$15.00/ac
Comments	Best yields	27% less yield	18% less yield	15% less yield, more straw

of what can happen to Canola in an extreme environment, where virtually all of the crop was subject to the "brown seed"/tainted oil syndrome.

Extensive soil sampling combined with tissue sampling, (as recommended by Agri©Food Laboratories) identified the majority of Canola fields to require additional sulphur to promote ideal growth, and that ALL tissue tests indicated the plants to be DEFICIENT in sulphur. These results oppose traditional thinking that sufficient sulphur for ideal Canola growth comes from atmospheric pollution, and enforces modern scientific thinking that the reduction in American air pollution will require farmers to add sulphur as a starter fertilizer for optimum Canola yields. One unreplicated test on Manitoulin Island identified a 20%+ yield increase when sulphur was added to the soil before planting. This demonstration requires additional testing in a more "normal" year.

Similarly, most tissue tests indicated that Nitrogen uptake was at an "Excessive" level in the Canola crop. Again, this may relate to the weather limitations, and needs more demonstration. Excessive use of nitrogen is both uneconomic and a pollution hazard.

Sclerotinia control with fungicides has been identified by northern farmers as a possible way of improving yields. Three Temiskaming farms undertook extensive tests on three fungicides, using replicate side by side tests. Due to the hot & dry weather, no disease was observed in any field. However, the disease was widely observed in Nipissing, where it had NOT been previously identified. Another demonstration, involving both districts, is essential to determine the value of these fungicides on the Canola crop.

Row spacing was extensively tested in replicates at Temiskaming and Sudbury, but only the Temiskaming site produced conclusive results. Under the "restricted" water regime, 12 inch spacing was marginally better than 6 inch spacing. This indicates a possible saving in seed cost if it could be positively demonstrated in a "normal" year.

This demonstration project was undertaken by Graham Gambles of the North Eastern Soil & Crop Improvement Association. The goal was to provide insight into opportunities for economic expansion of the regional Canola crop, with the long term view that Canola could be developed as a future source of oil for the BIODIESEL industry. More work will be required.





# Breaking Ground

(in Northeastern Ontario)

## Evaluation of Pasture Rejuvenation Methods

Jack Kyle, Provincial Grazier Specialist, OMAFRA, Lindsay

### Purpose:

To investigate different methods of establishing legumes into existing grass based pastures.

### Methods:

At 3 locations in east central Ontario, a legume seed mixture of alfalfa, red clover, trefoil and white clover, was mixed achieve equal number of seeds from each species and broadcast or no-till drilled onto rotationally grazed pasture at 11.2 kg/ha (10 lb/ac). Plots received fertilizer P & K to soil test recommendations.

### Treatments were:

- 1- check,
- 2- fertilizer only,
- 3- no-till drilled,
- 4- Aerway at 2.5 degree setting no seed,
- 5- Aerway at 2.5 degree setting with chain harrow,
- 6- Aerway at 5 degree setting with chain harrow,
- 7- chain harrow only.

Seeding occurred in mid to late May.

Pasture cages were constructed from hi-tensile welded wire and t-rail posts. Each cage was approximately 1-1.2m (3-4') in diameter. There were 2 cages per treatment at each of the three sites. An area 0.5 by 0.5m (1.5' by 1.5') was hand harvested in late May, early July and late August. Samples were weighed and separated into grass and legume component.

### Results:

Results were extremely variable across the plots with a number of factors

*Continued on page 17*

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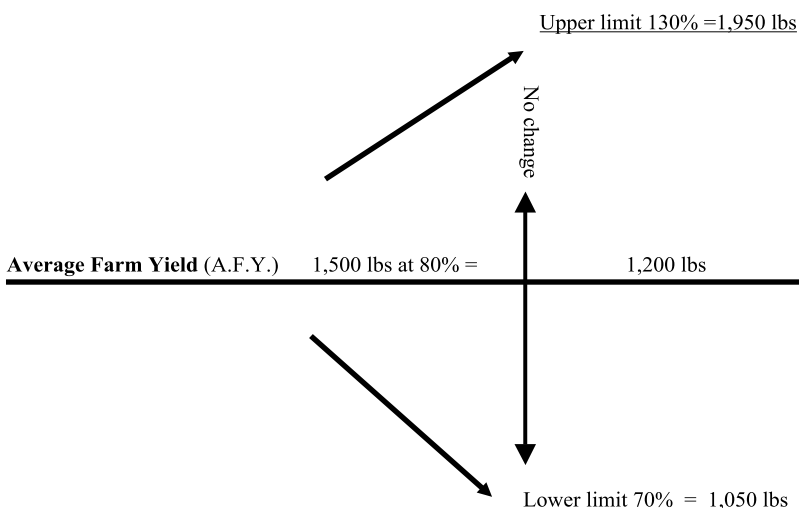
### Agri Corp / Crop Insurance

— Calculation of Average Farm Yield 2005 —

By: Ernest Villneff, Agri-Corp Representative (705) 647-4869

#### “Buffering Effect”

**Upper limit:** difference of yield and upper limit: i.e yield of 3,000lbs  
 $3,000\text{lbs} - 1,950 \text{ upper limit} = 1,050 \times 2/3 = 700 + 1,950 = 2,650\text{lbs}$



**Lower yield:** buffered up 2/3 of difference of actual yield and lower limit:

$$0 \text{ yield} = 2/3 \text{ of } 1050 = 700 \text{ lbs}$$

$$\text{Yr 1: } 1,500 \text{ lbs} + \text{Yr 2: } 1,500 \text{ lbs} + \text{Yr 3: } 1,500 \text{ lbs} + \text{Yr 4: } 1,500 \text{ lbs} + \text{Yr 5: } 700 \text{ lbs} = \frac{6,700 \text{ lbs}}{5 \text{ years}}$$

$$= 1,340 \text{ lbs average farm yield}$$

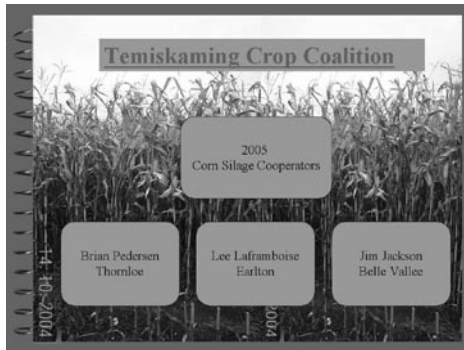
Farm with 5 year average: yield following year is  $1340 \text{ lbs} \times 80\% = 1,072 \text{ lbs}$

Farm with 10 year average:  $(9 \text{ Yrs} \times 1,500 + 700 = 14,200 / 10\text{yrs}) = 1,420 \text{ lbs} \times 80\% = 1,136 \text{ lbs}$

# Breaking Ground

(in Northeastern Ontario)

## TEMISKAMING REPORT: Major Grant



### Evaluation of corn silage hybrids in Temiskaming for 2005

- ✓ Major grant from OSCIA (04-05)
- ✓ axle scales were purchased with financial support from Trans Canada Pipeline
- ✓ plots on three sites to evaluate corn silage hybrids
- ✓ evaluate yield & quality

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### Temiskaming Corn Heat Units

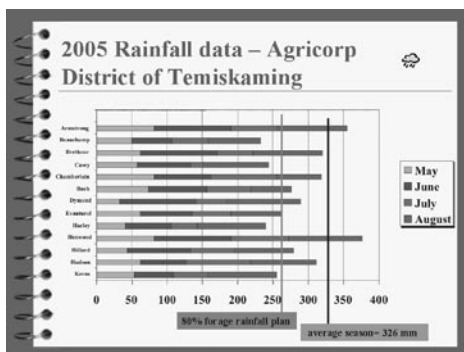
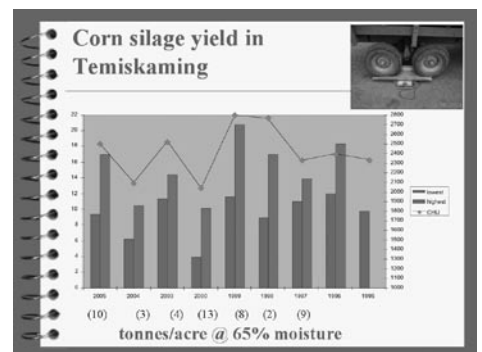
	2005	*12 yrs av	difference	% of normal
May	281	337	(56)	83%
June	610	556	54	110%
July	606	671	(65)	90%
August	634	603	31	105%
Sept.	369	301	68	122%
Total	2,500	2,468	32	101%

Source: www.farmzone.com

\*note: May 1 to first <2.0°C Corn CHU accumulation normally starts the last week in May

### Evaluation of corn silage hybrids in Temiskaming

Thanks to Trans Canada Pipeline for their financial support in this project



### Temiskaming Corn Heat Units

	2005	2004	2003	2002	* 12yrs
May	281	202	290	183	337
June	610	464	516	490	556
July	606	622	659	681	671
August	634	525	661	615	603
Sept.	*369	280	398	437	301
Total	2,500	2,093	2,524	2,406	2,461

\* up to September 24<sup>th</sup> 2005

Source: www.farmzone.com

\*note: May 1 to first <2.0°C Corn CHU accumulation normally starts the last week in May

### 2005 Feed Analysis

Temiskaming ( 3 farms) 6 samples	Typical Corn Silage well developed ears
✓ Moisture av.. 64%	----- 64%
✓ Protein . av.. 7.9%	----- 8%
✓ A.D.F av.. 22.36%	-----28%
✓ T.D.N. av.. 69.7%	-----67%
✓ Nel (Mcal/kg) 1.58	-----1.56

### 2005 Climatic data

- ✓ last spring frost : May 13th
- ✓ first fall frost: September 24th
- ✓ growing season: 133 days

\* district average 110 days / June 2- Sept.10

### 2005 Temiskaming Corn Silage Trials

	Thornloe Brian Pedersen		Earlton Lee Laframboise		Belle Vallee Jim Jackson	
Hybrid	Dekalb DK27-12	Pioneer 39T67	Dekalb DK26-78	Pioneer 39T67	Dekalb DK26-78	Pioneer 39T67
Moisture @ harvest	67.15%	62.3%	59.9%	62.02%	69.82%	65.27%
Yield (ac) @ 65% Moisture	13.54	14.74	12.27	14.26	9.45	11.54
Protein%	8.51%	7.8%	8.03%	6.77%	8.38%	8.20%
ADF%	24.9%	24.93%	16.92%	20.27%	22.73%	24.42
TDN%	68.26%	68.25%	72.72%	70.85%	69.48%	68.54
Net En. (Mcal/kg)	1.54	1.54	1.65	1.61	1.57	1.55

### Observations and Comments

- ✓ Yields lower than expected / 2,500CHU
- ✓ Dry summer
- ✓ Volunteer canola
- ✓ Weeds pressure
- ✓ Nitrogen ?
- ✓ Seed placement
- ✓ excellent quality

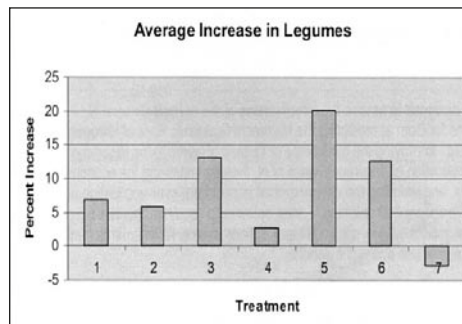
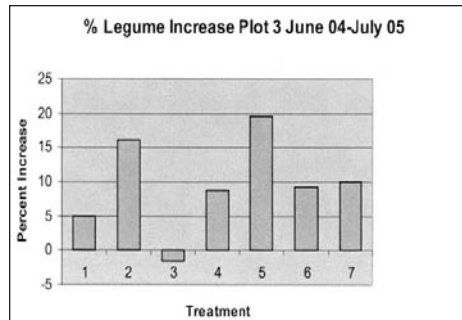
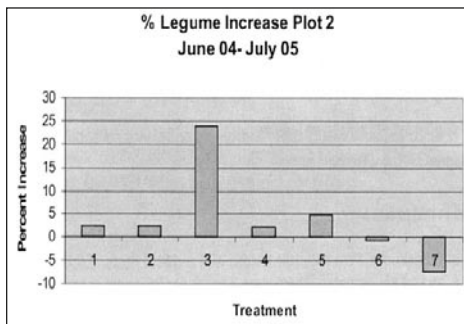
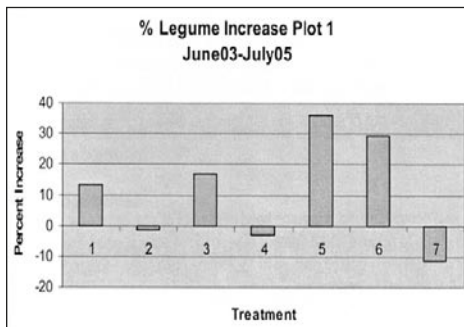
# Breaking Ground

## (in Northeastern Ontario)

### Evaluation of Pasture Rejuvenation Methods

*continued from page 15*

having an impact. Competition from existing forage and the very dry summer of 2005 depressed yields significantly. The accompanying graphs give an indication of yields.



MASSEY FERGUSON

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### Summary:

The no-till drill method gave the most consistent response while the other methods that involved soil disturbance (Aerway at 2.5 and 5 degree setting with chain harrows) were more effective than no soil disturbance.

There was a wide variation in the treatment results both within plot and between sites. It is very difficult

*Continued on page 18*

## CCA Award of Excellence

*continued from page 1*

educational opportunities for growers with industry partners through the value chain as well as coordinating marketing to increase or stabilize returns to the producer. Terry appears to be very adept at multi-tasking with several "projects" on the go at the same time. Recent examples include investigating an arrangement to bring a malt barley plant to Temiskaming while lobbying local MPs for funding for a canola crusher. At the same time he was working on alternative crop markets for canola and flax. Terry recently took the lead on a problem with brown seed in canola. His efforts helped solve this problem for grower/members of the co-operative. Using his contacts throughout the industry, he identified possible solutions to this challenge and succeeded in securing a market and helped arrange freight. At the end of the day, his efforts reflect a partnership with his clients.

Terry is Reeve of his township and involved in amateur sports. He has been a committeeman on the Ontario Canola Growers' Association for 15 years and was the inaugural chairman and founding member of the Oat and Barley Council of Ontario. He is also a past director of the Temiskaming and Northeastern Soil and Crop Improvement Associations and a member of SeCan and the Canadian Seed Growers Association.

One client reference commented that, "Terry is committed to doing what is best rather than what is fastest or the most profitable for his employer. His strong involvement in the community reflects his commitments to his clients."

The CCA Award of Excellence was presented to Terry Phillips on January 11, 2006 at the CCA Conference and Annual Meeting, Niagara Falls, Canada.



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# Breaking Ground

(in Northeastern Ontario)

## Verner Forage & Seed Show

Wednesday, March 29th, 2006

(10 am to 3 pm) at the Verner Arena

Organized by West Nipissing Soil and Crop Improvement Association.

### Speakers and Topics

- Results of Verner test station by John Rowsell
- Most economical rate of fertilizer in 2006 by John Rowsell

- How to deal with wild oats by Mike Cowbrough
- Results of Regional Canola Trials in 2005 by Graham Gambles
- Uses of preservatives in silage and dry hay by Bill Mallory

Notes: 1) Bring your forage and seed samples  
2) Hot meal provided at lunch

## “Growing your Opportunities”

### Farm and Food Conference

Saturday, April 8th, 2006

9:00 am to 3:30 pm

Canadore College

100 College Drive

North Bay

Cost: \$20 (lunch included)

12:30 to 1:15 pm

REGISTER BY: April 3rd, 2006

Please complete form and fax to Nipissing East Community Opportunities.

Fax: 705 495-6038 or

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For Inquiries please call Pat Aspin at  
705 476-8822 or  
email [paspin@vianet.on.ca](mailto:paspin@vianet.on.ca)

### AGENDA

- 9:00 – 9:30 **Registration and Refreshments**
- 9:30 – 10:30 **Keynote Address: Loss Prevention on your Farm**  
*Speaker:* Ward Henderson - Cooperators of Canada
- 10:30 – 11:30 **Trends in Agriculture and Food Industry**  
*Speaker:* Al Mussel - George Morris Centre, Guelph
- 11:30 – 12:30 **Retirement Planning - Investing in your Future**  
*Speaker:* Michael Hyndman - Cooperators, North Bay
- 1:15 – 2:30 **Producers Panel: “Sound Farm Business Management Strategies”**  
*Facilitator:* Gord Mitchell
- **The Parson Family** – Cache Bay  
*Succession planning for the third generation to succeed*
  - **Francis Dodds** – Cochrane  
*3rd generation farmer, cow calf beef producer – profits post BSE*
  - **Ken and Katya Riley** – Milford Bay  
*How to make money from 50 acres of blow sand in Muskoka!*
- 2:30 – 3:00 OMAFRA and Canadian Farm Business Advisory Services update



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## Evaluation of Pasture Rejuvenation Methods

*continued from page 17*

to draw any reliable conclusions or make specific recommendations. The response was lower than anticipated but suggests that if legumes are to be added to an existing pasture stand, some soil disturbance may improve the establishment of the legumes.

### Next Steps:

This project has now concluded. We will continue to explore methods of establishing legumes in existing pastures. Frost seeding is one method that has a reasonable success rate if the producer is patient. Suppression of existing vegetation prior to legume establishment is another area that should be investigated.

### Acknowledgements:

We would like to acknowledge: Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association, Pickseed, Sunderland District Cooperative, Cavan Agri Services for their financial and or product support. Thanks also to the three cooperators who provided the sites for this project and assisted with the management of the plots.

### Location of Project Final Report:

Final project report is with Jack Kyle,  
[jack.kyle@omafra.gov.on.ca](mailto:jack.kyle@omafra.gov.on.ca).



## Temiskaming Cattlemen's Association

Ruth Snider  
(705) 647-5937

## GPS In the Hands of the Farmer

*By Roger Egger, Egger Truck &  
Machine Ltd., Dunnville, ON*

One question I am often asked at Soil and Crop Meetings or shows in regards to the Global Positioning System (GPS) is "Who is using GPS and how does it benefit them?"

The benefits of GPS can vary. Input costs will be cut by reducing overlaps and skips. GPS eliminates markers, and allows farmers to map fields, and opens the opportunity for around the clock operations. What about yield increase that we cannot always measure?

Let's look at fertilizer. Having applied it evenly without overlapping or skips, what could the yield increase be? If we could spray when the conditions are right, such as in the evening when the plants are dry and there's no wind, there would be better weed control. When planting the crop, GPS will eliminate skips. All this will allow better plant growth and greater yield.

Now let's go to the farm and talk to a farmer to find out how GPS has benefited his farming operation. Larry Dyck of Campden near Vineland, ON said he has found accuracy in the field the greatest benefit. Larry has an Outback light bar and a mapping system which he uses for all his fertilizing and spraying operations. "I have more hours available to spray my crop because GPS will work day or night" he says. "Also, I am seeing my input costs decrease by at least 5%".

# Breaking Ground

## (in Northeastern Ontario)

## Farm Windmills *(Part I)*

*(from a workshop by Glen Estill (Sky Generation) at FARMSMART 2006)*

There are two opportunities for on-farm electrical generation by windmills. These are the "Net Metering" and "Commercial" options. The economics of both are limited in Ontario by the current government policy of providing low cost electricity to the public at 8 to 10 cents per Kwh. This compares to European price levels in the 30 cent per Kwh range.

In Ontario, farmyard scale systems operate under the "Net Metering" rule, which simply means that you can create a portion of your electrical needs and even provide electrical input into the Provincial grid, but you CANNOT BE PAID for your input. At best, you can only break even on your annual electrical bill. Under new policy, Ontario Hydro must allow you to connect to the Provincial grid, provided that you meet all safety concerns. You do have to pay for the total cost of the connection.

This type of system can be positive if you have a high electricity draw, but should only be considered to be a hobby for the average farmer. Due to the high installation costs and the low

value of the electrical product, the operation will have very limited returns, but will be very educational!

However, on the positive side, the generators can be installed and maintained by most farmers with average technical skills. Also, some second hand farm yard scale units in reasonable condition are now available in California and Europe, as owners switch to larger units. All of these units will have lower towers and are therefore limited by the wind available at a certain site.

Always remember that if you do not have adequate wind, the economic value of your generator is reduced even further. To help you select a site, the MNR has "wind maps" for the entire Province. For these low level installations, it is also good practice to add a battery bank to preserve power for the short term and thereby reduce the need to fall back on the Provincial electrical grid. In Part II, COMMERCIAL SCALE units will be reviewed.

*By Graham Gambles, NEOSCIA Regional  
Communication Coordinator*

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# Breaking Ground

(in Northeastern Ontario)

## 2005 Spring Wheat at George Struyk

**Objectives:** to evaluate spring wheat varieties on farm in Cochrane

Varieties	AC Intrepid	Barrie
Fall tillage	plowed in the fall	
Previous Crop	Legume /grass hay	
Spring tillage	May 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2005 disc and harrow	
Seeding date	May 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2005, @ 110 lbs /acre	
Seed Cost	\$35/acre	\$31/acre
Soil Test	(2004) pH 6.8, phosphorus 14-M, Potassium 107-M	
Fertility	200lbs (22-19-16)+125lbs(0-0-60)= 44-38-107	
Herbicide	Previous fall burn down herbicide Round Up + MCPA 500 June	
Harvest	September 6 <sup>th</sup> / 110 days after seeding	
Yield @ ? moisture	2,554 lbs/acre or 1.12tonne/ac 43 bu /ac	2,440 lbs/acre or 1.10 41 bu/ ac
	Slight yield increase +2 bushels , not significantly different	
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dry summer</li> <li>• Good weed control</li> <li>• Straw yield?</li> </ul>	



George Struyk and daughter Carolyn inspect their 2005 Spring Wheat Project

Thank You from the Cochrane North Soil and Crop Improvement Association!

## FEELING LUCKY???

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Graham Gambles, NEOSCIA  
Communications Coordinator

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