



ISSUE # 21 – February 10, 2006

This update is designed to provide you with concise, up to date agricultural business information with links to where you can find the details.

Federal Grain and Oilseeds Payment Program

Initial payments under the **Federal Grains and Oilseeds Payment Program (GOPP)** will be based on **7.47 per cent** of a producer's five year average of net sales of eligible grains and oilseeds for the 2000-2004 tax years (or the number of years available if less than five years are available).

Initial payments will begin to flow automatically in **mid-February, 2006** to producers who participated in 2004 CAIS.

Producers who did not participate in 2004 CAIS, or started farming in 2005 will be required to submit an application form. Forms can be downloaded from the GOPP Web site:

<http://www.agr.gc.ca/gopp/main.html> beginning on **February 13, 2006**. Producers can also request that a form be sent to them by calling **1-866-367-8506**.

The **deadline to apply is May 31, 2006**.

For producers who started farming in 2005, the initial GOPP payment will be based on 7.47 per cent of the producer's net sales of eligible grains and oilseeds for the 2005 tax year.

There is no cap on GOPP payments to eligible individuals or entities. In the fall of 2006, there will be a top-up of the initial GOPP payments based on the pool of remaining funds.

New Dates for Growing Your Opportunities Workshops

The focus of these workshops is to advance the agricultural and food sector by exploring industry trends, farm business success stories, new marketing ideas and strategies to adapt to today's changing agriculture and consumer markets.

This one day workshop will provide farmers, farm business advisors, local economic development, municipal staff, local food processors and retailers with ideas, examples and resources to help accomplish their business goals.

For agendas and registration information please visit:

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/conference/index.html>

or contact the **Agricultural Information Contact Centre 1-877-424-1300** or the following Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) staff:

Dorene Collins Tel: 519-826-3166 or email: dorene.collins@omafra.gov.on.ca

Carl Fletcher Tel: 519-826-3235 or email: carl.fletcher@omafra.gov.on.ca

Locations and Dates:

Orangeville	February 25
Chatham Kent / Lambton	March 1
Huron/Perth (Seaforth)	March 21
Elgin/Middlesex Oxford (London)	March 30
Greater Napanee Area	March 15,16
North Bay	April 8

Agricultural Economics and Business Research Day Presentations Available

OMAFRA and the University of Guelph Department of Agricultural Economics and Business held an Agricultural Economics and Business Research Day on December 16, 2005. Presentations focused on the economic implications of a wide range of agricultural research topics – trade, environmental stewardship, food safety, land use planning, nutrient management, and agricultural policy issues.

The presentations are all available for viewing in PDF format on the University of Guelph' web site at: <http://aeb.uoguelph.ca/events/aebresearchday.html>

Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association

"Fresh Forward – Producer / Retailer Workshop"

The Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association "Fresh Forward – Producer / Retailer Workshop" is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 22, 2006 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Garden Banquet & Convention Center, 8 Clipper Court, Brampton, Ontario.** The goal of this event is to bring together Ontario producers, retailers and food service distributors to build market share for Ontario grown produce. Participants will be involved in hands on discussions regarding ways to maintain and build market share with reference to packaging, innovation, traceability, extending shelf life and branding.

The cost of the program is **\$100.00 per person.** To register contact : **Madeline Mills**
Ontario Fruit & Vegetable Growers' Assn. at **519-763-6160 ext. 116**

Two New Web-Classroom Courses Begin Soon

The OATI Learning Group is offering two new web-classroom courses "Introduction to Farm Succession Planning" and "Intermediate Commodity Marketing."

Dates

These courses are being offered as follows:

- (1) "Introduction to Farm Succession Planning" This course is geared towards farm advisors, but is also very informative for producers and farm families preparing for succession. It will be offered **Wednesdays from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on February 22 and March 1, 8, 15.**
- (2) "Intermediate Commodity Marketing." This course will be offered **Tuesdays from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on February 28 and March 7, 14, 21, 28 and April 4.**

Web-classroom

These courses will be offered via the unique and innovative web-classroom mechanism. Producers and farm advisors from all across Ontario have access to these courses right at their home or office computer through this web classroom. The courses are live sessions, and participants have live audio and video, and direct communication with the instructor and other classmates. This unique new web technology works over dial-up connections, as well as high speed connections.

Cost

\$199 + GST with a \$100 refund for the first 22 participants in to enrol in each course, provided you complete the course and its evaluation. This \$100 refund is offered through the Agricultural Management Institute program, in return for your evaluation of this new information delivery technology. All courses have a minimum of 12 participants and a maximum of 22 participants, so book early.

Development

The OATI Learning Group has developed these courses with support from Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) through the Agricultural Management Institute (AMI) program under the Agricultural Policy Framework (APF).

Contact

For further information about any of these courses or to register contact **Lee Davis** at davis@oati.com or **(519) 763-3160 or 1-800-668-6284, extension 222**.

Thanks for reading the OMAFRA Business Update. If you have any questions or comments about this email update contact the editor, Rob Gamble at rob.gamble@omafra.gov.on.ca.

Looking for more information? Visit the OMAFRA website at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca> or the Business Development site at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/agbusdev.html>