

ISSUE # 26 – July 14, 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.

Canadian Agricultural Skills Service (CASS)

The **Canadian Agricultural Skills Service (CASS)** program will be delivered in Ontario by the Colleges of Ontario Network for Education and Training (CON*NECT), in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA).

The Canadian Agricultural Skills Service (CASS) program provides farmers and their spouses with opportunities to access specialized training with the goal of improving their farm profitability and net family income.

CASS gives farmers and their spouses an opportunity to examine their goals and develop a learning plan to achieve them. It provides farmers with financial assistance to take training that will help them improve their current farm practices, take advantage of new business opportunities in the industry, or obtain off farm employment. It may include formal training, such as college courses, or more informal training, such as workshops and seminars.

For more information call the **CON*NECT CASS Centre** at **(416) 340-0200** or toll free at **1-877-830-0200** or visit the website at www.ontario.ca/cass or www.ontario.ca/scdca (French)

Ontario's Occupational Health and Safety Act

On **June 30, 2006**, Ontario's **Occupational Health and Safety Act** began to apply, with some limitations and conditions, to all farming operations that have paid workers under the Act.

Farming operations had previously been exempt from the requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety Act. Employers, supervisors and workers on farming operations should be aware that new duties and responsibilities are now in effect as of **June 30, 2006**.

Information on the Act can be found on the Ministry of Labour website at:

Farming Operations index page:

<http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/farming/index.html>

Guide to the Occupational Health and Safety Act for Farming Operations:

http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/farming/ohsa_0.html

Farm Safety Association

<http://www.farmsafety.ca/>

Agricultural Management Institute (AMI) Providing Project Funding

The **Agricultural Management Institute (AMI)** program is receiving, reviewing and approving projects designed to develop business management tools, products, information, resources and training for farm families, farm managers and farm business advisors in Ontario.

AMI is jointly funded by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), as part of the Renewal Pillar of the Agricultural Policy Framework.

A recent news release which describes six AMI approved projects can be found at http://www.adaptcouncil.org/news_releases/2006/060605.asp

Funding for the AMI program is being administered through the Agricultural Adaptation Council (AAC). For further information about funding available under AMI, please see the AMI section of Agricultural Adoption Council's website at http://www.adaptcouncil.org/current_programs/ami.asp or call **Ted Young** at the AAC office **(519) 822 7554**.

National Farm Budget Database

The Canadian Farm Business Management Council has just launched a new national data base which brings together some 1,500 agricultural enterprise budgeting tools and financial data from across Canada, including OMAFRA's Ontario Enterprise Budgets. Producer and business advisors can use this data base to find pertinent information for use in analyzing new alternatives for their business or to further evaluate their current costs of production. The database is user-friendly and is being maintained to keep it up to date and accurate. You can use drop down menus or search by key words to find the information you are looking for quickly and easily.

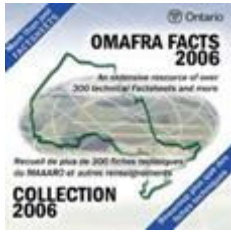
For more information, and to access the data base, go to <http://www.farmcentre.com/english/farmbudget/index.htm>

2006 Farm Tax and Business Seminar

The dates and locations for **OMAFRA's 2006 Farm Tax and Business Seminar** have been set. This year the seminar is one week later than usual so please take note of the change. The dates and locations are:

DATE	LOCATION
WEEK 1	
Tuesday, October 24, 2006	Guelph
Wednesday, October 25, 2006	Ingersoll (new location)
Wednesday, October 25, 2006	Hanover
Thursday, October 26, 2006	Alliston
Thursday, October 26, 2006	Stratford
WEEK 2	
Tuesday, October 31, 2006	Kemptville
Tuesday, October 31, 2006	Chatham
Wednesday, November 1, 2006	Belleville
Wednesday, November 1, 2006	London
Thursday, November 2, 2006	Peterborough
Thursday, November 2, 2006	Hamilton

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