



ISSUE # 28 – October 13, 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.

2006 Farm Tax and Business Seminar

October 13th is the deadline for the early bird registration for the Farm Tax and Business Seminar. This year's topics include **Corporate Reorganization Fundamentals, Family Law, Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization Program (CAIS)** and the **Farm Tax** update.

Webcast - for those who want to take in the seminar without the travel the seminar will be webcast on Wednesday October 24th from the Guelph location.

The cost is \$150/person on or before October 13th and \$180/person after October 13th. For registration details visit the OMAFRA web site at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/conference/2006ftbs.htm> or call the OMAFRA Agricultural Information Contact Centre at **1-877-424-1300** or OMAFRA Brighton Resource Centre at (613) 475-1630

Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence

Innovation is a crucial ingredient in the success of Ontario's farmers. To recognize and foster innovation in the agri-food industry, the Government of Ontario has established the **Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence**.

Over the next five years, \$2.5 million will be awarded to outstanding farm innovators. There will be up to 55 regional award winners annually, with a cash prize of \$5,000 each. From these winners, a Minister's Award of up to \$50,000 and a Premier's Award of up to \$100,000 will be selected.

Examples of innovation include, but are not limited to:

- improved farm practices including business practices
- response to consumer demands (e.g. value added, marketing, strategic alliances, etc.)
- environmental stewardship
- health and safety on the farm
- energy innovations
- education and marketing of agriculture to society.

Details of the process, as well as applications and guidelines are available at:
http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/premier_award/index.html

To be considered for the **Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence**, applications must be submitted to the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs by **November 30, 2006**.

Canadian Farm Families Options Program Deadline Approaching

The Canadian Farm Families Options Program (Options) is a federal program open to farm families or individual farmers who have a total income of less than \$25,000 or less than \$15,000 respectively, in all provinces and territories. To be eligible for this year and next year, farmers must have gross farm incomes of at least \$50,000 and must have filed farm income with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) for 2005 and for 2006. **The deadline for application is October 31, 2006.**

For more program details call the Canadian Farm Families Options Program at **1-866-367-8506** or visit the website at www.agr.gc.ca/options.

Occupational Health and Safety Act Workshops

Develop a Workplace Health and Safety Policy

Safety Smart... Get Started! - Farm Safety Association and OMAFRA are holding workshops to help employers and employees develop a workplace **Health & Safety Policy** - how to be safety smart and get started with the paperwork! The locations are:

- October 31 - Codrington
- November 1 - Kemptville
- November 2 - Bradford
- November 7 - Elmwood
- November 8 - Vineland
- November 9 - Elora
- November 10 - Stratford
- November 14 - Leamington
- November 15 - Chatham
- November 17 - Delhi
- November 22 - 12:30–3:30pm (EST) - New Liskeard
- November 23 - 12:30–3:30pm (EST) - Sturgeon Falls with telephone links to: Mindemoya, Thunder Bay, District of Algoma, Stratton, Cochrane
- November 30 - Alfred

To register call the OMAFRA Agricultural Information Contact Centre at **1-877-424-1300**. For the Northern sessions please call the Northern Ontario Regional office at **1-800-461-6132**.

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.

Workshop details including agendas, dates, and locations are available at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/conference/gyo/index.html> or by contacting the **Agricultural Information Contact Centre 1- 877- 424-1300**.

Locations and Registrations

Please check this site often for updates as details become available.

Location	Date	Agenda and Registration
Northern Ontario (Sudbury)	November 18	Agenda / Registration
Eastern Ontario (Casselview Golf and Country Club)	November 22	Agenda / Registration
Grey/Bruce (Elmwood)	November 28	Agenda / Registration
Simcoe County (Thornton-Tangle Creek Golf Course)	December 5	Agenda / Registration
Halton/Peel (Caledon-Brampton Fair Grounds)	December 6	Agenda / Registration

Biosolids Seminar

Building Trust & Partnership between Biosolids Generating and Receiving Communities

The Biosolids Utilization Committee and the Water Environment Association of Ontario is jointly sponsoring a one-day seminar to explore the truths and myths of biosolids recycling and how land application affects the agriculture community's ability to obtain insurance and/or financing. This seminar will be held on December 13th, 2006 in Kingston, Ontario. The seminar will provide information on the regulatory environment, professional application procedures, and the risks and liabilities associated with the practice of land application of sewage biosolids - an approved agricultural practice with a 25-year history in Ontario. For more information and an online registration form please visit <http://www.weao.org/>

Managing the Multi-Generational Family Farm *New Revised Version!*

If you are looking for information on succession planning the **Canadian Farm Business Management Council** has a resource you may be interested in. ***Managing the Multi-Generational Family Farm*** is a handbook designed to help ensure that mixing family and business works for you, not against you. The material in the book is organized in building blocks, and is best viewed in order so each section builds on the previous one. The first few sections deal with the management of the all-important 'family component' followed by the management of the business component and ending with the management of the succession process. Each section provides strategies that will facilitate the activities in the subsequent sections.

For more information about this visit the website at http://farmcentre.com/english/products/product_master.htm?id=20

New Publications

Information about OMAFRA publications

- **To obtain a products order form for OMAFRA Publications or Factsheets** go to the OMAFRA website at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/products/publicat.html>
- **To find out what's New** visit the "What's New Products" section at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/products/newpubs.html>
- **Publications Survey – goes live October 16, 2006**
OMAFRA values your opinion...
 - Tell us about your experience with OMAFRA products and publications by completing a short survey.
 - The information collected will provide OMAFRA feedback to improve the development and delivery of our technical products and publications.
 - Complete the OMAFRA products and publications survey online at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/products/product.html>
Survey closes December 15, 2006
 - You could WIN a free OMAFRA publication—provide your e-mail address to enter a draw for a free publication of your choice

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>