



ISSUE # 37 – August 10, 2007

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

Ontario Biogas Systems Financial Assistance Program

The Ontario Biogas Systems Financial Assistance Program is a \$9-million investment that will help farmers and agri-food businesses develop and build generating systems that produce clean energy, reduce electricity costs and contribute to local economies.

There are two phases to the program. Phase 1 funding will cover up to 70 per cent of the eligible costs of carrying out a feasibility study, to a maximum of \$35,000. Phase 2 funding will cover up to 40 per cent of eligible construction and implementation costs. The maximum total feasibility and construction cost funding is \$400,000 for each anaerobic digester system.

For more information on biogas systems, please visit the [Energy Opportunities](#) web page.

For more information on this program, check the OMAFRA webpage at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/engineer/biogas/index.html> or contact the Agriculture Information Contact Centre at 1-877-424-1300 or email: ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca. You can request that the AICC adds your name and contact information to a list if you would like to receive program updates.

Are You A Farmer Looking For Financial Assistance For Training?

The agriculture sector is becoming increasingly knowledge intensive. Successful farmers recognize the need for continuous learning to adapt and prosper in an ever changing marketplace. To help producers respond, the Canadian Agricultural Skills Service (CASS) program is available to help qualifying producers and their spouses develop skills and knowledge to increase their farm profitability and net family income.

Through CASS, eligible participants may receive financial assistance for approved training costs such as tuition and travel. Financial benefits range from \$8,000 - \$16,000 for qualified participants. For example, a farmer and spouse who have an average net family income over the past 3 years of up to \$35,000 can each be eligible for up to \$16,000 in training costs.

CASS is funded through the federal-provincial-territorial Agricultural Policy Framework. The Colleges of Ontario Network for Education and Training (CON*NECT) delivers CASS in Ontario, in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. You can get more information about CASS by visiting the website at www.ontario.ca/cass or by calling 1-877-830-0200.

PUBLICATIONS

Programs and Services for Ontario Farmers

If you want a concise guide to all the programs and services available to Ontario farmers then this is it. The free factsheet contains a brief description of 60 programs along with the contact information. The programs include:

Available in web format at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/facts/07-021.htm> or PDF format at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/facts/07-021.pdf>

GST on Sale of Farmland by Individuals - Canada Revenue Agency Info Sheet

This information sheet explains the application of the GST/HST to sales of farmland by individuals. It provides examples of how the GST/HST applies to common situations involving these sales.

Available at <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pub/gi/gi-002/README.html>

Horse News and Views

Horse News and Views is prepared by Dr. Bob Wright, Animal Health and Welfare, OMAFRA, in cooperation with the staff and researchers of the University of Guelph.

The column is circulated monthly to horse magazines, periodicals, rural newspapers, radio and television stations, and placed on our OMAFRA website

(<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/horses/news.html>). It highlights research topics, extension resources, reminders of common poisonings, disease or production concerns and coming events.

Drainage Guide for Ontario, Publication 29; the cost for this revised 2007 full-colour edition is \$20.00

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING

Cover your Assets

Attention: Directors and Members of Horticultural Societies

Learn about your roles, responsibilities and managing the risk in your organization. Discuss experiences that organizations face and take home tools to use in your organization.

Location: Toronto Botanical Gardens - Garden Hall
Leslie Street and Lawrence Avenue East

Start Date: 24 October 2007

Start Time: 9:00 a.m. registration

Duration: 7 hours

For More information go to:

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/conference/20071024.htm#intro> or call the OMAFRA Agricultural Information Contact Centre at **1-877-424-1300**

CALENDAR

August 22 and 23, 2007 – Hastings County Plowing Match and Farm Show -

<http://www.hastingsfarmshow.com/welcome.htm>

August 28, 2007 – Farm\$mart Farming Systems Expo – Farm and Ag Industry Day, Elora Research Station, University of Guelph. Wednesday is 4H and Rural Youth Day.

For details call 1-877-424-1300 or visit <http://www.uoguelph.ca/farmsmart/>

August 28, 2007 – Ontario Wheat Producers' Annual Meeting, Arden Park Hotel, Stratford.
For details call 519-767-6537 or visit <http://www.ontariowheatboard.com/>

September 11 – 13, 2007 – Canada's Outdoor Farm Show, Canada's Outdoor Park,
Woodstock, Ontario. Full details at <http://www.outdoorfarmshow.com/enter.html>

September 18 – 22, 2007 – International Plowing Match and Country Festival, Leeds-
Grenville County at Crosby, Ontario. Details available by visiting <http://www.ipm2007.ca/>

November 2 – 11, 2007 – Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. Complete details available by
clicking on <http://www.royalfair.org/>

**November 30, 2007 – Western Region Symposium and Ecological Farmers Association of
Ontario Annual General Meeting**, Gencor Building [site of Organic Meadow offices], Highway 6
North of Guelph. Speakers will include Wally Secombe, Janet Duncan on rare breeds and slow
food and will also include a renewable energy panel. For further details contact, EFAO, 5420
Highway 6 North, Guelph, Ontario, info@efao.ca

*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@ontario.ca.*

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the Business Development site
at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/agbusdev.html>*